

WEST AFRICA

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BEHIND NIGERIA'S BOOM

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RECORD SECTION

A country which can attract 300 firms from Britain alone to take part in an industrial exhibition clearly has attractions for exporters and investors. The British trade exhibition in Lagos, which is discussed elsewhere in this issue, was originally meant to be a small display of British machinery, but it has become the biggest British exhibition of its kind ever held in Africa.

Almost alone among African countries Nigeria enjoys two outstanding economic advantages. However low the average *per capita* income, the vast population still offers a viable market both for industries established locally and for exporters to establish their own organisations. On the other hand because oil revenues free Nigeria from balance of payments constraints, experienced particularly by Ghana, both investors and exporters can

expect a return for their efforts.

Even the Indigenisation Decree, which excludes foreigners from several sectors of the economy, and imposes an obligation on foreigners in other sectors to invite 40 per cent Nigerian participation, is publicly welcomed by British companies affected. The Chairman of Standard Bank has also welcomed the government's decision to take over 40 per cent of the equity in his bank and two other big British banks. Nothing will stop oil companies investing in oil production as long as they are allowed to do so, and increasing Nigerian government participation in the oil industry will not diminish her importance as an oil producer.

With rising Gross National Product and *per capita* income, therefore, Nigeria represents an attractive field still, both for investors and for exporters, and while

in some sectors, notably textiles industrial, capacity appears to be reaching the economic limit, there are vast possibilities ahead and considerable prospects for diversification.

Unhappily, however, although unlike many oil producing countries Nigeria can spread the benefits of oil throughout the country, the prospects for Gross National Product and *per capita* income are dangerously dependent on oil. While the early stages of oil production naturally produce euphoria among those responsible for a nation's finances, Nigeria leaders are now in the forefront of those warning that oil is a wasting asset which may one day, and that not far away come to an end, leaving an enormous vacuum which nothing else could fill. The Nigerian governments can claim that they are devoting oil revenues to investment in infrastructure and education. Some government and much private investment will also aid the development of industries. But the greatest question mark over Nigeria's future is raised by the state of agriculture.

As an article in our supplement on the British exhibition notes, Nigeria's Central Bank in its last annual report stated that "the entire fabric" of agriculture needs to be re-examined. The report specifically blamed the marketing board's production price policies and the malpractices of the boards' licensed buying agents for destroying incentives to farmers to increase production of the key commodities handled by the boards. The Federal Government itself has since taken over responsibility for fixing prices to farmers and it is hoped that, although world prices may not always permit this, producer prices can be raised so as to encourage farmers to grow more and smuggle less over the borders, and to offer a counter-attraction to the drift to the towns.

It is to be hoped that marketing board prices will not become sufficiently attractive to reverse the recent trend from production of export crops to production of food for local consumers, the so-called



Sir Alec in Lagos • Freetown detentions
• ECA in Accra • The Mauritanian Affair

price of which is one of the main factors in inflation. But Nigeria's leaders cannot be happy that the aggregate index of agricultural export commodities for 1971, even if this was a year when nature was unkind, was the lowest since 1960. Although the increase in local consumption of palm oil, one of nature's most nutritious inventions, is to be welcomed, no Nigerian can feel happy about the estimate by the US Department of Agriculture that by 1980 Nigeria, for long the world's most important palm oil exporter, would become a net importer of palm oil.

To some extent also, Nigeria's frightening social problems remain unaffected, or are even exacerbated, by economic development. For example, as another article in our supplement emphasises, even successful execution of all projects in the current development plan would create only some half a million jobs. Yet it has been estimated that during the plan period, 1970-74, the net increase in the labour force would be over 2½m, while, uncertain though the statistics are, some 2m. people were considered to be unemployed even in 1976. The official report on the development plan said that a solution to unemployment could be found only in expansion of agriculture and small-scale industries, and of services. Yet the report's authors did not venture any forecast of the extent to which this was likely to happen.

The Federal Government is making

gigantic efforts to reduce the educational gap between the states, which, as between, for example, the North Western and East Central States, suggests that the two cannot be in the same country. The gap, however, can be narrowed only very slowly however much money and effort is devoted to narrowing it.

Economic development tends to worsen another social issue, the drift to the towns and the creation of appalling

urban slums and other Nigeria: indeed, faces, dilemma: for, if urban greatly improved, for increasing water supply, people will be attracted become an even more of urban services. And even likely to be unemployed.

Nigeria's boom is real still on the surface.

FRANCE AND AFRICA

The Mauritanian Affair

By our correspondent

What is the exact position now of Mauritania vis à vis France? The question is of some importance, because on the one hand the French have themselves tried to keep their dispute with their former colony in a low key, and on the other hand Mauritanian statements on the subject have tended to be ambiguous. From the tone of the interview which President Moktar Ould Daddah gave to *Le Monde* on February 5, the break with France would appear to be substantial, even amounting to a turning point in Franco-Mauritanian relations, but it is not happening with the drama which surrounded the split between France and Guinea in 1958. "Perhaps it is better this way, that decolonisation should express itself by a break, even if

this break is not definitive all previous agreements were

Last week the President meeting at the head of Mauritanian Progress Party spelled out the relations especially in the light of Franco-Mauritanian agreement February 16. These agreements were signed by the French Secretary M. Pierre Billé cover the whole scope of relations

Three agreements were first dealt with cultural cooperation Teaching is universal, and diploma Mauritania will no longer have status in France. This will baccalaureat as well as high The second agreement deals of technical assistants Mauritania, and the third and financial. It states restrictive formula arising tania's departure from the that France could aid the operations beneficial to development, which means French financial and economic awarded case by case. An letters stated that the two could consult each other foreign policy if one or the demanded, and that the French officially took a nullification of all previous

Speaking at a news conference French Embassy immediately signing, M. Billecocq said he with the agreements, and represented both "an actual beginning". A new phase in the relations between the states. Technical and cultural would be maintained "and important for us". The agreement included some economic "keeping alive a positive allowing two sovereign states a future of relaxed and sincere. On the two important issues not mentioned in the agreement defence and currency - M said there was "nothing for the moment", but after General de Gaulle, "let us see the future". The new agreement

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progress compared with the past, and would give relations between the two states a "more supple and less constrained character".

At the PPM meeting, President Ould Daddah stressed that Mauritania had been prepared to make no concessions on the Defence Agreement (The previous agreement had included clauses providing for mutual defence assistance, which Mauritania is now prepared to abandon, as well as facilities for training officers in French military schools and overflying rights and mooring facilities for French aircraft and naval vessels. It was apparently on the last issue that the talks deadlocked.) On the question of currency, the President said that Mauritania would not consider itself completely independent until it had its own currency. The talks with the French on this issue had reached an impasse by the beginning of February, especially on the demand of the Mauritians for a short-term loan. "It would be inexact to say that our demand for a loan from the Bank of France was also to guarantee our currency", said the President. "Our balance of trade, which has always been in credit, together with our equal balance of payments and our real and potential resources are sufficiently strong to back up our currency." The President added that other countries had offered credit facilities to Mauritania following the French refusal. He did not specify which countries, but sources in Nouakchott mentioned that Libya was willing to give Mauritania a short term loan, and Algeria had also offered credit facilities.

Algeria's offer may in the long run be more significant than Libya's, for although Colonel Gaddafi has made something of an international splash with his various offers of assistance in Africa, it has yet to be seen how far he honours his commitments, and what strings he attaches to them. (A Libyan-Mauritanian Bank opened in Nouakchott last November). Peoples China, which has granted a substantial long-term loan to Mauritania to construct a new deep-water port in Nouakchott, may also be prepared to provide short term assistance. It is true that, thanks to the iron ore which has been produced at the Miferma mine since 1963, Mauritania has for some time had a balanced budget and a sizeable trade surplus, although when it became independent in 1960, it was seriously in deficit.

Foreign exchange reserves held by Mauritania in the common pool of the franc zone, which Mauritania is now leaving, are said to be about 8,000m CFA francs (or £13m.), about a third of which represent CFA notes currently in circulation. These will be exchanged when the proposed Mauritanian currency is introduced. This level of reserves can cover several months' imports, putting Mauritania in a more favourable position than some African countries. However, the overall payments position is less satisfactory and, as in Mali and Guinea, the introduction of a new independent



Nouadhibou, Mauritania's mineral port.

currency may have a demoralising effect locally in a nation of great traders. There was only a slight payments surplus in 1971, and repayment on the 1959 World Bank loan for the Miferma operation and railway as well as other debts form a payments burden which will be around for some time.

On the agreements which had been signed with France, President Ould Daddah said that they were similar to "all agreements signed in the world between entirely independent and sovereign countries, desiring a cooperation executed in their mutual interests". He also said that they had been brought to a conclusion because France and Mauritania did not want to break the special relations cultivated between them over a long period.

The desire of the French to maintain good relations with Mauritania was shown both in the presence and utterances of M. Billecoq, who has himself spoken frequently of a "second wind" in the area of France's cooperation with Africa, and in the announcement a few days before the signing of the provision of emergency food (2,000 tons of sorghum and 2,000 tons of wheat), which would be distributed free.

On the other hand, as President Ould Daddah said in an interview with ORTF (the French radio) it would be understandable if the level of French aid was reduced, and Mauritania was prepared to accept this. There was also a sting for the French in the demand to the French Ambassador in Nouakchott that he should no longer be the automatic *doyen* of the diplomatic corps. This arrangement the French have written into their cooperation agreements with all their former colonies in Africa (Mali and, of course, Guinea, excepted), and it has been astonishing that it has lasted in so many countries for so long, considering that it is a purely symbolic status which is achieved. In terms of realistic diplomacy, it would surely be more advantageous to surrender this doubtful privilege.

It is, more than anything else, the dangers of creating precedents which the French fear from the Mauritanian

situation. This is why the temperature has been kept deliberately low. Has Mauritania been an isolated case, or probable that the French would have grudgingly conceded to President Ould Daddah the right to draw on the Bank of France, and have a currency approximately as independent as those of the Maghreb, which are still in some respect considered as franc zone countries. But there is a justifiable apprehension in Paris of falling dominoes — that what conceded to the Mauritians today will be demanded by others tomorrow. There is already heavy weather being made of the negotiations with Madagascar on the co-operation agreements. These are much more important to the French as they involve not only more significant business interests, but also the key Indian ocean military bases of Ivato and Diego Suarez which the French are not lightly going to abandon. There are also Cameroon and Niger in the pecking order, although neither of these countries is likely to "go the whole hog" in the wake of Mauritania. There are also the causes of Congo-Brazzaville and Dahomey, both in dire financial straits, both politically volatile, both of which in principle have placed their cooperation agreements in doubt, but which have not yet produced the dossiers for serious renegotiation. Congo-Brazzaville, of course, took part in the talks which led to the reform of the Central African monetary area, leading to the creation of a new Bank of Central African States, which has plans for moving its head office to Africa, and no longer has a majority of Frenchmen on its board. Despite the greater flexibility the new bank may bring, it is not the more drastic reform which the Congolese presumably would favour.

The issue is complicated at the moment by the pending French election, which is likely at the very least seriously to curtail the Gaullist majority in the French parliament, and possibly end its hegemony. This could, in turn, have important effects on France's Africa policy. Not for the first time, events in Africa and Europe are interacting on each other.

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Have you ever heard of church carols accompanied by traditional African war, fetish and highlife songs?

In Ghana, December is not only for the remembrance of Jesus Christ, but also the pagan ancestors.

The celebration of the birth of Christ last December coincided with the pagan Afenfo of the Tongu-Ewe of the lower Volta basin.

Thus while we saw military parades and processions of chiefs in which groups each performed its own dance and music at the same time, we also saw straight lines of choir groups and schoolchildren.

Thus while we heard the comparatively new church bell, we also heard the old state drums calling "Tongu kotoko", signalled the pair of state drums which continued to recite proverbs, enumerate past victories in battles, and then call the elders by their proper and praise names, speaking a message of their powers. At the same time the Blabu or chief traditional messenger plunged into rambling village windings, beating a gong to make the call. And all the while the church bell swung merrily against the notes of its case. The call being over, pipes or organs of the church and a variety of instruments — gourds, rattles, drums big and small — took over.

Times while we heard church priests saying the well-known Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed to the only "one God", we also heard fetish priests pouring libations and thanking the river gods.

The Provider, the Benevolent,

The red stream whose rising and falling are unpredictable,
the war gods such as the Avakpe

The Gongu warrior's stone,

The mysterious thing in a mysterious bag,
the ancestors such as Hevi.

The Grandfather who is the little knife that cuts through water

and many other spirits whose existence the Christians deny.

The Afenfo was until 1967 held in August and in the Tongu village called Tefle. But from the following year the chiefs and elders who had been complaining that with the coming of politics and the factories they had been left "without people" then decided to transfer the festival to coincide with the Christmas festival and other holidays in December to make it more attractive and possible for sons and daughters working away from home to join in.

"Afenfo" compounded of the Ewe words *afe* (home), *fo* (stay) and *fo* (assembly) means "gathering together at home". It is a religious festival which is said to have been set aside by the ancestors for delivering them from dangers during their migrations and wanderings — they were people in flight, sometimes from stronger foes, sometimes from famine-stricken areas. Similarly there is this consolation for everyone on

Christmas day that we have all survived three hundred and sixty-five turbulent days, to see yet another year.

The Afenfo is held in two other Tongu villages. Despite the sense of old time and the similarities in the celebrations at the different places, however, the festival was not mentioned in the old records. An isolated account states that the Afenfo is a recent innovation and that what were celebrated formerly were the individual fetishes and the ancestral stools, and so the present writer is convinced that Afenfo is the blending together of different customs.

Christmas is a time for rededications in baptisms and confessions. Likewise the pagan Afenfo to festivities are preceded with a period of purification or what may be called sanitary campaigns whereby the health of the community is, by a custom known as *dodede* (*dodede* = sickness-expulsion), protected against evil spirits. At Tefle the custom consists of two parts. One is a funeral performed for all those who died during the previous year. The second part consists of the soft tissues of palm branches set smoking with live coals and carried in a procession round the village amid shouts of "Evil, go out!" At Tefle again the crowds come for immersions in the Volta river to purify themselves. They kneel down at the edge and then they wade into the water and on coming out they wipe their feet of the water and clean the fragments of straw from their feet with their hands, exactly as the ancestors might have behaved at the wandering times at river crossings.

The highlights of both Christmas and Afenfo are services, parties, dances, feasting and exchange of presents with friends who had not been thought of during the past twelve months. Christian and pagan youths associate freely and attend each others' ceremonies (This is a case in which the coastal Ewes — Tongu, Anlo, Togolese and Dahomean Ewes — differ extremely from the Northern Ghanaian Ewes who live in areas where Christians dare not take part in pagan customs or else they are punished at school by the teachers or the church refuses to bury them when they die.)

Church sermons as noted by H. Debrunner*, "are long-winded and full of vocabulary, but very little use is made of the vividness displayed by the elders" — the fetish priests, chiefs and their spokesmen. This is not to say however that the traditional literature is entirely unaffacted. The organisation of most traditional customs is today in the hands of the town or Village Development Committees composed mainly of educated young men. And thus we were to see a fetish priest being called upon by a District administrative officer

The Church or mission compound which stood on a high platform of the village was full of lights against the dark fetish forest and windowless temples built

to create awe and mystery. (The traditional authorities had in 1960 however, allowed a road to be cut through the fetish grove to link the neighbouring settlement called Sokpe with the main road. The writer has noticed that people, particularly school children, have been penetrating this remaining primitive wilderness to cut firewood and palm fronds for baskets.)

On their arrival from Europe the Society of African Missions was destined in 1860 "to embrace in its Christian spiritual care the vast territory between the Volta and the Niger" which embraced the Slave Coast. Tongu formed part of the former Slave Coast where A. B. Ellis had in 1890 found "the most numerous fetishes".† Christianity has since made great inroads into the society. Slavery has ceased and there are today two main Christian churches, the Presbyterian and Catholic. Separatist spiritual churches such as the Apostolic Revelation Society and the Ghana Apostolic Church have recently been established. Belief that these churches can heal the sick, make the blind see and the barren productive, and above all their use of rhythmic dance and drumming are the attraction.

Schools have also been established in Tongu and the gong is now being replaced by newspaper and radio advertisement. The programme for the Afenfo is a printed one. But the belief is still strong even among Christians that the spirits of the ancestors are ever present.

"The cult of the ancestors," as stated in *Christianity in Tropical Africa* edited by Professor C. G. Baeta, "could not be simply and completely rejected since it contained such positive values as filial love, gratitude, reverence towards one's forebears, and the desire to remain united with them. It ought rather to be Christianised by being purified of those elements that were unacceptable to Christians". The fetish, like the Bible, provides disciplinary training of the mind. But while worldly fineries and lavishness have become synonymous with Christmas, the pagans continue with their down-to-earth things. The numerous fetish priests observe a strict moral code which teaches them to shun all things luxurious. The fetish places are holy and on approaching them social forms of humility frequently require the actual removal of shirts, hats and shoes.

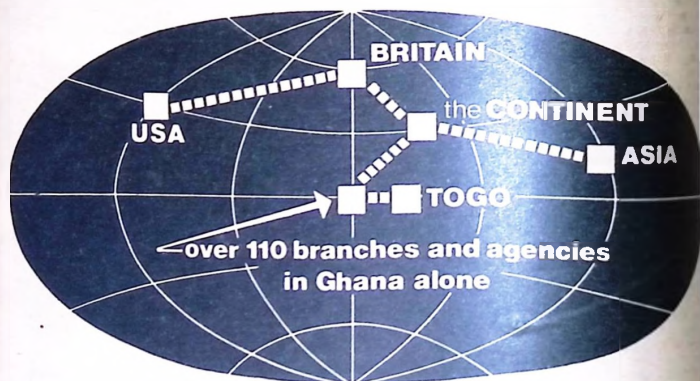
But whatever happens, with the coming of modern industries, the Volta dam and rural electrification and the Benin university in Togo, whose pioneers are passing out this year, the fate of pagan practices is sealed. We must hurry if we are to learn more about them.

Yao Adumah

* in his *A Church Between Colonial Powers*, (1965).

† A. B. Ellis, *The Ewe People of the Slave Coast of West Africa*, 1890.

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Letters to the Editor

Education in Ghana

SIR—I have read with interest the review of my book, *The History of Education in Ghana* (February 5).

Your reviewer seems impressed by the fact that there were by 1861, over a thousand boys and over 230 girls at school in Ghana, a factor which he rightly considered significant in the mid-Victorian world. But the fact is that the figures he referred to were the conservative estimates given by the British *Blue Book* of that year, in respect of only one of Ghana's religious denominations (the Wesleyans p.104). The figures do not stand for the entire country as he implies. In fact, other records indicate that by 1851 the Wesleyan Mission alone had over 3,000 pupils in its schools and the other Missionary and Government schools together had over 2,000 pupils (p.103).

The Accelerated Development Plan for education was formulated and laid before Parliament in 1951. But if I did not specifically mention the name of Dr. Nkrumah or the CPP in connection with it, that was because I did not consider it germane to my main purpose, which was to outline the Plan's objectives and contents. No one can deny Dr. Nkrumah's place in the history of educational expansion in Ghana, but that merits a full-blooded treatment, and not a mere mention. In any case, my book ends where Dr. Nkrumah's educational achievements more properly begin.

For the sake of those of your readers whose reading appetite may have been whetted by your helpful review, I would like to add that my other interests in writing the book lay in telling the story of the part played by the Africans themselves — as teachers, catechists, ministers and chiefs — a factor which is seldom if ever, mentioned in official despatches, and also in giving point to aspects of Euro-African co-operation which were so much in evidence at that time.

C. K. GRAHAM

Embassy of Ghana,
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Shaihu Umar

SIR In his letter (February 5) concerning "New Light on the Hausa" Abba-Musa Kano objects to my not mentioning Umaru Ladan and Dexter Lydersey. I greatly admire them both, but I deliberately mentioned no names in my article because I had chosen as a main theme what I am best qualified to discuss, the costume designers and their historical background. In the *New Nigerian* of February 6 Umaru Demba discusses a quite different aspect of the play, and I should be most surprised if anyone objected to the fact that he had not mentioned the costume designer.

Abba-Musa Kano does not seem to know that the costumes for all well-produced plays are "designed". Simply to use items of dress that are "all around" one would be to invite theatrical chaos. This does not mean that costumes for plays are necessarily invented; the prototypes for many forms of Hausa dress are of course ancient. It means that the designer produces combinations of costume shapes and colours that suit the director's needs, and there is nothing outrageous in claiming credit for such work.

Abba-Musa Kano takes me to task for

mentioning that some of the musicians and entertainers could speak almost no English (the direction, largely in English, was translated for them), and is surprised that I "presumed to participate" (I was invited) in a production that is in a language of which he says I cannot understand a word. He may be interested to know that I have collected over two hundred Hausa words the meanings of which in certain artistic contexts are probably unknown to him.

As for my comments on the music, I fail to understand the logic of his argument that I should use the terms "performed" or "played" rather than "made". Neither do I comprehend his hierarchy of musical instruments from which he produces a category of "non-serious" items. I know of solemn music made with a block of wood and part of a motor car, and frivolous music made on expensive electric organs, and it would appear difficult to relate these to his system of classification.

Abba-Musa Kano has read a great deal into my article that was not intended, but the inaccuracy of his interpretation is less disturbing than its apparent intention. It seems to suggest that the Hausa culture all around him can look after itself, and that there is no need to throw light on it. If Hausa culture were as well illuminated as he implies he would himself be able to tell us who designed those costumes in the last *Salla* in Kano. For they were designed, in the long period in which Hausa dress was evolving and acquiring its special characteristics. A great deal of the evolutionary material from that time is now in total darkness and will never be illuminated by anyone. I hope this will not be the fate of some of the Hausa culture that is today still in evidence. While Abba-Musa Kano asks whether there are fiddles without strings some beautiful examples of Hausa architecture are falling to pieces around him, unrecorded. I am afraid his letter suggests to me that he does not care.

DAVID HEATHCOTE

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

Africa and the EEC

SIR—I write to contribute my share to the increasing opposition to the insulting idea of African association with the EEC, particularly the Yaoundé type of association.

Mr. Heath has made it clear several times that his main idea of Britain joining the EEC is political rather than economic. His motive is to strengthen Europe that it may re-assert its leadership of the world as it had done in the 19th century. On one occasion he was asked by a member of the world press what form the leadership would take. He replied that he would like to see Europe once again speak with firmness to the peoples of Africa and Asia. If he could say this openly, one can imagine what he is planning behind closed doors against the peoples of these two continents.

The offering of EEC associate status to the peoples of Africa (Commonwealth and French community territories constitute the greater part of the continent) is only an attempt to lure Africa into the claws of Europe in order to make easy the job of "asserting Europe's leadership over Africa".

No self-respecting African will agree to this state of affairs. As Mohammed Haruna has pointed out (February 5), even some members of the Yaoundé Convention are now beginning to question the idea of the agreement, having learnt from bitter experience after ten years of association the derogatory and one-sided nature of the association.

Let Africa be left alone to fashion her own destiny in her own way, for good or for worse. She has seen enough of exploitation of her resources and the blatant raping of her peoples by Europeans.

L. J. UDOH



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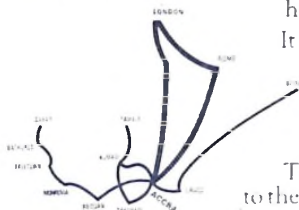
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Matchet's Diary

My photograph shows the farewell party given at the Cameroon Embassy in London by the outgoing Ambassador, Mr. Lucas Zaa Nkweta. In the seven years in which he has been in London, Mr. Nkweta has become a well-known and well-liked figure on the African diplomatic beat, and in the last two years he has been *doyen* of the African diplomats. This is quite a heavy chore, especially if you are accredited in other countries as he has been (Norway, Sweden and Finland have also been part of his preserve). There has been a great desire among African diplomats in London to come together, and their *doyen* is expected to organise meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest, keep minutes, hold parties for outgoing African heads of mission, or on such occasions as when the OAU mission of President Kaunda came to London. The expenses of the *doyen* are divided between the African missions, although he must be ready to make initial outlays.

Mr Nkweta was born in 1929 in Mamfe, West Cameroon, son of a farmer. Educated first at Besangabang Primary School in Mamfe, then at Esosong, from 1942 to 1947 he was at Government College, Chimulua, in the then Eastern Nigeria. His education was rounded off with seven years at Ibadan, first at the School of Agriculture, then from 1950 to 1958 at University College, from which he emerged with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. From 1955 to 1958 he was a Field Assistant in Kumba for the Cameroons Development Corporation. He then joined the government service as an Agricultural Officer in Bamenda, and in 1961 became Principal Agricultural Officer in Buea. From January to June 1962 he was a member of the Cameroon delegation negotiating with the EEC before establishment of the first Yaounde Convention, and early in 1963 he was appointed First Secretary in the newly established Cameroon Embassy in London. In August 1964 he was posted to Lagos as Consul-General, but in December 1965 he was back again in London, this time as Ambassador. Apart from the more obvious political duties, his role as Ambassador has lain in the economic and educational fields. On the one hand there has been the encouragement of business and trade, on the other looking after the workings of the Anglo-Cameroon cultural agreement which provides for students from Cameroon in Britain, and certain forms of educational assistance from Britain to Cameroon. The total number of students is now 200-250, about half the number when the Ambassador came. This has been due to the expansion of facilities in both Cameroon and West Africa, so that increasingly the only students sent to Britain come for courses not obtainable nearer or at home.

Mr Nkweta has been ably assisted in his post by his wife Olurmelekin, who is



At the reception Mr. Nkweta (right) chats with the High Commissioner of Botswana, Miss Ching while Mrs. Nkweta talks to the Liberian Ambassador, Mr. Reid Wiles.

the daughter of a Sierra Leonean, Mr. Rosenor, who settled long ago in Victoria. The next ambassador has already been named as Mr. Jacob Kisoh, another English-speaking Cameroonian

who has been working in the Foreign Ministry at Yaounde. The new *doyen* of the African diplomats in London is to be Sir Leclair Teelock, High Commissioner for Mauritius.

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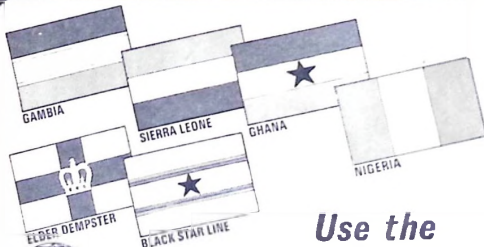
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Salisbury and Sir Alec

In Salisbury, Ian Smith's outburst has been deeply upset by Sir Alec Douglas-Home's reference to African guerrillas as "freedom fighters". A Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation spokesman said that the use of this description reflected "the growing importance of Black Africa in the thinking of government policy makers". The commentary charges the Conservative government with seeking to reap benefits from supporting Black Africa against white control. But it also sees the most sinister consequences in southern Africa in Sir Alec's visit to tour. It claimed that Mr. Home's government was interested in the relations with Ghana and Nigeria, and the consequences might be seen in Africa. Inevitably, it alleged, the government wanted to secure oil supplies from Britain's point of view, but this was not being antagonised. The Conservative would regard any alliances and ties of blood or investments in South Africa as important that Nigerian oil was in danger that southern Africa was "thrown to the wolves". It learned from Sir Alec's mission in Africa was that "the influence of British policy towards Africa could have significant implications of the Zambezi". So the mission Sir Alec made to Lisbon on West Africa did not reassure. Nor did it, apparently, affect cordiality of his West African

Naira and the dollar

After a temporary suspension of foreign exchange transactions, Nigeria has decided that the value of the naira will be reduced. An official statement said that this would not mean the value of Nigerian currency against the dollar or the floating price would be changed. One naira will continue to equal \$1.52 and the prices of goods imported from Britain or the United States in local currency. It is not clear how the naira can retain the same value both against the dollar and against floating prices, although its value has fallen significantly against the dollar. Nigeria's currency is tightly controlled and is not freely convertible, but also reduced the gold parity of the naira by 10 per cent so that it continues to equal two US



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Books and Publications

New look at Ghana

Ghana in the Twentieth Century by Francis Agbodzeka (Ghana University Press, £3.80, \$3.80, £1.90).

This is an attempt to provide a comprehensive survey of Ghana's development in the 20th century up to independence in 1957. The book is largely a product of original research based on primary archival material, though a fair number of secondary works have been utilised. As a result, it provides some detailed new information and a reinterpretation of certain aspects of colonial rule in 20th century Ghana.

The introduction gives a useful account of the geography, the origins of the people and the growth of states on the Gold Coast. Attention is then given to the activities of the Aborigines Rights Protection Society (ARPS) in the latter part of the 19th century. The Society emerged in the late 1890s as a protest movement against certain inconsiderate and unpopular measures adopted by the colonial government. After forcing the colonial administration to revise or withhold implementation of such measures as the Lands Bill, the Society set itself up as the spokesman and guardian of the rights of the Gold Coast peoples. From its inception to its demise however, in about 1940, the Society was mainly concerned with issues affecting the south and its operations were concentrated along the coastal region.

The first decade of the century witnessed a long drawn out struggle between the colonial government and the ARPS to consolidate their positions in various aspects of national life. The government, bent on asserting its authority through such measures as the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance, the Town Council Ordinance and the Forest Bill, tended to ignore the protests of the ARPS as emanating from the people themselves. The ARPS, on the other hand, was determined to prevent the government from effecting any consolidation of its powers at the expense of the Gold Coast peoples. The society spared no efforts to organise opposition to the administration's attempt to get control over lands in the Gold Coast. And African opposition was largely responsible for defeating the land policy. The government's attempts to marshal the country's economic resources in its own interest and that of foreign investors and speculators met very little success. This was due partly to inadequate funds and lack of proper transport, and partly to

African opposition to surrendering land. But like the government, the ARPS failed to consolidate its position by gaining official recognition as mouthpiece of the people; nor was it able to transform itself into an effective political party.

It was left to the Gold Coast farmer to effect a spectacular consolidation for the country. By taking to cocoa farming, the farmer brought about an "agricultural revolution". This revolution in turn had repercussions in other fields. Government revenue increased with the export of cocoa and money was thus made available for such projects as construction of Takoradi Harbour and Achimota College. Agricultural prosperity led to expansion of trade, growth of towns and provision of social amenities.

The dominant theme from the post-1914 war years onward is the development of the nationalist movement. The nationalist front which had been cohesive between 1898 and 1914, was now handicapped by divisions within its ranks. A rift between some chiefs and the leading intelligentsia over Casely Hayford's National Congress of British West Africa weakened the nationalist movement. The nationalist front was also split by attempts to introduce indirect rule into the Gold Coast. While the chiefs supported indirect rule because it aimed at buttressing their position as "natural rulers", the intelligentsia opposed the measure for the reason that it ought to make the chiefs, rather than the educated class, spokesmen of the people. It therefore appears that the colonial administration introduced indirect rule precisely because the government knew that its policy would cause such a rift between the educated elite and the chiefs thereby precluding any concerted attack on British rule. This idea of "divide and rule" worked successfully for it prevented effective close co-operation between the two leading nationalist movements, the ARPS which had the support of the chiefs, and the National Congress of British West Africa.

The nationalist front was also seriously affected by the emergence of other minor but radical groups in the 1930s. While the ARPS clung to old-time methods of merely protesting against unpopular legislation, the more militant groups such as Wallace Johnson's West African Youth League were bent on organising the masses with a view to achieving immediate self-government. The

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league's programme was too radical for the other nationalist groups in that it advocated total elimination of chiefs, the colonial regime and the elitist groups. Thus co-operation between it and societies like the ARPS became impossible. In short, lack of co-operation among the various nationalist movements resulted in their failure to achieve their common aims.

The book as a whole is critical of colonial rule. One gets the uneasy impression that the colonial government failed the country in certain major aspects: it failed to provide such social amenities as medical service for the African population. Government achievement in education was minimal. By comparison, it was the missionary bodies and the people themselves who were able to achieve much in the provision of schools and medical facilities.

Although a number of printer's errors emerge from the text, Professor Agbodeka has produced a book whose style is simple and readable. One does, however, get the impression that the abbreviation "etc" has been overused in the text. It could well have been omitted in several places without damaging the structure of the sentences.

To the specialist in Ghanaian history, the book may not appear to offer a penetrating analysis. Nevertheless it is well adapted to history students in secondary schools, teacher training colleges and those doing the A Level in history. It is addressed primarily to this audience and should be a useful text book at these levels. University students, however, will also find it a useful survey. Its value is no way diminished by the printer's errors. *Ghana in the Twentieth Century* is a welcome addition to the literature dealing with this period in Ghana's history.

B. G. Der

Liberia in Maps edited by Stefan Von Gmelinsky, (University of London Press Ltd, 1970)

During his five years as head of the Department of Geography in the University of Liberia Professor von Gmelinsky found that the lack of a comprehensive text-book describing the country and its people made his work very difficult. The present volume, which he has edited, is the combined effort of a number of past and present members of the University's Department of Geography. Most of the 50 maps are the work of Professor von Gmelinsky himself and each is accompanied by an explanatory article and commentary. The work is therefore much more than an atlas, although it does not attempt to convey information about certain topics — politics or the social or cultural background — which cannot be presented in map form. Such political comment as the book carries is conventional and uncontroversial. There are two short articles on the historical background and on Liberia's position in Africa.

As well as the usual topics such as

rainfall, geology and vegetation, arts and crafts, even I activities are illustrated by particular interesting one different types of houses be parts of the country.

Although only seven African states are smaller Liberia the country is comparatively unusually well endowed. Professor Gmelinsky gives a census figure of 1,061,443 although the population is small, estimates of it vary from 800,000 and 2,500,000. In *Bulletin of the Population Geographical Department of Economic Affairs* gave a population of 1,523,000. Even so the population is unevenly spread and very low in the south east and the density of under 10 per square mile. Armahne N. Woods, in her population, suggests that Liberia, suffering from over-population has not yet got the optimum development of her resources.

Employment, Incomes and (ILO, Geneva, Paper, English students' edition, 30 Swiss francs)

As part of the ILO World Employment Programme, launched in 1965, "country missions" were sent to study causes of unemployment and possible solutions. This study, the first undertaken in Africa, involved a number of experts participating in a mission led by Professor Hans Singer.

The authors of the 600 pages report that in many ways their study of the employment problem in Kenya, which differs sharply from the analyses. They identify three types of problems: frustrated job-seekers unable to obtain the remuneration they are able, or which their education would expect; the poor, whose incomes obtained by many part-time or wage employment, and low productivity of labour, which is inefficient in the way labour is deployed or supported.

The report puts its greatest emphasis on the second of these — the poverty level of returns from investment because ultimately "this is the overriding and basic issue". For the people, educated or not, in the labour force either after a round of job-seeking or full of "missing opportunities" in the way for them to acquire the skills and work attitudes required for "productive life". And increased productivity is an essential condition for improved living standards.

Problems differ between men and women, between school leavers and older persons, and between people in the semi-rural regions and over-populated districts and urban areas.

The participants' view of the

similar there is not one but many. Most are aspects of imbalances, related to basic trends and features of Kenya's economy. "Rising expectations fed in part from the outside world have not been matched by equivalent support to help attain them". The tendency of Nairobi and the other urban areas "to grow at the expense of the rural, of the richer regions in relation to the poorer, has led to growing imbalances between regions and different groups". Education has contributed to this imbalance. Those who succeed within the school system obtain the certificates and the good jobs - or did at first. But as education expands fast, among a population itself fast expanding, thousands of young Kenyans "are beginning to find their certificates almost worthless, at least for obtaining jobs. First it was the primary-school leavers, then the form 2 leavers, now those with school certificates, soon those with university arts degrees. This is the background to frustration among school leavers and their families".

N. P.

Directory of Intergovernmental Co-operation Organisations in Africa (UN Economic Commission for Africa).

This Directory has been prepared by ECA's secretariat to provide a comprehensive picture of African inter-governmental organisations operating in the economic and social fields, including existing inter-governmental organisations between African and non-African States. It contains a description of the constitutions, objectives and functions of the organisations. It should enable inter-governmental economic co-operation organisations to become better acquainted with each others' objectives, structures, functions and activities, and facilitate discussion and co-ordination.

It is also hoped that the directory will contribute to development of the intra-African technical assistance exchange programme envisaged by ECA and OAU, and provide information for all interested in economic and social development of the continent.

The organisations are listed according to their objectives and activities. Under Part I appear those concerned with economic committees, common markets, customs unions and multisectoral co-operation. Part II deals with organisations relating to a single sector of the economy. Subjects covered include agriculture, industry, transport and telecommunications, tourism, education, training and research, banking, finance and monetary affairs, health and natural resources.

The Directory has been compiled from information available at the ECA secretariat on May 1, 1972. The information will be revised and brought up to date in subsequent editions.

Under Part I are listed eighteen organisations and under Part II fifty-nine. Organisations range from the West African Rice Development Association to the Trans-Saharan Road Committee. The accepted abbreviations for all are listed.

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British Industrial Exhibition



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THE SHOW THAT SNOWBALLED

The site of the British Industrial Exhibition in Lagos is in the shadow of the Federal Palace Hotel on Victoria Island. It is on a 13,400 square metre site of which nearly half will be under cover in specially constructed buildings. The site has been leased from the Federal Palace, who are also arranging special reception facilities in the Independence Hall, and providing a cinema for showing trade and technical films.

Originally the exhibition itself was meant to be simply a display of British machinery, but the response from British manufacturers and local distributors of British equipment was said to have been so enthusiastic that the scope and scale of the show was considerably enlarged. It is now the largest British exhibition of its kind ever held in Africa.

Over 300 British firms are exhibiting. The exhibits will range from large earth-moving equipment to hand-tools. The main categories are: handling equipment, electrical generation and distribution equipment, food processing and packaging equipment, machine tools, transport service equipment, sewerage

equipment and pumps; and printing and duplicating equipment. Many of the exhibits will be shown in operation, which will require an electricity supply of over 1,000 KVa. Power generators on display in the exhibition will supply this, and, after the exhibition, will be available for sale in Nigeria. Most of the equipment, valued at around £2m., arrived at Apapa on board the *River Oti* of Black Star Line early in February, and some of the larger items had to be transported through Lagos at off-peak hours with a special police escort. Some stands will also have models of even heavier equipment; for example Hawker-Siddeley are to show models of aircraft. Four hundred engineers and technicians are coming from the UK for the show.

The exhibition is to be opened by Brigadier Moholaji Johnson, Military Governor of Lagos State, in the presence of Lord Limerick, Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry in London, who is visiting Nigeria specially for the exhibition (the British Overseas Trade Board attached to his ministry was responsible for organising it). It is planned to have "State Days", and other

Military Governors, State Commissioners and State civil servants have all been invited and are expected to attend the exhibition in large numbers. The twelve state governments are considered to be among the most important prospective buyers of equipment of the kind displayed.

Although the aim is principally and unashamedly to sell equipment in Nigeria, taking advantage of the present massive public works programmes, the organisers of the exhibition have tried to place it "under the sign of indigenisation". It is hoped that many of the exhibits will be of interest to the "new class" of Nigerian businessmen whom indigenisation is bringing to the fore. Thus, where possible, the organisers have tried to use Nigerian firms and material from Nigeria. The steel-work in the exhibition structure is all fabricated in Ikeja, for example, and a local public relations firm has been used for publicity. As one of the men involved in planning the exhibition said: "we're trying to get a Nigerian feel to the thing". Hence the laboured slogan devised for the exhibition: "Nigerian skill plus British machinery means progress plus profit".

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Behind the boom

From a correspondent

Estimated at only \$120 Nigeria's per capita income is lower than that of many African states. Inside the country there are enormous discrepancies in the incomes both of areas and of individuals. In spite of Federal Government efforts to secure "even" development many areas of the country, particularly in some of the northern states, are likely to remain economically backward for many years, while in the boom capital of Lagos living conditions for the poorest of the citizens will also remain abysmal.

Nevertheless Nigeria has two enormous economic advantages. First is her population, now estimated at 65m — although a recent UN report gave a figure of only 56m. This means that there is a viable market both for local industry and for overseas exporters. Moreover, even if average income is low gross domestic product is growing fast.

Between 1960 and 1969 the real rate of annual growth was almost 4 per cent. This rate continued until the crisis. After the end of the war the rate increased considerably, being estimated in 1970-71 at 9.6 per cent and in 1971-72 it was possibly as high as 12 per cent. Although the population has been increasing fast such growth rates permit increases in per capita income. It is true that these growth rates largely depend on mineral oil production, but a recent report by the UN Economic Commission for Africa notes that they are also due to the recovery in agricultural output and a general growth in the economy stemming from the change from a wartime economy and the stimulus of a high level of development activity. Further development in oil, however, is the most likely factor to increase the national product.

The other great advantage Nigeria has over countries such as Ghana is the healthy state of her balance of payments. Even before mineral oil became the major factor in overseas earnings, agricultural exports, notably cocoa, groundnuts and palm produce, gave Nigeria's exports a sound base. But in 1960 and in each year since there has been a significant surplus on current account. In the first nine months of last year it amounted to £N143.5m. Nigeria's development, therefore, has not been inhibited by balance of payments problems.

Oil production has not only revolutionised the balance of payments but it also provides revenues on an increasing scale. £N390m has been estimated for this year for the Federal Government, which distributes much of it among the states according to the revenue allocation formula or in direct grants. It is true that there has been an imbalance between the twelve states since oil in significant quantities is still found only in two of them, while a number have neither oil nor significant agricultural exports. The oil state of the Mid-West expects this year

over £N18m from oil revenues, but the land-locked East Central State, with four times the population, expects only half that amount from oil. Nevertheless, unlike some oil producing countries, Nigeria's government machinery can spend oil revenues throughout the country for economic and social development.

In recent years the growth of industry has been significant. Today the names of many British industrial firms are well-known throughout Nigeria because of their subsidiaries. Dunlop makes tyres there, Guinness brews stout, Unilever makes margarine. Whiteheads (now a Lonrho subsidiary) makes textiles, Turner Newall makes asbestos products, the Metal Box Company has big plans for expansion, Tate and Lyle "cube" sugar, Bookers grow it. Nor have the long-established merchant firms — United Africa Company, Paterson Zochonis, John Holt (now a Lonrho subsidiary, too), neglected industry and technical services. UAC's African Timber and Plywood plant is still a monster among industries.



Britain has provided £50,000 worth of equipment for the Faculty of Engineering at Ahmadu Bello. Students here are using photogrammetric plotting equipment.

It is British firms which are particularly affected by the Indigenisation Decree which comes into full force in March, 1974. Under the Decree foreigners are completely excluded from certain commercial activities and have to accept 40 per cent Nigerian participation in others. The Federal Government hopes that the Decree will ensure not greater state participation in economic life but greater participation by Nigerian businessmen. The government itself is increasingly involved directly in the oil industry and has taken a 40 per cent interest in foreign banks, including the two big British banks, Barclays DCO and Standard. Activities from which foreigners are completely excluded include retail trade, light industry like tyre retreading and certain services such as laundering and road haulage. In this category little foreign investment is affected, although it covers the Reed-IPC investment in the

publishing side of the *Daily Times* group. But foreigners are also totally excluded from industries with a fixed capital base, £200,000, unless turnover exceeds £50,000.

Many expatriate enterprises already had made local share issues and are now planning to do so even before Indigenisation Decree appeared. On the other hand many of those enterprises from which foreigners are excluded — one-man or family affairs, often run by Lebanese — the sort of problem which raised, however, is shown by the decision of United Africa Company with regard to those of its enterprises in which Nigeria are to hold 40 per cent of the shares. To assist the operation the group is to buy 14 wholly-owned group subsidiaries in the main company — UAC of Niger Limited — and to sell shares in the Official agreement has been obtained. Among subsidiaries to be merged are Premier Packaging, African Timber at Plywood, Greenham Plant Hire, Kingsway, Chemists of Nigeria, and Niger Motors.

The President of the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce, Chief Henry Fajemiroku has estimated that Nigerians may have to find some £250m to take over shares in complete businesses under the Decree. Although the governments and banks are ready to help businessmen in many ways it might be difficult to raise this vast sum. There is also the problem of Nigerian management capacity, although this can be met for a time by employment of foreigners. Finally is the problem of the remittance abroad of the proceeds of the sale of shares or businesses.

Most of the big foreign firms affected have expressed their full readiness to co-operate, and some regard the provision for 40 per cent participation as an insurance. On the other hand indigenisation, although it is being applied in Nigeria with far less haste and far more preparation than in many African countries, has already had some effect on the readiness of the new overseas investors to come in. This makes reinvestment by existing investors increasingly important.

In the first half of last year industrial production, which has already recovered from the effects of the war, was estimated to have risen by 12 per cent. The 1970 estimate for wage earners in establishments employing 10 or more people was 765,000, a substantial figure. Even so, as ECA has put it, "the vast majority of the labour force must continue to rely on self-employment".

"Self-employment" for most Nigerians means farming. And it is the poor performance in this sector which now gives rise to great anxiety. The Central Bank in its last annual report said that "the entire fabric" should be re-examined. "Apart from inhibiting factors such as inadequate mechanisation, outdated farming techniques, deficiencies in

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the marketing process have greatly to the poor performance sector. Specifically, it appraises operations of the marketing boards, particularly, the determination of producer-prices and the performance of licensed buying-agents, have been the much-needed incentive for an increase in output".

Recently the Federal Government took over responsibility for the marketing of palm produce from the state marketing boards - and the Central Bank also closed down the boards, which for millions of people are the most important organisations in the country. Incompetent book-keeping and business practices.

The aggregate index of output of agricultural exports, at 80.9 (1960 = 100), the Bank, declined by about 20 per cent, except for 1969, was the lowest since 1960. The fall was largely a reflection of declines in the output of groundnuts (35.6 per cent) and of seed cotton (19.7 per cent). 1971 was an exceptional year. But the year 1972 saw a continuation of exceptional circumstances in the time-distribution of exports during the planting season. It was reported to have led to a production for export to produce the domestic market because prices of basic foodstuffs and quantities of the 1970-71 groundnuts smuggled into neighbouring countries, owing to both high prices and payments for the goods earning foreign exchange.

Palm produce rise

Increases in output have been recorded for some commodities that top palm produce was one. The rise of 11.6 per cent for palm oil and 2.6 per cent for palm kernels reflected a return to normal for the eastern states. However, the output of palm kernels in the marketing boards was only 10 per cent of the average for 1967-70. The average for 1967-70 of palm oil was only 21 per cent of the average for the same period. The rate of recovery can be assessed by increased consumption, a deficiency in the coverage of the marketing boards. In 1971 production of palm oil increased, it did not attain the war level.

A recent report from the Department of Agriculture suggests that Nigeria, whose north when much of the south was the "Oil Rivers Protectorate" will by 1980 cease to export entirely and become an import of food production fails to keep pace with the growth in population and soaring food prices are the main causes of inflation.

Britain in Nigeria

Nigeria has not been a captive market for Britain's exporters for a long time. Even the advantages of Nigeria's membership of the sterling area are now largely illusory, particularly as Nigeria's currency is completely free to follow its own course, and Nigeria can at any time impose restrictions on remittances to Britain. So although Britain remains Nigeria's biggest single trading partner and the absolute money value of the trade between the two countries has been increasing, Britain's share in Nigeria's trade is declining. If Nigeria continues to reject "association" with the EEC, now that Britain is a member, then Britain will impose EEC tariffs against certain Nigerian exports, notably cocoa.

The biggest firms operating in Nigeria, however, are still British. The United Africa Company is the most significant because of the great variety of its enterprises, some of which, as we have seen, are affected by the new "indigenisation" decree. In the oil industry Shell-BP remains the most important company, and BP-Shell operates the refinery. As well as the famous names in British industry which we have noted, can be found in Nigeria, there is a British interest in cement manufacture, in the tobacco industry, in cotton ginning. And it is likely to be expansion, diversification and reinvestment by existing British firms, rather than by new enterprises, which will increase British investment.

British contractors, too, still compete with the Italians and the French in Nigeria. For example, the Taylor-Woodrow group has designed and is to construct a £1.5m. flour milling complex for an American company. In tin mining the London Tin Corporation's subsidiary, Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, is by far the biggest enterprise and the Makeri Tin Smelter is owned by Consolidated Tin Smelters. Nigeria is also one of the major fields for the Commonwealth Development Corporation, whose new general manager, Mr. Peter Meinertzhagen, was formerly based in Lagos. British banks, too, notably Barclays and Standard, are active

throughout the country. British publishers are also well established in Nigeria.

Nor is British "aid" to Nigeria entirely without strings. Under a recent loan made on "soft" terms Nigeria is buying equipment for dieselisation of the railway, for example. Britain's contribution to the current development plan is estimated at some £40m, including £6m. in technical assistance. Under technical assistance arrangements the Directorate of Overseas Surveys, for example, is working in many areas of Nigeria; there are forestry, agricultural and veterinary experts, town planners and other professional and technical staff. A British research team is working at the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research and the Land Resources Division of Britain's Overseas Development Administration is investigating the natural resources of a large area in central and northern Nigeria, using aerial photography.

British assistance is particularly important in education. Equipment has been provided, for example, for the Faculty of Engineering at Ahmadu Bello University. £1m. has been granted to the Kaduna Polytechnic and the science block at the University of Ife has been built and equipped with British funds.

British exporters have been taking an increasing interest in this growing market since the end of the civil war. For example, a Scottish Export Committee trade mission spent two weeks in Nigeria last year representing such firms as Babcock and Wilcox. This was only one of a number of such missions. In 1971 a mission from the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce reported export orders of more than £1m., with business to come to some £4.5m. The greatest opportunity for British exporters, that mission reported, probably lay in construction material and other capital equipment, together with light engineering goods and pharmaceuticals. The mission pointed out that British exporters should take early steps to find reliable Nigerian agents, and Britain's Overseas Trade Board is now ready to pay part of the cost of visits to Nigeria to find agents.



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Nigeria's external trade

Foreign Trade (£N million)

Imports	January-June			Exports		
	1971	1971	1972*	1971	1971	1972*
Food	43.96	20.00	25.06	Non-oil trade		
Beverages and tobacco	2.23	0.97	1.09	Cocoa	71.56	40.67
Crude materials	10.26	5.64	6.08	Groundnuts	12.15	9.42
Mineral fuels	4.49	2.66	2.49	Palm kernels	12.96	6.45
Oils and fats	0.36	0.20	0.23	Palm oil	1.69	0.97
Chemicals	60.98	29.73	26.05	Rubber	6.20	3.80
Manufactures classified by material	159.73	77.97	69.73	Raw cotton	5.55	5.50
Machinery and transport equipment	214.43	107.12	105.67	Timber, logs and sawn	2.64	1.42
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	35.35	13.55	21.23	Tin metal	12.41	7.54
Miscellaneous transactions	7.66	3.86	3.78	Re-exports	6.29	3.12
	539.45	261.69	261.41	Other	38.74	53.34
				Total non-oil	170.19	132.23
				Crude petroleum	476.52	181.53
					646.71	313.76
						335.31

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, Lagos.

*Provisional figures.

Direction of Foreign Trade (£N million)

	Imports			Domestic Exports		
	1971	1971	1972*	1971	1971	1972*
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES						
United Kingdom	172.08	68.03	68.97	139.28	51.83	59.50
India	6.81	2.85	2.59	0.02	0.01	0.02
Ghana	0.50	0.08	0.28	4.17	0.45	0.63
Hong Kong	8.69	4.22	3.47	1.96	1.82	-
Other Commonwealth countries	9.80	4.39	2.17	33.80	12.35	11.75
	197.88	79.57	77.48	179.23	66.46	71.90
EEC COUNTRIES†						
West Germany	65.65	25.62	29.89	35.15	12.88	11.92
Italy and Trieste	20.38	8.34	10.47	28.32	9.79	11.26
France	21.94	8.29	13.27	95.28	31.96	39.64
Belgium/Luxembourg	9.13	3.94	3.88	3.12	1.27	2.74
Netherlands	18.61	7.40	9.65	87.91	30.58	38.20
	135.71	53.59	67.16	249.78	86.48	103.76
United States of America	75.70	33.10	24.73	114.02	32.07	53.99
Japan	45.53	18.00	21.92	8.71	2.91	10.34
CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES						
USSR and other countries of Eastern Europe and China	26.85	11.94	9.35	18.55	9.03	6.38
Other countries	57.78	23.27	23.91	70.13	26.48	29.36
	539.45	219.47	224.55	640.42	223.43	275.73

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, Lagos.

*Provisional figures.

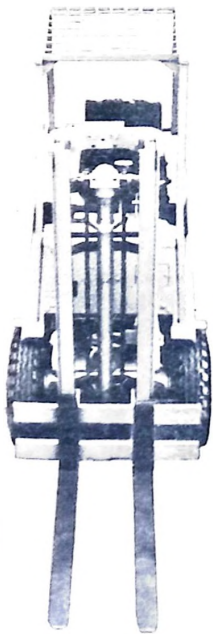
†Original Six EEC countries.

UK - Nigerian trade in 1972 (figures in thousands sterling)

Total British imports	156,105	Leather, leather manufactures	1,314	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	2,634
Total British exports	153,871	Non-ferrous metals	7,740	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	8,391
		Wood and cork manufactures	1,296	Essential oils and perfumes	1,935
				Plastic materials, etc.	2,709
<i>Britain's main imports from Nigeria (a) were:</i>		<i>Britain's main exports to Nigeria (b) were:</i>		Chemical materials and products	3,371
Coffee, tea, cocoa and spices	15,747	Dairy products and eggs	908	Rubber manufactures	1,598
Fishing stuff for animals	5,313	Cereals and cereal preparations	1,624	Paper, paperboard manufactures	3,322
Hides, skins and furskins	478	Fruit and vegetables	345	Textile yarn, fabrics	6,959
Oil seeds, oil nuts and kernels	2,593	Miscellaneous food preparations	515	Non-metallic mineral manufactures	2,630
Crude rubber	2,050	Sugar and sugar preparations	1,737	Non-ferrous metals	2,622
Wood, lumber and cork	1,953	Crude fertilisers and crude minerals	1,733	Iron and steel	6,246
Metaliferous ores and metal scrap	453	Petroleum and petroleum products	1,111	Metal manufactures	7,669
Textile fibres, etc.	111	Chemical elements and compounds	2,686	Machinery, non-electric	31,888
Crude animal and vegetable materials	536			Machinery, electric	13,850
Petroleum and petroleum products	103,344			Transport equipment	23,320
Fixed vegetable oils and fats	9,713			Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14,471

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Exhibits range from simple hand tools to complex and sophisticated industrial machinery. The civil engineering plant will feature among other examples, a representative selection from Millars Machinery. Of particular interest is the Millapak batch heater and mixer. This small mobile unit is capable of producing up to 12 tonne/hour of low temperature (up to 100 degrees C) tar and bituminous macadam. It is said to be suitable for asphaltting small areas such as car parks and footpaths on scattered sites. Bofors Company will show a range of buckets for all types of earthmoving equipment, in particular, draglines, backhoe buckets and hydraulic grabs. An important feature will be the company's tooth system for use on excavators and loaders.

Then there are Winger portable concrete mixers. This range is designed about a standard basic frame and the greatest possible number of interchangeable components. The range of civil engineering plant is of particular relevance to Nigeria at this time because of the construction work being undertaken by the various governments under their five-year plan.

A range of diesel electric generating plant will be exhibited by Dale Electric of Britain. The generators are designed for continuous running as a prime source of electric power and as mains failure standby sets to safeguard essential services in, for example, microwave and telecommunications equipment, radio and television transmitting radio relay receiving stations, hospital services, continuous process plants, and computer standby. The output of the Dale range extends to 3,000 kVA and a wide choice of prime mover diesel engines is available.

Because of frequent power cuts in Nigeria, this range is likely to be popular.

Making its first appearance at any exhibition will be a new baking oven being shown by the baking machinery division of Baker Perkins. The oven can produce all types of cakes, pastries, tin bread, crusty bread and rolls. It requires a minimum of floor space.

A precision engineered tool for a quality spray finish - M30 Spraygun - with a detachable head overcomes the problem of spraygun design. The clean air passages ensure that the air supply to the gun is brought to the nozzle with a minimum of pressure loss. Bridgeport Model BR2J milling, drilling and boring machine, said to be the world's most popular milling machine with a high reputation for cutting capability, versatility and great value for money, will be demonstrated.

Demonstration of one of its new Model 300 sheet cutting machines will be a

feature of Strachan and Henshaw at the exhibition. An important feature of the unit is that it eliminates guillotining, leading to a considerable saving in labour and a reduction in paper wastage. In addition, the machine has a new drive system which is claimed to guarantee precision on both long and short runs, and it delivers a paper stack to any predetermined take-off height.

On show for the first time in Nigeria is the compactor for disposing of waste products. The compactor is non-selective and suitable to accept waste of any nature - solid, liquid or metallic. It will be shown by a company which specialises in waste disposal equipment. The compactor disposes of waste by reducing it to approximately one-fifth of its original size by compressing it into a plastics sack and is supplied with truck, 25 bags, wire ties and tie machine. The waste compactor will be of interest to city council authorities, particularly in Lagos which is overwhelmed by its perennial waste disposal problems.

International Computers, said to be Europe's leading organisation engaged in producing the machinery, software and skills needed for information processing, will be exhibiting. The need to process information in Nigeria is now more urgent than ever. Processed information is needed for social planning.

With industrialisation comes increased danger of fire. A range of fire fighting and emergency vehicles will be exhibited which will be of interest to state governments wanting to set up their own fire services.

Newman Labelling Machines will be exhibiting its range of adaptable labelling and capping equipment. The machinery on show is ideally suited to the requirements of pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industries. Most of the equipment can be supplied either as individual units or combined with filling machines to provide a complete production line.

The range of industrial products, for which a catalogue of over 350 pages is needed, cannot be listed here in a short article. But from the first catalogue entry, Aberdare Holdings, which manufactures machinery and equipment for electrical generators, to the Zenith Electric Company, which covers much of the same field, there are hundreds of exhibits to interest Nigeria. Exhibits of the order of 250,000 tons from different manufacturers have arrived in Lagos. Nigerian industrialists and others will have the opportunity of seeing at their doorstep the full complement of British industrial machinery in "British technology on show".

Prospects for planning

By a correspondent

As Nigeria was recovering from the civil war, towards the end of 1970, the Federal Government issued its "blueprint for progress", the Four Year Development Plan, 1970-74. The plan provided for some £1,600m of capital development during the period, half to be accounted for by the Federal and State Governments, and the balance expected to come from private investment.

Priority in the plan was accorded to agriculture, followed by industry, transport and the development of manpower. Social services and utilities such as water supplies followed. Defence and security, said a report, were in a special situation, and perhaps first in priority. It must be remembered however, that unless sufficient resources were devoted to other sectors there may be nothing left to defend or protect. Fifty-seven per cent of planned expenditure went to the economic sector, 28 per cent to social services and 14% per cent to general administration, including defence.

The development programme was considered to be a "deliberate weapon of social change" intended to correct defects in existing social relations. Experience during the war had shown that the Government could control the economy

to a significant extent by fiscal policy and, it was claimed, private investment was not scared away by controls provided they were properly administered.

In contrast to the first National Development Plan for 1962-68, when it was assumed that of planned public capital expenditure 50 per cent would be financed from abroad, the new plan expected only some 20 per cent.

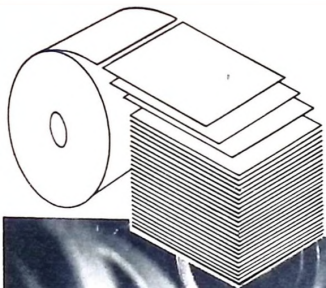
Technical assistance, however, would be needed from abroad on a considerable scale. In contrast to the early 60s external reserves were at a level where they could not be drawn on to finance the plan, so the most serious bottleneck in resources might be scarcity of foreign exchange. The real rate of growth was expected to accelerate from 4.7 per cent to a maximum of 9.5 per cent in 1973-74. It was expected - although the expectation has not been fulfilled in all cases - that most export commodities would increase in volume except for raw cotton, timber and hides and skins. But the outlook for prices was uncertain and during the plan period probably export earnings from trade other than oil would be "little better than stagnant". Even so, it was expected that Government revenues would increase fairly rapidly.

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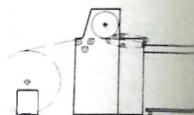
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The report dealt with Nigeria's new planning machinery. The Supreme Military Council, which had approved the new plan, would remain the most important decision-making body while under the civilian régime its place would be taken by a National Development Council. Advising the Council would be a Joint Planning Board consisting of Federal and State planning officials. An Economic Advisory Committee would consider private sector investment, drawing its members not only from the appropriate Ministries but from commerce and the universities. A Central Planning Office in the Federal Ministry of Development and Reconstruction would be concerned with planning as a whole.

The report on the plan covered not only official planning intentions but the economic and social situation with which the governments are faced. For example, we are told that in urban areas some two-thirds of the people over five were completely illiterate. Only one-fifth would be regarded as "permanently literate". In rural areas the situation was much worse.

Money-lenders

As well as economic policies the plan report considered social policies. For example it examined the efficacy of rent control, and control of interest rates in view of the importance of money lenders who were "not much affected by movements of the Bank rate". It cautiously discussed population control. The report also strongly advocated an incomes policy while recognising the practical impediments. It recognised, too, that statutory corporations were in danger of giving Nigerians "the worst of all possible worlds" since they were mostly monopolies and operated on civil service lines, thereby being deprived of the stimulus of competition.

The able young civil servants responsible for drawing up the plan did not promise a millennium. They claimed only that the projects in the plan, if executed, would represent a major modernisation of the economy. And in a "Progress Report" on the plan, issued in the middle of 1972, it was made plain that even if the plan was successfully implemented certain underlying problems of the economy might still be unaffected.

The first problem was that of unemployment. The progress report said that the plan projects would create only some half a million jobs. Yet it was estimated that during the plan period the net increase in the labour force would be over 2m, while, uncertain though the statistics are, some 2m people were considered to be unemployed even in 1970. The report said that a solution to

unemployment could be found only in expansion of agriculture and small-scale industry, and of services. Yet the authors did not venture any forecast of the extent to which this was likely to happen, and it is still difficult to be optimistic about it.

The growth rate of the gross domestic product had "exceeded all expectations", although this was due almost entirely to the unexpectedly rapid growth of the oil industry, said the report. Yet it emphasised, as is now fashionable in Nigeria, that oil was a "wasting asset" and "steady growth" in future would have to depend largely upon agriculture - but, as in the matter of unemployment, the report showed little optimism about agriculture's prospects.

By and large finance has not been an obstacle to the execution of the plan, says the report, and the Federal government's oil revenues allow it to come to the aid of state budgets. Nor has the balance of payments been a serious obstacle to execution of the plan, for which slow deliveries and delays in placing overseas orders had mattered more than shortage of foreign exchange. The main trouble has been "executive capacity" and, the report says, a real bottleneck is the inability to prepare projects. The particularly affects public investment in industry, where preparation of feasibility studies has proved difficult because of lack of staff. Rapid improvement, however, was expected here. Yet even if talent was available in Nigeria, the report said, it was not used to the best advantage since because of poor "labour mobility", some areas had a shortage of skilled workers and others a surplus. The report noted that spending on "the administrative sector" had been relatively heavier, in comparison with plan estimates, than on the economic and social sectors. Heavy over-expenditure on the armed forces programme was largely responsible for this, but the situation was claimed to be improving rapidly, and has, indeed, improved since.

Stagnation in agriculture, the subject of so much comment on Nigeria, was also mentioned in the progress report, which said that shortage of trained extension staff was one cause. The report also mentioned the growing "gap" between town and country which meant that in spite of appalling conditions in urban areas people were still attracted to them. The progress report also emphasised the serious consequences for economic development of inefficient operation of many services such as telecommunications and postal services.

The private sector

The private sector, the report said, presented superficially a much brighter picture. Investment had proved much heavier than expected and this expansion was expected to continue, although some industries had been affected by the removal of restrictions on imports and

others might be affected by the Adebo wage and salary awards. But the report noted that, satisfactory though the level of private investment had been, it had not so far been strongly influenced by the industrial strategy laid down in the four-year plan itself, which aimed to shift Nigeria's industry from the production only of consumer goods to that of intermediate and capital goods.

The Third National Development plan is to be launched on October 1 next year, so the life of the Second, 1970-74, Plan is extended by six months. The next plan will also cover five years, from April 1, 1975 to March 31, 1980, and not four like the present one. A period of 12 months between April 1, 1974, the date when the present plan period was due to end, and the beginning of the Third Plan, in April 1975 will be allowed for completion of Second Plan projects and to give more time to prepare the new plan.

A government statement says that the interim period will also be used for "wide-ranging" public discussions. The statement also notes that although progress generally on the current plan has been encouraging, experience gained has emphasised a number of problems.

It has been found that one limitation in past planning, leading to slow implementation of programmes, has often been poor project preparation. To overcome this, projects in the next plan will be "fully articulated", studied, and carefully costed before inclusion. Experts will be engaged to identify and study projects in the various sectors.

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*Central Planning Office, Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction, Lagos

The new face of Lagos

From a Lagos correspondent

The view of Lagos Island from the lagoon has often given visitors the impression that this is a budding New York. But in fact the skyline has changed remarkably little since the rash of building around the time of independence which produced Independence Building, Western House and the Federal Palace Hotel. It is true new blocks have gone up on the Marina, as they are still going up: the new Shell Centre was recently completed, as was the impressive United Bank of Africa building opposite Kingsway Stores, and soon to be completed is Unity House, a project of the Wemabod company which already owns the Western House and other profitable investments.

But the Lagos skyline is likely to change more dramatically in the next year or two. The most spectacular development is the new £10m. Secretariat complex, which the federal government is to build in Ikoyi to house government offices. This will consist of two thirteen-storey blocks, with a lower linking semi-circular block. The site is to be terraced, so one block will be six feet lower than the other, and roads leading from Lagos Island to Ikoyi will be widened to cope with the increased traffic the new complex is likely to

generate. A ferry jetty is to be constructed at the lagoonside, to cope with pedestrian traffic from Yaba, which will thus bypass Lagos Island.

Another imminent development, on which work is starting this year, is the 26-floor tower block extension to the Federal Palace Hotel, which will have 250 bedrooms, as well as a revolving restaurant and night club on the top floor and it is believed it will be the tallest building in Lagos. The block will have the particular function of accommodating heads of state when attending conferences in Nigeria or when making state visits; but it will obviously also help in the present serious shortage of good hotel accommodation, which caused Lagos to strain at the seams during the recent All-African Games. The Lagos State Government also has plans for an hotel, but it is to be hoped that any planned hotels will be built before the Black Cultural Festival scheduled for November 1974, when an estimated 100,000 visitors are likely to be in Nigeria.

The Festival is currently the subject of many plans, including that for a National Theatre, described recently as intended to be the largest theatre in the world, which the Bulgarians are to build at a cost of £4m on the site of the present lido

railway terminus, which demolished. A new terminus built further inland. The terminus will be using a planned bridge (already partially completed) as a "festival village" accommodation project. The Metropolitan Housing Iganmu served as an "office" during the All-African Games.

The Games themselves were an incentive to various construction projects. Although some of these are not complete in any case, the Apapa Causeway, there was an urgency to complete them for the Games. The Apapa Causeway was officially inaugurated the day the Games opened, and a special road the Yaba roundabout (a major traffic jam) was built before the Games. Traffic arrangements for the Games were the remnant of a stadium, with all its stands, which was opened a month before the Games, and is now a landmark. There is to be work on roads as the Apapa moves inland (at the end of the project highway).

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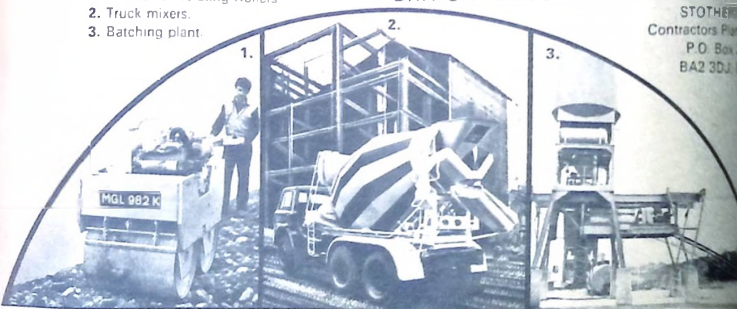
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Commercial News

World Bank in Cameroon

In 1969, the World Bank Group approved a \$7.9m loan for commercial development of palm oil in Cameroon mainly to meet expanding domestic demand for edible fats, in conjunction with two French agencies, Fonds d'Aide et de Coopération (FAC) (\$1.8m.) Caisse Credit et Coopération Economique (CCCE) (\$3.7m.) and the Cameroon Government (\$2.4m.). Considerable difficulties have been experienced in the project which, says an official statement, called for revision. After revision, in 1972, the total project cost, estimated at \$19.0m., is \$5.8m higher than the estimated cost of 1969, taking into account the CFA franc and dollar devaluations and price increases. The Bank Group has therefore approved a supplemental loan of \$1.7m. FAC, CCCE and the Government will give a grant, a loan and an equity contribution respectively of \$0.8, \$1.1 and \$1.4m.

The project covers nine years and consists of a six-year planting programme of oil palms on the estates of Eweka and Mbongo, totalling 8,500 hectares, maintenance until establishment, construction of an oil mill on each estate, and provision of roads, buildings and other infrastructure.

At full development in 1981, says the World Bank, the project will generate about \$2.9m annually in foreign exchange earnings from exports, and save considerable sums annually in exchange spent on imports of oil. It would also provide fuller and more remunerative employment to about 600 worker families and 1,000 single workers previously engaged in subsistence farming who would also enjoy better housing, education and health services. In addition to increasing output of palm oil, the project will pave the way

for further agricultural development in forest areas through planning of improved smallholder oil palm cultivation.

The supplemental loan is made to Societe Camerounaise de Palmeries (SOCAPALM). The term is 14 years, including five years of grace, and with an interest rate of 7½ per cent per annum. With the exception of the Mbongo oil mill, financed by FAC and CCCE, all goods and services are to be procured through international competitive bidding. However, a 15 per cent margin of preference is allowed to domestic manufacturers in bid comparisons.

The revised project is expected to be completed by June 30, 1978.

Nigeria calls oil meeting

Nigeria has summoned an extraordinary meeting to be held in Vienna by the middle of March of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to consider the world energy crisis. Announcing this the Nigerian Commissioner for Mines and Power, Shettima Ali Monguno, current President of OPEC, said that Nigeria might also call for an early meeting of OPEC because of the devaluation of the dollar. International oil transactions are conducted in dollars.

• Negotiations are to be resumed in Lagos between the Federal Government and Shell Company of Nigeria in connection with the government equity participation on February 28. This will be the last phase in the negotiations, and will be handled by a government team led by the Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power. Allan Monopome said that government participation must reflect both political and economic realities.

• A pilot scheme is announced by the British Overseas Trade Board to provide financial assistance to selected businessmen to appoint agents in Nigeria. It will also apply to businessmen going to Japan, and if successful may be extended to other countries. Initially the board is making available £20,000 for twelve months. The scheme will help businessmen to visit the Nigerian and Japanese markets to interview agents suggested by the commercial departments of British government offices overseas, and help them to study local market conditions. Businessmen participating will receive a refund of expenses equal to the assistance offered to members of group missions to Nigeria or Japan. At present this represents £175 and £400 respectively.

• Five civil servants have been appointed directors of the United Bank for Africa. They are: Dr. B. J. Ikpeke, a medical practitioner, Mr. G. O. Obatoyinbo, principal assistant secretary, Federal Ministry of Industries; Alhaji Yakubu Wanka, a member of the Public Service Commission in the North-Eastern State; Mr. B. A. Etim of the research department, Central Bank of Nigeria, and Mr. E. O. Obayan, deputy permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance. The appointments follow the Federal Government's equity participation of 40 per cent in the bank. Sir Patrick Reilly remains chairman.

Belgians in Ghana

At the opening at Nkawakaw of the Novotek chipboard factory, Ghana's Commissioner for Industries said that foreign participation in industry was still welcome. The factory is jointly financed by the National Investment Bank (40 per cent), Nkawakaw Sawmills Limited (a Ghanaian firm, 40 per cent) and Verkor S.A., a Belgian chipboard manufacturing company (20 per cent). Major Agho said he was happy that the project was a joint venture between Ghanaians and foreigners. The factory will produce approximately 260,000 cubic feet of chipboard manufac-

tured by locally produced glue to meet expected 25 per cent Europe and Chipboard manufacture house built is also used in industries. Chipboard 235,000 can imported

• Consideration of industry is by Ghana government to Gen. A. A. Ninsin for Resources. It said that be that some is now growing suitable for, ture.

Ghana's shorts

Permanently toothpaste produced in to the local materials on Lever. There was a local material factory produced cases of Kn compared to 1971. The Division of supplies cost for the margarine products. Currently 12 to 15 tons of 25 ton requirements.

• Visiting matchet factory subsidiary Bernasko, C. Agriculture, country and import of machinery farmers would traditional increase. In Kumasi, the factory matchet and increase production government the balance for improving Bernasko system of Crossfield and that was hoarded out

abroad. He later announced that the government had allocated £10m. for imports of agricultural machinery.

Ghana had a trade surplus of £173.9m. last year, compared with a deficit of £65.1m. in 1971. According to provisional figures of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Ghana imported £396.2m. worth of goods and exported £750.1m. worth. 1971 figures are, imports, 446.3m., and exports 280.2m.

Following the increase in the number of unit loads being shipped between Britain and West Africa, the UK-West African Lines Joint Service has appointed a unit load co-ordinator and are considering how to meet the changing needs of the joint service.

Mr. C. J. Ellerton, chairman of UKWAL, at a reception at Liverpool given by members of the joint service for local shippers and seafarers, said that unit loads had "been a feature of the service for a considerable time but it is only now that it is a sign of any large development in the field. We are told by the West African Shippers Association that the time had come for the joint service lines to do something more positive with regard to unit loads."

Mr. Alan A. Rawlinson has been appointed unit load co-ordinator for the service. He will bring together the technical, operational and marketing aspects of the movement of unit loads.

Nigeria's Dieselisation

Britain is making available £1m. for purchase of our 65M-ton diesel breakdown cranes for the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The cranes will assist the NRC programme of dieselisation under the current development plan. The contract has been awarded to Clarke Chapman-John Thompson of Leeds. The money is part of a £1.85m. loan made available to the Federal Government in support of the development plan 1970-74. The loan is tied to the purchase of British goods and services. Last year Britain provided 22 diesel shunting locomotives at a cost of £2m.

● The Government of Nigeria's East-Central State has begun a study of small-scale industries in selected urban areas and towns. The aim is to estimate the contribution of the private sector to the state economy.

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

● A British engineering firm has secured a record order for recovery vehicles from British Leyland for the Nigerian Federal Government. The £250,000 order will be manufactured and shipped from Reynold Boughton's works at Amersham.

● Orders for machinery, equipment and contracts for consulting services placed by the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to accelerate the industrialisation of developing countries, came to a total value of over \$4m. during 1972. The figure for equipment was nearly \$1.7m. covering a wide range of supplies for testing and research, machinery for repair and maintenance, and supporting administrative and audio-visual equipment for demonstration and training. 118 new contracts and amendments to existing contracts were concluded with consulting organisations in twenty different countries, to a total value of nearly \$2.5m. Work was completed on 65 UNIDO contracts.

Purchases during November and December amounted to a record \$600,000. They included toolroom machines from West Germany to equip small-scale industries in Togo. In Dahomey SEDES was given a \$34,400 contract to make a comprehensive analysis for establishment of a cement factory. Large deposits of limestone and the favourable results of a drilling survey have encouraged the Dahomey government to establish a cement industry. The Government plans to install a 300,000 ton plant.

● London Tin announces Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria production for January at 297 tons. December production was 351 tons (a five-week month) and November production was 222 tons.

Shipping News

ELDER Dempster Lines

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: DEIDO s/d Feb 23, DEGEMA s/d Luanda Feb 23, FOURAH BAY s/d Mar. 1. From London: BHAMO s/g. Mar. 15, SYLVIA CORI s/g. Feb. 26, MAMO s/g. Feb. 28, DALLA due Lobito Feb. 23.

From Manchester: DUNKWA s/d. Feb. 23.

From Newport: DUMBAIA s/g. Feb. 28.

From N. Continent: FREE-TOWN s/g. Hamburg Mar. 2; KUMBA due Appa Feb 24.

From Pooles: CLEARWAY due Appa Mar. 3.

NORTHBOUND - To London: FULANI due Feb 25; FALABA s/d. Feb. 25; PEGU s/g. Abidjan Feb. 26.

To Avonmouth: EBANI due Mar. 4.

To Glasgow: KOHMA s/d. Appa Feb 23.

To N. Continent: KABALA s/d. Bathurst Feb. 24.

To Southampton: AUREOL s/d. Appa Feb 23.

EASTBOUND - To USA/Canada: DIONGA due New York Feb 24.

WESTBOUND - From USA/Canada: DARU due Luanda Feb 24, DUMURRA due Dakar Mar. 4.

Eastern Service to W.A. - BECHBANK s/d. Appa Feb. 24. PINEBANK due Freetown Feb. 24.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS - HARBURGATE s/g. Monrovia May 28, thence Abidjan, Tema, Cotonou, Lagos/ Appa, Douala, FERNLAND s/g. New York Mar 9 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/ Appa, Douala.

HOMERAPIDS FERNLAND due New York Mar. 7; BARBER GATE s/g. Lagos S. Bound Mar. 10. Saple Mar. 12. Douala Mar. 14. Ghana Mar. 16. Abidjan/ Monrovia 4th week Mar.

CLINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan: MISSISSIPPI MARU s/d. Japan Feb. 5, due Lagos Mar. 15.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: MISSISSIPPI MARU s/g. Lagos Mar. 22, Tema Mar. 25, Freetown Mar. 31, Abidjan Apr. 5, due Hong Kong May 6. Japan May 10.

BLACK STAR LINE/US/NK/WEST AFRICA

WESTBOUND - OJI RIVER Tema Feb. 13, Philadelphia Feb. 26.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND - NAKWA RIVER Hamburg Mar. 1, Bremen Mar. 2, Antwerp Mar. 5, Rotterdam Mar. 6, OFFIN RIVER Liverpool Mar. 9.

NORTHBOUND - NAKWA RIVER Bremen Feb. 19, Hamburg Feb 22.

DAIRA LINES

EASTBOUND - NIGERIA s/g. Houston Mar. 3, New Orleans Mar. 8 due Monrovia Mar. 23, Abidjan Mar. 26.

WESTBOUND - HOLLAND s/g. Takoradi Mar. 2, Abidjan Mar. 5, Buchanan Mar. 7 due Charleston Mar. 19.

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND - ELIMA PALM s/g. Warri Mar. 4.

NORTHBOUND - ILESHA PALM s/g. Abidjan Mar. 4; LOBIO PALM due Takoradi Mar. 5.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Takoradi Feb. 17/18, Douala Feb. 20/21, Pointe Noire Feb. 22/25, EASTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Tema Feb 28/Mar. 1, Takoradi Mar. 2/3, Lohito Mar. 7/9.

MITSUI OSK LINE

NORFOLK MARU s/g. Kobe Feb. 6 due Lagos Mar. 11, KINKASAN MARU s/g. Kobe Feb. 19 due Lagos Apr. 1; KASUGASAN MARU s/g. Kobe Mar. 4 due Lagos Apr. 8.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan: JESPER MAERSK s/g. Kobe Mar. 5 due Luanda Apr. 1.

OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi: SUSAN MAERSK s/d. Tema Feb. 15 due Los Angeles Mar. 7.

SCAN - LLOYD AB

Batu s/g. Rouen Mar. 2, Bordeaux Mar. 5 due Boma/Matadi Mar. 18, Luanda Mar. 20, HOEGH AUG-VALD s/g. Hamburg Mar. 9, Antwerp Mar. 12, Rotterdam Mar. 14, Rouen Mar. 16.

SCAN DINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

NORTHBOUND - VIKAREN s/g. W.A. Mar. for discharge Scan. Apr. WAITARA s/g. W.A. mid Mar. for Apr. for discharge Scan. Mar.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

INWARDS - STRAAT FREEMANTLE s/d. Japan Jan. 18 due Freetown Feb. 26, Port Harcourt Mar. 3, Lagos/ Appa Mar. 6, Takoradi Mar. 13, Abidjan Mar. 16, STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE s/d. Hong Kong Feb. 8 due Lagos/ Appa Mar. 16, Cotonou Mar. 24, Lome Mar. 26, Tema Mar. 27, Abidjan Mar. 29, Monrovia Apr. 1, Freetown Apr. 3, Dakar Apr. 6, Conakry Apr. 9, Takoradi Apr. 13, Luanda Apr. 23 apt.

OUTWARDS - STRAAT FREEMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Japan early Mar. STRAAT MOZAMBIQUE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, Matadi, Hong Kong, Shanghai apt. Japan late Mar.

FARRELL LINES

HOMERAPIDS - AFRICAN PLANET s/g. Lobito Mar. 19 for Luanda, Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, Port. 18, AFRICAN STAR s/g. Lagos/ Appa Mar. 29 for Port Harcourt, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US Ports.

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN PLANET due Monrovia Mar. 2 for Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Mar. 10, Cotonou, Luanda Mar. 16, Lohito, Matadi.

AFRICAN STAR due Dakar Mar. 12 for Freetown, Monrovia Mar. 17, Abidjan, Tema Mar. 23, Lagos/ Appa Mar. 25, Port Harcourt, Douala Apr. 3, Freetown, Lohito, Matadi.

WESTIND AFRICA LINE

BUENA FORTUNA s/g. New Orleans Mar. 9, Houston Mar. 6 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Abidjan, Freetown; SANTA MAIA s/g. New Orleans Mar. 10, Houston Mar. 15, Abidjan Mar. 15, Tema Mar. 17, Cotonou Mar. 19, Lagos/ Appa Mar. 20, Douala Mar. 27, Lome Mar. 29.

NORTHBOUND - Buma s/g. Abidjan Mar. 2 due Amsterdam Mar. 12, Hamburg Mar. 14.

• The tinplate industry's prospects are well assured, says the current issue of *Tin and its Uses*, quarterly review of the Tin Research Institute. The magazine adds that as tinplate provides the principal use by volume of tin - some 40 per cent - many observers look to the industry as a measure of the general health of tin.

• Watch straps in synthetic materials which allow the skin to breathe will be introduced to the West African market by B. Prince and Co. Ltd. of Hengoed, Wales. The straps are made from porvair and xylee - materials which simulate leather and are claimed to "breathe like leather and absorb moisture".

Guinea's bauxite

The bauxite mining and aluminium producing company FRIA is to be henceforth called FRIGUIA following an agreement under which the government assumes a 49 per cent share in the company, previously entirely privately owned. The agreement was concluded in Conakry after negotiations between a government delegation and representatives of the private company led by the President of the Reserve Bank of New York. The state is to receive 63 per cent of the profits of the new company.

As the country's largest private concern, FRIA had provided three-quarters of Guinea's foreign earnings. Both sides at the negotiations had agreed to work towards the rapid attainment of an annual production of 1m. tons of aluminium. Production rose from 480,000 tons in 1960 to a total of 700,000 tons last year.

The two delegations had expressed satisfaction at the progress of Guinea's Africanisation policy, under which the number of FRIA's foreign employees was reduced from 300 to 30. Guinea paid tribute to its private partners in FRIGUIA for their willingness to adapt to changing economic and political conditions in Guinea since independence.

• World production of palm oil will triple by 1976 and new consumer markets must be found, Mr. Marshall Pike,

director of the Technical Research Department of Harisons and Crosfield, told the National Institute of Oilseed Products. "Under-nourished" territories such as India and Africa promised a good outlet. "The only way in which a larger oil production can be absorbed is by natural increase in population, or by substituting this new product for those already on the market". Mr. Pike said 1972 world production of palm oil was 1,180,000 tons. By 1976 this will rise to 2,250,000 tons. By 1976 "palm oil will represent something like 15 per cent of all edible oil and fats entering the world market", he forecast.

• The West Africa Committee, which represents a high proportion of British firms with Nigerian interests, fully endorses the indigenisation decree, the Chairman, Mr. W. T. G. Gates told Gen. Gowon. Mr. Gates said that his committee did not share the criticism of the decree which some businessmen and organisations had made. "We of the West African Committee believe it is the best course for Nigeria". Gen. Gowon said that the West Africa Committee declaration was most encouraging. It was because the government did not want to "undo" any foreign investor that the reasonable time of three years was set for certain businesses to be nationalised. The Head of State assured Mr. Gates that provision for repatriating funds had been made for those winding up their businesses and wishing to go home.

• The World Bank and the Bank of Japan have signed an agreement under which the Japanese Bank will extend a currency loan of 135,000m. yen (some £210m.) to the World Bank with interest of 6.74 per cent. The amount, the largest loan ever obtained by the World Bank, includes 28,800m. yen which the bank had been scheduled to repay to the Japanese Bank for previous loans. The World Bank will use the loan to provide member countries with dollars over the next 12 months. Nations borrowing the new funds will have to exchange them for dollars in Japan.

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2. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer

Preference will be given to candidates who specialise in Public Administration. Candidates should be familiar with theories of organisational behaviour, comparative administrative theory and practice with a general policy orientation and planning programming and budgeting techniques. An interest in quantitative methods will be desirable. Graduates in Business Administration with good grounding in Public Administration will also be considered.

3. DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Lecturer

Candidates should possess good graduate and/or postgraduate qualifications in Archaeology and suitable experience of excavation and fieldwork. Specialised knowledge of European Prehistory and Archaeology and/or Physico-Chemical Methods and Archaeology would be an advantage.

Appointment to commence in September, 1973.

4. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Lecturer

The candidate should have a minimum of two years post-M.Sc. experience or its equivalent or a Ph.D. and should be a specialist in agricultural statistics and quantitative economics. The candidate should also have had Nigerian field experience and be conversant with economic problems of agriculture.

5. DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Museum Curator

This is an academic position and appointment is made at the Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer level. Applicants should be appropriately qualified, and should preferably be structural geologist or mineralogist.

6. DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer

Applicants should possess qualifications and experience in Modern Linguistics as applied to English and should have special interest in phonology and Semantics. An interest in stylistics would be considered an advantage.

7. SALARY SCALES

Reader (Medical/Clinical) N7,000

Senior Lecturer (Medical/Clinical) N5,000 - N6,500

Senior Lecturer (Non-Medical) N5,000 x 150 = N7,500

Lecturer (Non-Medical) N2,760 x 150 = N414,000

Assistant Lecturer N2,140 x 100 = N214,000

an approved higher degree N2,460 x 100 = N246,000

Museum Curator Same as Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer

Applicable salary scale and placement will depend on qualifications and experience.

8. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Except where it is otherwise stated, appointments shall be for an indefinite period and shall be subject to review thereafter. Provision for family on appointments, approved overseas termination, where applicable, F.S.S.U.N. children and car allowances. Post-graduate study and housing allowance is provided.

9. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Detailed applications (2 copies) stating qualifications, experience and naming three referees should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Ibadan from whom further particulars of departments may be obtained.

Dateline Africa

GHANA

ECA Ministers meet

Opening the ministerial meeting of the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Accra Col. Acheampong called for the creation and co-ordination of African banking, transport and communications services. Col. Acheampong said there was need for urgent appraisal of banking institutions to provide a facility for rapid and inexpensive settlement of regional transactions. "It is not unusual for two African countries to settle their payments through a bank in Europe or America, precisely because no proper institutional arrangements exist otherwise." It was necessary for African central banks, through their own association, to explore the possibility of forming unions within the various sub-regions to assist in the evolution of payments arrangements and in the harmonisation of African monetary policy.

He called for a permanent ministerial conference on transport to promote regional and sub-regional transport development including air and shipping lines, telecommunications and highway systems. The aim of the body, which should be under the auspices of the OAU and ECA, would be to improve social and economic contact cheaply and effectively.

Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, Secretary General of the OAU, said if a collective association with the EEC was found desirable then all the 41 member states of the OAU must negotiate as one body. An instrument negotiated under the auspices of the OAU would be able to cater adequately for the interests of each member without compromising major continental objectives, he added.

Africans needed to be aware of, and ward off, the danger of allowing inter-

African economic co-operation to become an instrument at the service of the interests of foreign industrialists and investors instead of using such co-operation as a means to accelerate Africa's development. Mr. Ekangaki told the meeting.

A conference of African Ministers of Commerce, Finance and Development would take place in Abidjan, at the end of April, he announced. The conference, under the auspices of the OAU, the ECA, and the African Development Bank, would draw up an economic and monetary charter to be submitted for adoption to the OAU Summit to be held in Addis Ababa next May.

Jamaica asked the ECA to convene a ministerial meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, next year to provide opportunities for exploring ways and means of implementing economic proposals in trade, development and finance "to our mutual advantage". Mr. Manley, the Prime Minister, in a message to the meeting stressed the need for developing nations to work together for their common good because "our united effort will eventually open the door for the opportunity in advancement of our long neglected people".

The EEC's invitation to African states to take up associate membership of the Community constitutes a great opportunity for Africa "to speak to Europe". Mr. Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA, said before the meeting. He said it was now open to African Governments, in concert, to define in clear terms the type of relations they wished to have with the EEC: in business, it was good to be hotheaded but not hostile.

The meeting would discuss a number of important issues,

including Africa's attitude to the enlarged EEC and the framework in which African states could negotiate with the Community. Mr. Gardiner said it would also discuss intra-African economic co-operation, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), commodity negotiations, and current discussions on the reform of the international monetary system. He observed that the rate of growth of the economy of African countries had been very slow because there was little progress in agriculture. The meeting would consider a general commodity agreement which would ensure fairly steady export earnings to individual developing countries. The agreement would introduce supplementary and complementary financing in case there were shortfalls, and the removal of trade barriers and liberalisation of world trade.

Girls "exported"

A new decree makes it an offence to enter into any agreement to employ a Ghanaian under the age of 18 outside the country as a domestic servant. Other categories of workers specified are clerical artisan and apprentice.

The publication of the decree coincided with the disclosure in the state-owned weekly *Spectator* that it has uncovered a syndicate which has been "exporting" Ghanaian girls to work as "slaves" of wealthy families in Lebanon. The newspaper alleges that the syndicate is headed by a little-known Lebanese businessman in Accra and includes at least nine Ghanaians, one of whom is a pastor of a church in Cape Coast. Between 1970 and July 1972 the syndicate has exported over 30 girls between the ages of 13 and 14 years under various guises such as dress making, apprentice or maidservant. The newspaper said for each girl they send away, a standard price of 500 cedis was paid to the parents and each such transaction is covered by a dud written agreement prepared by a licensed letter-writer.

It said the "slave trade" industry began in 1969 when a Lebanese who wanted his Ghanaian housemaid to accompany his wife to

Lebanon to serve for three years approached the letter writer to prepare an agreement between him and the parents of the housemaid, one Miss Agnes Owusu. The newspaper said it would publish a full list of the girls "exported" and how they were procured.

• The Bank of Ghana is to pay 20 per cent bonus of the cedi equivalent of foreign exchange proceeds surrendered by companies which export, according to a new decree. The Decree, which repeats the Foreign Exchange (Export Bonus) Act 1971, said the payment of the bonus would be in addition to any other monies payable to exporters as Ghana currency equivalent of an external currency. The bonus would apply to all products originating from Ghana except timber, cocoa, cocoa products (powder, cake and butter), and all minerals and primary metals other than diamonds bought from local miners. The bonus would also be paid for timber and fabricated metals exported to African countries if payment was received in an external currency which was convertible. Currencies from all African states and currencies defined by the International Monetary Fund as convertible qualified under the scheme.

• Imported vehicles will now attract purchase tax, according to a new decree. Anyone who imports a vehicle for personal use, the value of which exceeds 7,850 cedis, will have to pay a purchase tax of 200 per cent. The tax lessens proportionately to the cost of the car. Commercial vehicles assembled abroad will attract a tax of between 10 and 33 per cent, and commercial vehicles substantially assembled in Ghana will attract a tax of between 5 and 20 per cent. Motor cycles and similar vehicles, whether imported assembled or un-assembled, will attract a 12½ per cent tax. The NRC reserves the right by executive instrument to exempt any person or class of persons from payment of purchase tax under the decree. Anyone contravening any provision of the decree will be subject to a fine not exceeding 1,000 cedis, to imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both.

• Mr. Alex Abedi, a ministerial secretary in Dr. Busia's government, has been jailed for 18 months by the Aidoo Assets Committee for perjury. He was also fined 500 cedis. His sentence follows a statement by his brother, Mr. Julius Amponfu, that Mr. Abedi's company, Commercial Arts and Designers, never did any work for the 1971 Trade Fair but were paid 4,343.92 cedis. Mr. Amponfu was fined 200 cedis for perjury and granted two months bail to pay the fine which carries a six month prison sentence in default.

"Self-reliant effort"

Ghana's exports last year had yielded encouraging results, the High Commissioner in London, Mr. Henry Sekyi, told the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. A cocoa crop of over 440,000 tons, second only to the record of 1965, timber exports up from 464,000 to 647,000 tons, strong expansion in output of gold, diamonds and other minerals, brought about an increase of 40 per cent in export earnings with a visible trade surplus of

some £44m. compared with the substantial deficit of the preceding year. With the effect of invisibles and debt servicing, total reserves had risen from practically nothing at the beginning of last year to 98m cedis by the end of June. The figures were a result of a year of "self-reliant effort", when aid, while not totally rejected, was relegated to its role as an accessory, when the budget has been balanced without significant resort to borrowing, and when world prices, though good, had not been phenomenal, and when cash has been paid for everything bought. "At no time since 1962, if not before, have we had a comparable economic performance."

• Ghana's Food Complex Corporation will soon begin production of sardines and pilchards for home consumption, the corporation's general manager, Mr. B. L. Larley, announced. He told Sierra Leone's High Commissioner, Mr. Lynch-Shyllon, during his visit to the corporation's factories at Tema, that canning machines had been installed and production trials begun. The factory would produce 19m.

tins of sardines and pilchards annually when full production started in June. The Government had invested 19m. cedis in the eight interlocking production units which already exported about \$5,000 worth of bran, a by-product of flour, annually.

• Ghana has agreed to a request to establish a warehouse at Tema for Upper Volta imports. It has also accepted another request to build a shed at the Trade Fair site in Accra for display of Upper Volta agricultural products. These agreements were reached in Ouagadougou after talks between a trade delegation led by the Commissioner for Trade and Tourism, Maj. Belli, and the Upper Volta National Chamber of Commerce.

"Who's Who" launched

Ghana's biographical *Who's Who* was launched in Accra by Dr. Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Dr. Gardiner praised the editor of the book, Mr. Charles Bartels,

for including of politicians recent regimes described as measure being régimes in independence inordinately castigating denigrating indulging character

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SIERRA LEONE

More detained

A former minister and two journalists have been detained. No reason has been given. They are Mr. M. S. Mustapha, the opposition SLPP leader, who was Minister of Finance under Sir Milton Margai, Mr. Dwight Neale, the freelance writer who represents the BBC, and the editor of the revived opposition newspaper, *Unity*. Mr. Mustapha was among the opposition leaders charged with murder following the death of a government supporter during a bye-election campaign. The charge was later changed to one of conspiracy and the opposition leaders were released on bail.

It was believed that the detentions followed the President's strong warning against malicious propaganda. He condemned a report in *Unity* that when the present Parliament is dissolved a caretaker administration would be set up with Mr. Stevens as Chairman, and would include the Chief Justice and others, but not ministers. Mr. Stevens said that such reports caused incalculable mischief and the government could not ignore them. He maintained that the constitutional process for the holding of a general election would be observed.

In the case against the former Minister of Information, Mr. Alhambay Khazali and three others alleged to have been guilty of murder and "dealing in person" at Port Loko, a witness alleged that the former minister had bought his wife, who was later murdered. The witness alleged that his son had also been murdered and had had his heart removed. Mr. Berhan Macaulay, QC, is leading counsel for Mr. Khazali. The witness agreed that he was himself under sentence of death for the murder of his wife but denied having given evidence to save himself. Later the witness said that he had tried to hide the truth.

Defending the opening of more foreign missions the Vice-President told Parliament that they had to reciprocate when other countries wished to establish missions in Sierra

Leone. It was also necessary to have a mission in Addis Ababa which was the seat of OAU; the Rome embassy also dealt with FAO. In the Soviet Union there were 400 Sierra Leonean students who had to be looked after. Supplementary provision for Le86,000 has been passed for foreign missions, in addition to Le636,000 already voted. A supplementary vote of Le 273,000 has also been passed for the army and, presumably in preparation for the coming general election, some Le470,000 for the Electoral Commission.

With an authorised capital of Le1m., half already contributed by the government, the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank has opened. Managing Director is Mr. Christian James Smith, former general manager of the Bank of Sierra Leone. The President, who performed the opening ceremony, said that the bank would carry out the normal functions of a commercial bank, with the government owned insurance company, the shipping line, and the national diamond corporation. Sierra Leoneans were now participating in enterprises formerly the monopoly of expatriates. The Chairman, Mr. Justice Percy Davies, said that the bank should be an instrument for economic development.

Establishment of a factory for canning fruit juice and tomato paste in the Northern Province is being considered by the government. The President announced at Kabala Citrus experts from abroad, Mr. Stevens said, were already at work. The President said that for efficient agriculture present small and scattered holdings must be consolidated. He also mentioned the World Bank - supported rice project in the Eastern Province and said that cattle farming could be successful in the north and could qualify for a World Bank loan.

Ten scholarships for students at Fourah Bay and Njala University colleges have been awarded by the West German government.

An unofficial strike has disrupted services at the Paramount Hotel, the only first-class hotel in the centre of Freetown.

The palm kernel crushing mill at Wellington, near Freetown, has been reopened. The mill, financed by the Produce Marketing Board, was closed down by the military régime in 1967 because it was uneconomic.

The iron ore carrier, *Gallie Bridge*, which went aground in Freetown Harbour, has been re-floated and has left.

LIBERIA

Tolbert's tour

During his state visit to The Gambia, President Tolbert attended a conference of Chiefs at Brikama. The President was told that although chieftaincy was an ancient institution in The Gambia chiefs now work closely with the government. Mr. Tolbert was accompanied by his wife.

In two years' time the Liberian Mining Company, the country's oldest mining concession, is expected to end its operations, according to the *Liberian Age*. The ore deposits at Bomi Hills are said to be reaching exhaustion after 23 years of mining. The company was founded by the late Col. Christie.

A six man team from the International Monetary Fund has visited Liberia to discuss the country's need for a "stand-by credit". A credit for \$4m. was arranged last year but was not called on.

Mr. Charles D. Sherman, former Secretary of the Treasury, is to stand for election to the Senate in Robertsport.

CONGO

Police in plot

Following discovery of a new plot against the government, President Nguouabi has dissolved the police force. All police business is now to be handled by the Peoples National Army. Announcing the decision at a mass meeting of the Army, the President said that the "best elements" of the police might be taken back.

First indications of renewed tension came when the President addressed officers and men of the

Revolutionary Committee of the army at Brazzaville Town Hall on February 12. Although this was apparently a routine meeting, the President condemned the manoeuvres of some army personnel in the camps, which could create "an uneasy climate". After condemning dishonesty, which, he said, was rampant in the army, he warned trouble-makers, traitors and rumour-mongers; he had instructed army officers and men to restore exemplary discipline "to enable the revolution to continue its forward march".

On February 13, President Nguouabi said "something abnormal is stirring" and warned army and party members that treason would be dangerous. "Woe betide those who have not understood. They are very few, but all the same they are in the army. I know most of them, and I am very close to their contacts". He alleged that there were those in the army, even officers, who had had contacts with Lt. Ange Diawara, the author of the *coup* a year ago, who is still at large. "If they take up arms one day, at whatever hour, there will be a fight". On the recent discovery of a secret arms cache, the President said that in other countries offenders would face a military tribunal and death penalty, but this was not the case in the Congo. "If people continue to engage in *coups d'état* to become generals or colonels, well, we will arrange it so that the highest rank in the Congolese army remains that of major". Major Nguouabi said he was closing his eyes to what was going on, but he could be "without forgiveness".

At the end of January the army commander, Joachim Yhombi-Opango, was promoted from Major to full Colonel, the highest rank in the army since independence. Two Captains, Louis Sylvain Goma and Denis Sassou Nguesso, were promoted Major. Both are members of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labour Party, and Goma is Minister of Works. The President said at the time that the new ranks were in line with normal promotions.

On Feb. 14 all soldiers were ordered to report to their units immediately.

On February 15 the President addressed another meeting at the Town Hall, again denouncing army officers for collaborating with Lt. Diawara. Earlier, dressed in combat kit to show that he personally was in charge of operations, he told a meeting with *lycée* pupils that there had been a new plot by Diawara to overthrow the government, using higher education institutions in Brazzaville. He was informing the students of the plot, he said, because a group of people had incited schools and colleges to strike before February 22. The President recalled that from February last year Ange Diawara's followers had been hiding in Goma Tse-Tse, where the mother and grandmother of Ange Diawara are living. "There is no doubt, therefore, that the people of Goma Tse-Tse have become Diawara's tribe. He has even trained some of his tribesmen. He now has about 20 young men between the ages of 15 and 18 whom he describes as young pioneers with him in the bush."

The President also recalled a number of incidents including one where Diawara had been found in Poto-Poto with women and children but the army could not shoot him because of them. The President also claimed that disgruntled elements had connived with irresponsible traders to bring about scarcities to create dissatisfaction in Brazzaville. These elements were also active in the army. Among events which had "saddened the head of state" was the action of a sentinel at the palace who had tried to obtain a lift from the presidential vehicle. "There was something wrong somewhere, especially in the paratroopers camp; students, all members of the Congolese Students Youth Union, had been contacted by Diawarists to go for training in Goma Tse-Tse. The terrorists were only supported by members of their own tribe, however. Soldiers and civilians involved in the plot had been arrested, although for the moment their names were not being divulged. All would have an opportunity to broadcast to explain "why they think they are more revolutionary than other Congolese."

At a further series of *lycée*

meetings, President Nguabi said that four French technical assistants, including two women, had been arrested in connection with the plot. They had been actively concerned with "subversive elements". The President also accused certain diplomatic missions from "so-called friendly countries" of furnishing arms to Lt. Diawara. One of the French teachers, M. Mathieu Kempf, Philosophy Professor, was subsequently released.

CAMEROON

Ahido's anniversary

President Ahido marked the 15th anniversary of his coming to power with celebrations in Yaoundé, and an oath of loyalty by members of the government. Dr. Simon-Pierre Tchoungui, Vice-President of the Union Nationale Camerounaise (UNC) told a meeting that President Ahido should continue to lead Cameroon's permanent revolution.

Before the anniversary the President held a news conference, his first since June 1970. (see last week's *West Africa*). He revealed that the elections for the parliament of the new United Republic would be held in May. An Economic and Social Council will be set up after the elections. The President also said the new headquarters of the Central Bank of African States (CEA) is to be Yaoundé. The office is to be moved from Paris within three years.

President Ahido neither confirmed nor denied a report that he is to visit Peking next month, and continued that Cameroon is to recognise East Germany.

The new constitution had made administration more rational, the President claimed, but it was too early to judge the financial effects. New ministerial departments, in agriculture and mines, had been set up, and oil companies had discovered "promising traces" of offshore petroleum deposits. A report is expected in March on the reserves of bauxite at Martap in north Cameroon. Other projects include the construction of an oil refinery and a hydro-electric dam.

President Ahido also denounced embezzlement in the public services, and made the first mention of a \$400,000 loss involving high officials connected with the 8th All-African Football competition last year. It is believed that a proportion of the takings were embezzled. The police were still making inquiries, and those found guilty would be dealt with in an exemplary manner.

● Following the President's mention of the oil finds, ELF-SEREPCA (a subsidiary for Cameroon of the French state oil company ELF-ERAP) put out a statement locating the discovery in the Rio del Rey area on the coastal shelf, not far from the Nigerian border. ELF-SEREPCA has been prospecting in the area in an 80 per cent/20 per cent association with Shell Camrex. Further studies are necessary before the importance of the discovery can be assessed.

SENEGAL

Drought devastation

Senegal this year will suffer a 50 per cent cut in its groundnut, millet and sorghum crops according to Rural Development Minister Habib Thiam, in a broadcast. He also estimated that the drought had affected some 1,500,000 people.

The National Assembly has already passed a law expropriating one day's pay from workers to help combat the water shortage. The minister said 50,000 tons of supplies were being sent to farmers which would enable them to "hold on until September". The Minister added that the government would annul debt incurred by farmers affected by the drought: 300m CFA francs (£500,000) owed to the National Development Bank of Senegal and 1,500m CFA francs (£2,500,000) owed to the National Office of Co-operation and Development Assistance.

A total of 326m CFA francs (£543,000) would also be set aside to provide free cattle food for the affected areas.

● Somalia is to open embassies in Nigeria and Senegal, as part of an

expansion of activity and awareness of Somalia to play on world African Affairs.

GABON

Israeli

Following Foreign Minister Rawlin to Tel Aviv, it has been announced that development between Israel and Gabon is to be initiated. Israel Foreign Minister Eban is to meet his forthcoming Gabon counterpart. Israel has agreed its youth programme in Gabon. Gabonese State sent to Israel refineries. The originally due March is now take place in OAU summit to endorse a plan of Israel.

● The government imposed a ban on ordered a ban on servants to be employed in the private sector. The arbitration Minister.

ZAIRE

Devaluation

Zaire is to devalue its currency to two-thirds of its present value. This means a devaluation of 10 per cent. The US government has said that Zaire is to devalue itself "periodically" to encourage movements in and out of the country. Zaire has been devalued since the introduction of the new Monetary Fund.

● A former Zairean minister, who has been jailed for the embezzlement of \$100,000 of Zairean money, M. Bodi, who was a servant of Mobutu, has been ordered to pay "damages" for all his past activities. His future was confiscated.

NIGERIA Partnership bases

Britain's foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, has declared in Lagos that in trade between Britain and Nigeria were "foundations for a most successful partnership" because "trade and investment are certainly the most important functions of interdependence".

Speaking at a government dinner party in his honour, Sir Alec said Britain understood Nigeria's ambition to command the "heights of the economy" but noted that while Nigerian capital would increasingly be "adequately engaged", given confidence, British capital could be a partner of significance in assisting Nigeria to produce her own wealth and expand her industrial performance.

He expressed satisfaction with the emphasis to be given to agricultural development, and the strength of any nation derived from a virile population on the soil.

In entry into the EEC, Sir Alec said Britain was absolutely convinced that the enlarged community could be made an instrument for prosperity and security far beyond the geographical limits of the members. He said Britain was determined to use her influence as a member to ensure that the community became increasingly far-sighted, able and anxious to play a positive part in helping the developing countries.

"Just as in Europe old barriers are coming down, so here in Africa, the old differences between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth Africa are becoming irrelevant".

In an oblique reference to Rhodesia, Sir Alec said as the countries of Europe tried to live down their old differences and as West African countries saw their interests as interdependent, so the problems "further south will only be resolved when those concerned realise the need to get away from rigid entrenched positions". They must understand that they too are interdependent, he added.

He said reconciliation between nations and peoples

must in the second half of the 20th century be the order of the day. "We must build, not destroy, unite, not divide, co-operate, not cut each other's throats".

During his four-day visit to Nigeria, Sir Alec held talks with General Gowon and a number of Federal Commissioners including the External Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Okoi Anko. Sir Alec's discussions with General Gowon centred on Anglo-Nigerian relations, southern Africa and the EEC. General Gowon told the British Minister that Nigeria would be prepared to consider a commodity agreement or a simple trade agreement with the EEC.

On Rhodesia, General Gowon said it was the responsibility of Britain to produce a solution acceptable to the Rhodesian people. He said Portugal was holding on to her colonial territories in Africa because of the support she was getting from NATO.

A radio report on the talks quoted General Gowon as expressing disappointment with the western press, particularly the British, for not giving "reasonable" coverage to the second All-Africa Games.

Sir Alec told a news conference that he looked forward to a visit by General Gowon to Britain "as soon as possible".

- Nigeria should vigorously diversify her trade with other countries, especially the Peoples' Republic of China and East European countries, the independent *Daily Times* urged in an editorial. Writing on Nigeria and the European Economic Community (EEC) the paper said trade with Eastern Europe had been negligible in the past.

"The lessons of the war years (Nigeria's civil war) demonstrate the fact that Nigeria also has untapped market for her products in these countries. Hence, the need to enter into bilateral agreements for trade with various countries of the world", the *Daily Times* declared.

The newspaper welcomed Nigeria's rejection of the Yaounde-type association with the EEC and argued that from the composition of her exports no extra advantage would be gained from "hindering ourselves to Europe".

The *Daily Times* also said that if Nigeria becomes an associate member of the EEC efforts towards an African common market which she supports could be hampered.

Sharing assets

Discussions have begun on the sharing of assets and liabilities between the Western and Midwestern states, Brigadier Rotimi has announced at the end of his visit to the Midwestern State. Both states formed the old Western Region until the Midwest was carved out in 1963. Governor Rotimi said he did not envisage any problem in sharing of assets and liabilities between the two states because of the good relations between them.

"The problems some people conjure in their minds are not intractable. We will settle the problems in a traditional Nigerian way", he said.

On his impressions about the Midwestern State, Brigadier Rotimi said the state had witnessed more progress under military than under civilian era.

Free education at all levels, he said, was not only desirable but also necessary. The Federal Government should supplement the efforts of state governments by giving scholarships to all students who gained admissions into universities.

Air crash probe

A high court judge, Mr. Justice Mohammed Bello, has been appointed by the Federal Government to probe the crash at Kano of the chartered Jordanian aircraft in which 176 home-bound pilgrims were killed. An official announcement said Mr. Justice Bello, a senior Puisne judge in northern Nigeria, would submit his report not later than May 19.

He will be assisted by three assessors and three technical advisers including Mr. Harold R. Piper, a representative of the manufacturers of the Boeing which crashed.

- The Federal Commissioner for Works and Housing, Mr. Femi Okunnu, has paid a seven-day visit to Brazil during which he

inspected the trans-Amaze highway and several housing projects. He called on the governor of Brasilia, Colonel Helio da Silveira, and he discussed with government officials.

- The army is to compensate persons whose property was damaged following disturbances by soldiers. Uromi, Ishan division, Midwestern State. Soldiers of 95th Battalion will rebuild the market burnt down during the disturbances.

Speaking after inspecting the affected areas, the acting GOC of the second infantry division, Colonel Alabi-Isama, said he viewed the action of the soldiers with seriousness.

Students in Germany

Nigerian students who had completed their studies in Western Germany would not be allowed to take up employment in the country. West German Ambassador Jung has told the chairman of the North Central State Public Service Commission, Alhaji Zakari, in Kaduna. This was to ensure that trained Nigerians came back home to work.

- There has been a fire in one of the stores of the new National Stadium in Lagos. Refrigerators, mattresses and bedding were destroyed. The extent of damage and cause of fire were not immediately known.

- A 300,000 naira factory has been burnt down in Ibeja, near Lagos. The factory owned by Sanitas Nigeria produces toilet and tissue papers and other industrial papers. The cause of the fire was not known.

- The Federal Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has opened the 100,000 naira building of the Institute of Bankers and Lagos. He said that qualified Nigerians would be required to take responsible positions in commercial banks as a result of government's participation in them.

- Mr. Bainbridge Copnall, the sculptor, has been awarded £340 by a London court for work he did on a bust for the Lagos businessman, Sir Moholaji Bank-Anthony, of his father. He had sued for £540 for months of work put into preparing the bust, which Sir Moholaji rejected.

• The Nigerian Government and Volkswagen AG have signed an agreement setting up VW of Nigeria 40 per cent of the capital will be held by Volkswagen, 35 per cent by the Government, 11 per cent by a consortium of German banks. The remainder will be owned privately by Nigerians. Construction of a VW assembly plant will begin at Ikeja in April.

From the states

Governor Abba Kyari has called for a review of revenue allocation system. He advocated a system which would make more money available to states for development.

Exchanging views with the chairman of the *Daily Times* Group, Alhaji Babatunde Jose, who called on him at Kaduna, Brigadier Kyari said the constitution should be amended so that the bulk of the money held by the Federal Government could be distributed among the states. He pointed out that the states were always in financial

difficulties because the Federal Government could not allocate more money to them that the present arrangement allowed.

• Governor Abba Kyari has said that Kaduna or Benin would be suitable as federal capital because of their development and room for expansion. He said his government would co-operate fully if it was the wish of the majority of Nigerians to make Kaduna federal capital.

Brigadier Kyari told the West German Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Ernest Jung, that it was the wish of General Gowon that vital national issues like the siting of the federal capital and choice of a lingua franca should be debated by the public.

• Registration of children for admission into primary one for the 1973-74 school year began in Lagos State on February 19 and will end on March 2. Children born between January and September, 1967, and whose parents were resident in Lagos State would be eligible for admission, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mr. C. O. Phillips has announced.

• Classes have been suspended indefinitely at the Enugu College of Technology, following student demonstrations. The provisional council of the Institute of Management and Technology ordered the suspension. It instructed the students to hand over all college property in their possession to the appropriate authorities and to leave the college premises. The students' union has criticised the action of the provisional council.

• The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Kari Salem said in Enugu that the ban on firearms in the war-affected areas was imposed in the interests of security. The ban would be lifted when the security situation improved he said at the end of a week long tour of the East Central State. On boundary questions, he said the police had taken steps to further stop the boundary clashes by posting policemen in most of the areas.

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