

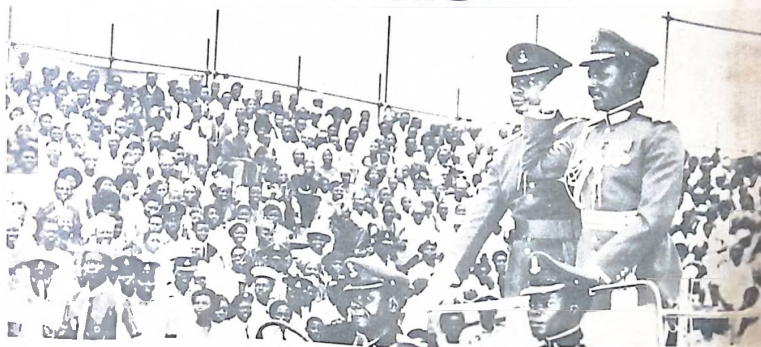
WEST AFRICA

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ISSUES & DOCUMENTS

NIGERIA'S ROAD TO *Govt & Politics* CIVIL RULE



Two years ago when the war was safely won and reconciliation and rehabilitation were well underway, General Gowon was able to announce at the tenth anniversary celebrations of Nigeria's independence a clear cut programme for return to civilian rule. He gave 1976 as the target date, and listed the measures necessary if the return was to be orderly and complete. To what extent have these measures been completed?

First, there was the development plan for 1970-74 which, when completed, was expected both to have revived the economy of the war-affected areas and to have laid the foundation for self-financed development. The plan, a realistic document, has not run into serious problems and the interim report on its

execution issued last June is rightly optimistic about the resettlement and rehabilitation of war-damaged areas. Nor, in view of the unexpectedly rapid growth in oil production and oil revenues, does finance stand in the way of completion of the plan. The real problem is "executive capacity". The gratifying increase in private industrial investment is in fact disappointing because it has not been strongly influenced by the policy of a shift from the production of only consumer goods to that of interim and capital goods. Nor, as is now admitted, could even full execution of the plan's projects make a significant impression on Nigeria's most serious social problem, unemployment. Nevertheless, with external payments almost back to normal, it

could not be argued that even now civilian rule would be premature because of the weakness of the economy. The longer-term economic problems, notably the stagnation of agriculture, are unlikely to be solved for many years.

The next problem General Gowon touched on was the re-organisation of the army. This required, for example, retraining, the building of barracks, and final decisions about the position of former rebel soldiers. All this appears to be going well, although any civilian régime may still feel doubtful about the cost of an army of well over 200,000.

Little appears to have been done about the drafting of a new constitution although there has been lively discussion

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Three Common Market Doors

From our correspondent,
Brussels

Next year, probably around October, talks are to begin on the renewal of the Yaoundé Convention between an indefinite number of associated or potentially associated states, and the eight or nine states of the enlarged European Economic Community. In principle by August 1 the numbers on the side of associates and associables will be clear, for that is the date by which the 20 Commonwealth countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific are supposed to decide whether they wish to opt for one of three formulae — association with Yaoundé, association outside it on a lesser scale (somewhat similar to the Arusha Agreement associating 3 East African countries), or a simple trade agreement. Apart from these basic statements, most aspects of the future links of the European Common Market with African countries are as misty as the view of Brussels from the plate-glass windows of the Berlaymont building (which houses the bulk of the offices of the European Commission) on a mild September afternoon.

Talking to officials and others here, you get the impression of more questions being asked than answers provided, of a situation that has not yet been "got together", since so much depends on what the "associables" decide, how the existing associates react, and on what transpires in the course of negotiations. And in the meantime, the EEC itself, emerging from the August vacation period, has more important things on its plate, such as the European summit later this month, and the imminent entry to Brussels of the British, causing controversial redundancies in the Berlaymont building. The two most important existing EEC members, France and Germany, are both dominated by imminent elections, and next year seems a long way away. Obviously for the Commission early indication of the way the wind is blowing on the association question would be useful as it would help in the preparatory work for the negotia-

tions; but it is also anxious that it should in no way be felt that it is putting on pressure for decisions.

The main area of activity at the moment is that surrounding the possible contact between existing associates and the associables. Mauritius, the only Commonwealth member state to enter Yaoundé (a similar application by Malawi for immediate Yaoundé membership was rejected), has now passed from the status of associate to that of associate, although her membership has yet to be finally ratified by all existing members. The Mauritius agreement was signed in May, but she will still only have observer status until the treaty comes into force, probably early next year. This transfer brings the numbers in each camp to 19, although only 13 on the associate side are African. All the associates are African (although both Madagascar and Mauritius sometimes pretend otherwise, they are both members of the Organisation of African Unity). The option of joining Yaoundé is there for all associables, but it seems possible that the Caribbean and the South Pacific states would both prefer separate negotiations as groups. Britain's dependencies in the latter two areas would be open to association in the same way as French and Dutch dependencies.

All the independent associables, however, and other Commonwealth countries, have been taking part in a series of meetings of officials which have been held in London under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat to discuss the implications of the three different formulae, and the possibility of joint action. At the first meeting on April 5 and 6 it was agreed that contact should be made with the existing associates to examine the possibilities of developing common interests in the forthcoming negotiations, as well as possible areas of contention. At the same time a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Associates met at ministerial level in Nouakchott and decided, among other things, that contacts should be made with the associables.

In neither case was the level of the meeting decided, which was one cause of subsequent misunderstanding, as if Commonwealth countries seemed to prefer to keep the contacts at official level, while in francophone countries it was felt that such meetings are probably more useful if held at ministerial level. However, in the course of contact between the Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Wade and the Secretary of the Associates' Coordinating Committee, Seydou Djim Sylla, (their first contact was at Unclad in Chile), a provisional plan for a meeting was drawn up, to be at official level in Geneva. There was opposition to this, however, from the associates, who felt increasingly that the meeting should be at ministerial level. Some even reportedly felt that only those associables who had opted for Yaoundé should be invited.

Thus the Geneva meeting was cancelled, amidst a certain amount of prickliness. Into this situation came the figure of President Senghor of Senegal. The OCAM conference in Lomé in April, at which he was elected Chairman, had given him a vague assignment to take action on the enlargement of the association, perhaps to act as a "pilgrim" to contact the English-speaking states. Although OCAM only represents thirteen of the nineteen associates (Zaire and Congo have dropped out but Mauritius is in), there is a tacit understanding that the Chairman of OCAM can act as spokesman for the associates (there is nobody else).

President Senghor had had initial contact at social level with Mr. Arnold Smith the Commonwealth Secretary-General during the Manding Congress in London and it was to Senghor, holidaying in Normandy, that Mr. Smith now appealed to put the question of contacts between associates and associables on the rails again. Thus M. Senghor asked Mr. Smith to Paris early in September and it was provisionally agreed that a meeting at ministerial level should take place, probably in Brussels some time in November. There would be no conditions about deciding on the three formulae. This is still very provisional, and is subject to approval of states concerned on both sides, but there seems to be a real chance that the meeting will now take place. The Council of Association meets in Luxembourg on October 10 and the associables are due to meet in London soon after, so by the middle of the month an announcement should be possible.

The reasons for a certain hardening of attitude on the part of associates is complex. In the first place they had apparently always envisaged a ministerial meeting, but they lost their enthusiasm to compromise. This, it has been suggested to me, arose partly from discouragement at what was seen as Nigerian attempts to

The African states already associated with the EEC under the Yaoundé Convention are: Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, Dahomey, Togo, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, Madagascar, Somalia. Mauritius is about to join them. The Commonwealth developing countries in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, who have been invited to enter into negotiations for association or trade agreements with the EEC under Protocol 22 of the Brussels Treaty between Britain and the EEC are: Barbados, Botswana, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad, Uganda, Western Samoa and Zambia.

The six countries of the European Economic Community are: France, West Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy. From January 1, 1973, the EEC will be increased by the accession of the UK, Ireland, and possibly Denmark.

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undermine the setting up of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) of francophone states at Bamako in June. But there was also annoyance at a number of speeches criticising the Yaoundé Convention on the question of the reverse preferences (by developing to the rich countries) it offers. Arnold Smith himself was among those who spoke on this subject. It is felt here, both in the Commission and among the associates, that reverse preferences are a "false problem" in that they are simply part of a free trade area and need not mean any discrimination against third countries by an African state unless the state itself wishes it. In any case they are very imperfectly applied, in that all associates apply a double tariff, so that even where customs duties are nil there may be a heavy fiscal duty. Exceptions are also allowed, to protect infant industries, and in case of budgetary difficulties, for example.

Moreover some associates, notably Zaire and Togo, ignore the whole reverse preference arrangement, because of their

traditional "open-door" policies. President Mobutu Sese Seko only recently said that Zaire would never give any preferences to anyone, and it is thought likely that Zaire would leave the association rather than be obliged to give preferences. The Zaire precedent could be an important one for the associates, to whom the reverse preference idea is foreign. It is stressed in the Commission that some of the associates like the idea of the free trade area with Europe for reasons purely of dignity, but in fact, within Yaoundé Europe takes an indulgent and pragmatic attitude. One reason for official hopes that everyone in the end will opt for the first formula (Yaoundé) is that Arusha (and, incidentally the aborted Lagos Treaty of 1966) got down to specific details of quotas and reciprocity, which in fact are more confining for the developing countries. One official pointed out that none of the developing countries had made a fuss about reverse preferences until the Americans started complaining about them a year or so ago.

Ghana's Subversion Trial

The proclamation which was to announce the overthrow of the National Redemption Council and the establishment of a new government has been read to the military tribunal. It was said to have been handed to the alleged plotters by Mr. George Ofoosu-Amaah and was to be read in a radio broadcast by Staff Sergeant Opon-Nyantakyi. The proclamation reads:

"Good morning fellow Ghanaians. This is S/Sgt . . .

I bring you good news.

"This morning the Warrant Officers, NCOs and men of the Ghana Army, aided by a few brave officers, have overthrown the arbitrary, selfish and corrupt régime of Colonel I. K. Acheampong.

"We have assumed power to relieve you of a false government. It is clear that Colonel Acheampong staged his coup of January 13 only for himself and a group of unscrupulous officers, thus over-riding the wishes of the people of Ghana expressed in a free election.

"We shall tell you about the errors of Acheampong in due course.

"A National Constitutional Committee has been formed to make preparations for the restoration of the Constitution with the necessary amendments.

"Acheampong is removed from office as Head of State. All NRC proclamations, Decrees and Instruments are declared null and void.

"All Commissioners are dismissed and they must report to the nearest Police Station for their safety.

"All P.P. members, MPs, officials and other persons in custody will be released immediately."

The proclamation was tendered in evidence to the military tribunal, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Lawrence Kwaku Ntamoah, who read the proclamation to the tribunal tendered in

evidence another piece of paper giving the names of certain officers under which were the words "Reliable agents available. Armour all seized, being looked after by Major Baah, 5BN". The names on the paper were: Major Afari of 2Bn., Lt. Col. Osei-Boateng of 3Bn., Major Baah of 5Bn., Lt. Col. Bob Kotei, Lt. Col. Mnyila, and Lt. Col. F. W. K. Akuffo. Also tendered in evidence was the economic report allegedly sent to Dr. Busia by one of the accused, Mr. Emil Adzima. An attempt by counsel for Mr. Adzima to block the tendering of the economic report on the grounds that it was irregular failed when he was over-ruled by the Judge Advocate.

The military tribunal also heard the music of the highlife record "Se Wo Mami Etu Wo Fo A" (If your mother had counselled you) played. The record was to have been played on the morning of July 14 to herald the alleged coup.

The nine persons, four civilians and five soldiers, accused of conspiracy to commit subversion, subversion, and concealment of subversion are Mr. Emil Adzima, former press secretary to Dr. Busia; Mr. George Ofoosu Amaah, director of the Special Branch under Dr. Busia; Mr. Daniel Owusu Darkwa Attakora; Mr. David Afulu Bimpong, Sgt. Kwaku Nimako, Wilberforce Agyare, Sandys Johnson Opon-Nyantakyi; Ptes. Charles Adu Boateng and Kwaku Oduro. The trial is being held in public before a military tribunal at Burnah Camp. Members of the tribunal are: Col. C. R. Tackie-Mensah (President of the tribunal), Maj. R. K. M. Dzakpasu, Maj. G. N. Gouml, Lt. Col. E. K. Utuka, Mr. Justice D. F. Annan (Judge Advocate), Maj. Tern-Addy, Lt. Cdr. C. G. Lokko and Maj. V. M. K. Adu.



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Arts

Artists in the Village

This year district and regional arts festivals were held in Ghana to select artists for the National Arts Festival held in Kumasi. In this, the first of a short series of articles, Mr. Yao Adumah of the University of Ghana describes in his individual way the reaction of the people of an Ewe village to the invitation of the Ghana Arts Council, telling them that their village had been selected to send a team to Kumasi.

As lively village brass bands, clowns and masqueraders in fanciful attires arrived in Accra on their way to the 1972 National Arts Festival in Kumasi a comfortable murmur flushed through Madam Altastes and her colleagues. Here were men and women acting in a musical that told of their own life and who seemed to be enjoying a holiday indeed. Madam Altastes, away in the city, may have the chance to see the interesting television and film shows. But clubs such as the Plantain Selters Association to which she may belong differ extremely from the "home" ones where they become easily infected with impure politics and the fight against the Government. In the village the groups meet and perform for enjoyment.

Madam Altastes and her friends told of the bands they had seen during the day. She, now a city woman, still has a great interest in country affairs. Admit that you were one of the bandsmen from the village and you were likely to be drawn into a corner, answering a continuous flow of questions of varying nature. To her the details of the farmer's plantain harvest, the storage facilities, the results of the new Operation Feed Yourself scheme, rural electrification and the question of "jumping the lights over our heads to Togo and Dahomey", this year's yam harvest and festival are matters of infinitely great interest. But the question of the National Arts Festival was one to take up again and again.

Kumasi, where the festival would be held, was too far away for her to go and she begged her friend to remember everything if she went. The writer, who is reporting on the life of Madam Altastes, believes that this is an interest which we must gear to answer the questions which arise from increasing social changes.

The great National Arts Festival was not to begin until August 18th, but for the villagers who liked to dance before then there was music always at hand, for was not the Gabada drum group, for instance, capable of rehearsing every evening for the national event? The villagers used to gather spontaneously to perform whenever the occasion arose. But being invited by such an official organisation as the Ghana Arts Council to perform is the different matter of performing for a purpose which required great preparation and rehearsals. This new event, added to the traditional festivals and the old marriage, stool and fetish celebrations, provided the great variety of the year and entailed the coming up and down the lanes, the noise, the drumming and dancing—a din that was in complete contrast to the previous time of strange silence when the people were away on their

farms under Operation Feed Yourself.

The musical instruments were taken from their corner, the cockroaches and cobwebs removed from the drums, the strings examined and tightened, and the drums cleaned and warmed in the sun once or twice a week that they might keep their tone when the festival came on. Kwame Siedu the leader was constantly informing the Gabada drum group, but they were interested while the village chief looked on with reverence tempered with gratitude, for the idea of their performing at the first District and Regional Arts Festivals and, possibly, later at the national level far away in the city. They had won the government's love.

"Asamasi" said Siedu, "go and call in the neighbours. To everyone's house and tell him that an important letter has come. No, don't mention the letter. They may think it is from the tax office. Just say I want them right now. Something very important to tell them. Understand? Brother Lotoe and Daavi Goodvoice and her husband. Ama's mother and Titruku and others. — Understand?" he added throwing boiled maize grains into his mouth with gusto.

Asamasi was off.

After a while the Gabada musicians were straggling into the leader's house, settling down and staring at each other. Most of them arrived unwashed and in their farm dresses with dust in the wrinkles of their faces, a sort of testimony to the strenuousness of their life. Siedu glanced at them and said to his son

"Have you told them to be quick?"

Asamasi said yes, and Siedu turning to the Gabada company asked "How is it, the others are not yet come? Our women can be excused, you know, at this time when they are busy about their kitchens?"

"Listen!" said the master drummer. "That's Daavi Comfort's cough Yes, she's arrived. We now have two women present. If Bachelor Kevuvu were only here the old company would be complete!"

"He is here," said a rather broad-shouldered man in a loose gown. He leaned aside to reveal Kevuvu's face.

"Right," said Siedu gaily.

The hand drummer was understood to be badly, having been beaten by a heavy rain on the farm road, while one songster had gone to live on a new farm.

Meanwhile, as the musicians gathered in the open square of the house, Siedu's wife was slowly but intently occupied in the kitchen peeling cassava and cocoyams without heed to the visitors. But she betrayed no ill-natured face, and she was proud to hear her man and visitors amably conversing. She cut the peeled

roots into pieces, threw them into a bucket nearby, poured water on them and cast a long satisfied look over the results of a day's work. The sun was disappearing as shadows began to creep in from the walls and trees of the west. The house was full of the scent of vegetables, but and farm clothes Siedu took rapid bite at his forgotten snack maize and then threw the cob away.

Presently the entry door opened and another friend appeared. This was the "song-catcher", the active spirit of the Gabada orchestra, the harmoniser of the deviations between Siedu the cantor and the chorus.

"Now we would wait five winks of the eye more, and then—"

But the door slowly opened.

"Ah, neighbours, I suppose?" said Siedu.

"Yes, we are here".

The door creaked wide open and a company of four men and one woman walked in. The men made seats for them and took them in warmly. But Kevuvu the bachelor, who had the habit of getting himself lost in thought, said in tones of reproach: "You have been a long time coming, sir".

"Indeed, sir", said one of the latecomers "and I think we must apologise as Brother Kevuvu mustn't be far away from his kitchen at this time as his women have travelled away".

Laughter went round the company. "I am thinking of Daavi Comfort" said the bachelor. "Hear her cough again. We mustn't be out here at night, ought you?"

"Oh" said Comfort, "I feel much better. If it comes to singing Gabada my cough disappears like stammering".

"I would have arrived here very untidy owing to my having no womenfolk in the house like Brother Kevuvu and these school-going daughters are such block-headed fellows for getting warm water ready" complained another latecomer.

"Never mind", said the group leader, anxious to cut long matters short, "I won't interfere. Well — and you sit there".

Siedu took another look round the company. Still the man called Kofi Lotoe was not come and they waited for him, he being one whom they valued more than any dancer in the world. But after a while, "well", Siedu said, "neighbours, whether he is here or not, let me have your ears. There's a festival coming to Accra — eh, Kumasi, in the eighth English moon", he added, looking round to see the effect of his announcement. "You didn't think a group was to come from such a small village as ours, I suppose? Well, where's Asamasi?"

His son came round the corner. "Now read this letter to them", said Siedu, handing him a sealed envelope.

The young school-leaver read the letter silently through to himself, the eyes of the whole gathering being carefully settled upon his face, for shocking news does come even in this year of reconciliation and of feeding ourselves. At length, raising up his eyes from the letter, he

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declared "They want you in Kumasi in August, that is, in the eighth English moon. But first you have to go to the Regional headquarters at Ho to win in a drumming competition". He read the letter: *I have the pleasure to inform you that your group has been declared first by the panel of judges in the Kpando District Arts festival. Your group is therefore awarded the enclosed certificate.*

"Oh, Lotoe, my man, wherever have you spring from?" And with that exclamation from Siedu, all turned round and saw Kofi Lotoe entering the house with faltering steps. He was the promoter of all laugh-makings and the dancer with the intricate footwork. His hair was wild and the boots he wore were covered with mud. With the creation of the Volta lake he had changed his primary occupation from farming to fishing.

"Why," said the latecomer, "I am glad to get sight of you all here. It's the old guard. We're going to have a bit of fun, a pleasant variety, I hope? And there's Daavi Goodvoice who will bring the new song I heard her singing the other day".

"Well I don't think of singing today", said Goodvoice, already annoyed at Lotoe's lateness.

"Nonsense!" cried someone from the background. "Why, everybody's going to dance tonight, all but Brother Titiriku who's not well to play the hand-drum. But Apreku is here to take his place".

"But let Brother Lotoe sit down if he thinks he's in a better form for dancing than anyone!" said Goodvoice.

"You say I am late, why, look you here", said Lotoe, showing the sides where his singlet was wet. "A man gets that sweat and numbness in the waist, who rows up and down the Volta; he needs a drink when he comes home".

"They want us"

"Well, they want us in Kumasi. There you will be subjected to tests. People will no longer feign not to see your blunders", said Siedu and he began to feel the official world with its regulated system of values. "Read the letter again", he added.

Asantasi read the letter again.

"This small village defeating the whole Kpando district!" exclaimed Lotoe, interrupting the letter reader. "This is an honour for us".

"I knew we would do it," declared Daavi Comfort with violent gasps and coughs. "We have the great advantage of singing well. What about the neighbours' village, who thought they knew better than anyone in the world?"

"Who knows them?" muttered Lotoe. "They waste their skill and die unknown. Hark! I think I hear the clattering of pots and pans somewhere, or my ears deceive me? Good evening to you Big mother".

A piece of Mrs Siedu's person which was now visible at the kitchen doorway replied; "Yoo, you are welcome".

Letters are matters of public concern in which everyone in the village was interested so that when the reader was called the musicians found that they were

to be additionally assisted in the hearing of the contents by Siedu's wife and other non-musicians from the neighbouring houses who came, peeping through the chinks of the bamboo fence all round the Siedu house. This letter however had singularly proved to be a moment of triumph for the whole village. Here were their own people going to dance and sing in the studio, on the radio, on the television, at Regional headquarters. The news was received with truly national feeling, the interest of the villagers greatly expanding from the confines of village life to an enlargement truly Ghanaian.

"I never heard true letters from Government in my life, let alone trusting Government letters in these dreadful times; but this one seems sensible" declared a grey-haired man outside.

The letter reader had read the letter to the point. *Further your group's transport is assured to be paid you on your arrival.*

Siedu and his company were brimmed with pride. It seems the village was going to get on rapidly. The younger letter reader held up the certificate which had black flowery edges and read *The Arts Council of Ghana is pleased to honour the Ghabada group of ... for its meritorious performance in winning the first place in the Ghabada competition during the Kpando District Arts Festival.*

Siedu gazed absent-mindedly at the miserable maize cob which he had thrown away and which had been pecked and left on the ground by the fowls a few yards away. He glanced at his son, who, pouring over the letter, seemed engrossed in it. "Further", he said and read *Your group is selected to perform on the Regional level at Ho on 27th May 1972.*

Siedu drew the edge of his cloth and cleaned his hand in it before taking the folded letter and envelope from the reader. He turned the envelope over and over in his hand. The envelope bore the leader's name and address and he today thought of his musical dignity as if it had been elevation to kingship. Rehearsals were immediately arranged for the evenings. Business had to be attended to as usual during the day. But Siedu went about in an extraordinary ecstasy, humming or whistling a Ghabada tune, now verbalising the drumming in his mouth, now (when he chanced to be out of people's sight) turning round and round on one leg.

This year's National Arts Festival would involve a great deal more of activity than in previous years. "The programme", commented a newspaper correspondent "was a departure from the sophisticated festival of professional city dance bands". The distinctive feature of it was that it included performance at district and Regional levels so that the large audience which the Arts Council's efforts had attracted to the shows could get the chance to see a cross-section of Ghanaian cultural life and in its rough raw, reality. Through it more confidence has also been established between the literate and the illiterate.

Letters to the Editor

Amin and the Asians

SIR In all fairness the British Government should be congratulated on its policy towards British Asians expelled from Uganda. Equally it will be out of place to condemn General Amin as a racist, rash as his expulsion order may be, because the expulsion extends to all non-Ugandans black, brown, pink, or whichever colour or human race one can think of. The Asians happen to be in the majority.

It is annoying to read how members of the British Press are trying to make something out of this delicate matter. Some are using General Amin as a camouflage to generate support for the racist régime in the southern part of Africa. None of the information media cares to point out the mistakes of these non-Ugandan Asians.

As the purpose of any government, military or democratic, is to protect the interest of its people, one wonders therefore why General Amin should be blamed in a situation where Asians enjoy full employment and Africans are unemployed, where Asians transfer millions of pounds abroad while the Bank of Uganda is empty, where Africans are made second-class citizens in their own land and Asians are rated second to the white race, where Africans are made servants and cleaners to Asian directors.

Attacking General Amin on racial grounds can only make matters worse, especially for the stateless non-Ugandans with nowhere to go. While supporting the British Government policy and the Asian Resettlement Board, let us hope that all information media, politicians, trade union leaders and ministers of religion will also allow General Amin a cooling-off period: sympathise with the Africans in Uganda, read more deeply into their economic problems and stop calling General Amin racist, fascist, Nazi, or mentally unbalanced.

OLAWOLE ADESEMOYE

London

Sierra Leone democracy

SIR—In your issue dated September 22 you published what one would hardly describe as a comment on the future of parliamentary democracy in Sierra Leone. The sad truth is that the official opposition party, the SLLP, is now breathing its last days of freedom. The recent spate of by-elections has been used to provoke wide-spread political unrest. Whilst the intermezzo continues, we can all safely assume that a one-party state will be declared. Your favourite theme since 1970 is the substitution of Siaka Stevens for Sir Albert Margai, knowing full well that there are many Sierra Leoneans who dislike Sir Albert just as they do Mr. Stevens.

Needless to say, the *dramatis personae* in Sierra Leonean politics are too many for such substitution. It was true to say that in 1967 and the period before that, Mr. Stevens was the alternative to Sir Albert. It is not true today that Sir Albert is the alternative to Mr. Stevens.

You have helped to create a lot of confusion in the minds of Sierra Leoneans by quoting Sir Albert Margai whenever there is a major

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stitutional crisis in Sierra Leone. The new government in turn makes maximum political capital out of Sir Albert's past takes.

I am sure, as a pressman myself, if you looked long enough you would know the views of Dr. John Karefa-Smart, who speaks rhetorically and authoritatively. Why not break the Margan-Stevens spiral and quote him on a change?

JOSEPH ADEWOLE JOHN

Juniors in Court

I do not share Mr. Yesufu's criticism of Mr. Akinjide, (September 22), President of the Nigerian Bar Association, for criticising the Supreme Court order barring barristers with less than seven years post-call experience from appearing before the Nigerian Supreme Court.

Without going into the constitutional implications of the matter, I think it is a bad order which denies barristers with under seven years experience the right of audience before the Supreme Court, without a corresponding obligation on the part of the advocate over seven years experience to appear with a junior. If the order is meant to ensure that only experienced advocates appear before the highest court in the land, it is self-defeating when junior advocates are denied the opportunity of gaining that experience. Unless it is obligatory on the senior to appear with a junior, the tendency would be that most juniors may never see the inside of the Supreme Court during this preparatory period. Consequently their appearance after seven years will inevitably show inexperience.

Since I do not understand what Mr. Yesufu meant by "faithful contributions to the progress of the nation", I reserve my comments on that aspect of his opinion.

IFEANYI IGBOKWE

London

Maliens and Maize

SIR—Matchet, it seems to me, goofed in his analysis of the Kumasi Maize Sellers Association reaction to the price warfare being waged by the Mali traders (September 15). True, the Kumasi traders can enter into competitive bidding with the Mali traders. But, the Mali traders are able to extort higher prices from the consumers presumably because they hoard the maize they buy from the farmers until such time that the commodity becomes scarce enough for consumers to accept any price they are charged. If there were no hoarding, and if the Mali traders priced their maize higher than the Kumasi traders, it would be irrational for the consumers to buy from the Mali traders. It is possible but hardly probable that the Mali traders were taking smaller profit margins than the Kumasi traders. It is also possible and quite likely that the consumer, the innocent victim of the price warfare, is being forced by circumstances to pay dearly for the "good service" of the alien traders. All these points need to be investigated empirically by the Regional Commissioner in Kumasi rather than being discussed academically from London.

Matchet also suggests that "many other alien traders have been . . . performing a good service to Ghana". This is also a matter which is open to verification.

Columbia University,
USA.

KODWO EWUSI

Matchet writes the Kumasi Maize Sellers, according to my report, were complaining both that the Mali men were paying higher prices to the farmers and selling at lower prices to the consumers. If that is not a service I don't know what is.

Matchet's Diary

Our correspondent reporting from Brussels (see page 1313) tells me that the only member state of the Yaoundé association not to have an embassy in Brussels is Mauritania, which is represented from Bonn. Mauritius, whose treaty of attachment to the Yaoundé Convention has been signed but not yet ratified by all the parliaments concerned, also has no embassy in Brussels, but is represented by its High Commissioner in London, Sir Lekraz Teelock as well as members of its Paris Embassy. Otherwise all the associates maintain embassies there with their ambassadors accredited at one and the same time to the Kingdom of Belgium and the EEC. Brussels is thus one of the most important diplomatic postings for all associates, and the status of the envoys is often high. Cameroon's former Foreign Minister, Simon Nko'o Etoungou, for example, has been in Brussels since last December, and the ambassador of Gabon, Emile Kassa Mapi, is a former Minister of Planning and then Commerce, who has been Minister-Delegate in Brussels since 1968. One of the more experienced ambassadors is Alioune Sissoko, of Mali, who for sixteen years was a territorial councillor, and then deputy in the National Assembly for Modibo Keita's Union Soudanaise. He was appointed ambassador in 1969 by the military régime. The Ivorian Ambassador, Siaka Coulibaly, is an able lawyer-economist who was Director of Foreign Trade in Abidjan from 1961 to 1969 in which role he used to be in London frequently for the International Coffee Conferences). The ambassadors of both Dahomey and Togo are engineers by training, while Niger and Upper Volta are represented by career diplomats. One should not forget, too, that Somalia is one of the associated states by virtue of its past colonial associations with the Italians, and thus maintains an embassy. One of the largest is inevitably that of Zaïre (partly because of the number of Zaïrian students in Belgium).

At the moment many of the 19 "associable" African, Caribbean and Pacific states operate from London, although Sierra Leone's accredited ambassador to Brussels is Desmond Luke in Bonn. Zambia deals with the EEC from Bonn and Rome, and Malawi from Bonn. Countries dealing with the EEC from London include The Gambia (Bocai Semega-Janneh), Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, as well as Barbados, Guyana and Fiji. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, already associated under the Arusha agreement, share an embassy, which has at the moment only a *chargé d'affaires*. Nigeria and Ghana also only have *chargés*, for the moment, although Nigeria in the past has had fairly continuous representation at ambassador level. The

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best-known Nigerian ambassador was Dr. Pius Okigbo, who held the post concurrently with that of Federal Economic Adviser, but since Alihu Sanioussi moved from Brussels to Tokyo in November last year, the ambassadorship has been vacant. For a Nigerian ambassador to be announced now would in a way be a political decision, and therefore the chair is likely to remain empty in both Nigeria's and Ghana's cases until a decision is made on association.

One man whom all the representatives will surely get to know in the coming months is the Malian who is co-secretary of the present Association, Seydou Djim. So far he was in Cambridge recently, improving his English with that in mind! One of his particular responsibilities is the Association Co-ordinating Committee which usually meets at ambassadorial level in Brussels (he calls them "my ambassadors"), but which met at ministerial level in Nouakchott last April. Thus he has been responsible for contacts with the Commonwealth Secretariat in the complicated business of setting up a meeting between "associates" and "associables". His seven years' experience of dealing with the Six and the Eighteen have given him considerable diplomatic know-how, but the possible enlargement of association presents a rough challenge for even a tough and hard-working man like Sylla. Before coming to Brussels, in 1965, he was a civil servant in Mali (he trained at the Ecole Nationale de la France Outremer in Paris). He was for three years Chef de Cabinet of the Planning Minister, and administered the Mali Development Plan. His appointment to Brussels, with the direct approval of President Modibo Keita, was taken at the time as a sign of the strong backing which one of the most radical associates was giving to the Association.

Dibba and the Butut affair

Our rather bald news item last week, that Sheriff Dibba had resigned as Vice-President of The Gambia while keeping his Finance portfolio, did not give the full story behind the resignation. Now *The Gambia News Bulletin* has published the resignation letter of Mr. Dibba and Westminster Jawara's reply, observing the Westminter proprietaries, right down to the "Dear Sir Dawda", and the "Dear Sheriff". Dibba recalls in his letter that the President informed him on September 13 that the Landrover recently involved in a smuggling incident, and arrested in Senegal, had collected his brother at No. 1 Marina Parade, and the contraband goods reportedly impounded by the Senegalese authorities were allegedly loaded into the Landrover at the same address. Mr. Dibba condemned the "shameful crime" which had caused serious embarrassment to the government and to himself, and it was his view that the culprits should be brought to justice. In view of the circumstances he

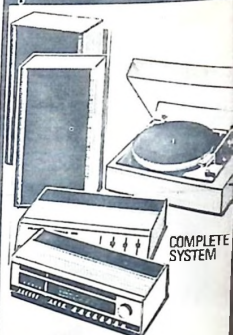


Dibba, his brother's bututs.

had "regrettably to resign" as Vice-President. He informed the President that he had no knowledge of the crime when it was being committed and that he wished to declare his innocence. He ended with a pledge of continued support for party and government. The President's letter said that "with much reluctance" he accepted the resignation. Sir Dawda appreciated "the dedication and the high sense of responsibility to the nation which has prompted this difficult decision on your part". The President also said, "I have no doubts as to your innocence", he hoped that, in keeping with the pledge of loyalty to government and party, Sheriff Dibba would continue to serve as Minister of Finance. Lest anyone think that, in keeping the Finance Ministry Dibba has in fact made only a small sacrifice, it should be pointed out that the Vice-President does hold the position of Number Two in the government, and acts for the President in his absence. He also is the Leader of Government Business in the House of Representatives, as the President himself is no longer a member.

For more details of the smuggling incident, however, we have to look to *Le Soleil*, the daily paper published in Dakar which published a large photograph of a Senegalese wrist carrying a bangle from which are suspended several bututs. The "butut" it will be remembered, was the Gambian copper coin bearing the head of President Jawara which replaced the West African Currency Board penny. Apparently Senegal's ingenious *bigoutiers* found that there was a good market for them among hip Dakar youth (they are not dissimilar to the imitation coins of imperial Rome, considered trendy in *ghetto* circles in Paris). It appears that the Landrover containing Sheriff Dibba's brother also contained a load of bututs.

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No will, but still a way

By a correspondent

Although the United Nations cocoa conference in Geneva is scheduled to run until October 13, it seems increasingly unlikely that an international pact for the commodity will be concluded.

Attempts to negotiate an agreement have been made intermittently since the first UN conference was held in 1953. The aim has been to eliminate the wilder fluctuations in the price, which have contributed to planning and political problems in a number of producer countries, notably Ghana and Nigeria.

In mid-1965 the price fell to 12.2 cents a lb. by December 1968 it had risen to 48.7 cents. Three years later the average price had dropped again to 23.8 cents and recently, with the non-appearance of an expected production surplus in the 1971-72 season, prices have been climbing upwards, reaching 34.75 cents in August. To give added impact to the complaints of the producers, prices on the London market have fallen by about £14 a ton since the current conference opened.

The first task facing the negotiators, therefore, has been to establish minimum and maximum prices at which the proposed buffer stock would start to buy and sell. At the previous round of negotiations in March a majority of participants agreed with a British-Ghanaian compromise proposal that the "floor price" should be around the 21 and 24 cents a lb. level. It was also agreed that there should be a range of nine cents between the upper and lower levels. Because of the rise in prices this year however, the producers have been arguing in Geneva that the upper end of the minimum scale previously suggested - that is 24 cents - should be the operative figure. This would give a median price of between 28 and 30 cents. In support of this proposal the producers point out that the present market prices of 31-36 cents reflect a reasonably balanced supply and demand situation.

In the past the Americans have pressed for a minimum price of 20 cents, and now the West Germans have reportedly broken rank with their European Common Market partners and suggested holding out for a similar figure. It is possible that this dragging of feet is caused by a desire by the two governments not to annoy the manufacturers' lobbies at a time when both their governments are facing general elections, and that after the elections the governments will quietly drop their objections. A major flaw to this optimistic interpretation is that the Americans have also consistently expressed strong reservations about the use of export quotas instead of sales quotas system in an international agreement. The draft agreement already prepared when the conference began included the assigning of export quotas to

all participating countries with an annual production of more than 10,000 tons. The draft further envisaged that the buffer stock would control a maximum of 250,000 tons, financed through regular income in the form of contributions charged on cocoa entering international trade (the possibility of assistance by the International Monetary Fund is being considered).

Not settled when the current round of talks began were the issues of voting rights in the proposed International Cocoa Council, which would supervise the agreement, the removal of obstacles to the increase of consumption, the limitation of imports of cocoa beans and products from countries which do not join in the agreement, and the policy to be adopted towards processing which must take account both of the needs of the developing countries to export processed cocoa and the need to avoid damage to the industries of the traditional importing countries.

But technical factors are not the real barriers in the way of an agreement; the Ivory Coast delegate has pointed out that technically an agreement could be included in 24 hours - what was missing was the political will. Certainly, cocoa is not such a complex commodity to control as coffee, and a coffee agreement was successfully worked out years ago, even if it is now under severe strain.

It is relevant that two of the main coffee producers, Ivory Coast and Brazil, are also important cocoa exporters. They have both played an important part in the producers' attempts to exert greater control over the coffee market, the sort of action which is likely to be attempted by the cocoa exporting nations if the these talks fail.

Partial co-ordination of sales policies has been one of the main factors behind the steady increase in prices this year and producer co-operation is aided by the geographic proximity of five of the main producers - Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Togo, who together account for 80 per cent of world output. Hints about united action have been appearing with increasing frequency in recent months. Mr A. O. Oshimbi, secretary-general of the Cocoa Producers' Alliance, commented in September, "It is in the mutual interest of both sides that they should co-operate in keeping the industry buoyant. But in the unlikely event of consumers not being prepared to conclude a cocoa agreement, producers will seriously consider taking such positive action as to ensure that an equitable distribution of incomes is derived from the world cocoa industry."

Since those producers with a rapidly growing output, such as Ivory Coast, are wary of getting their hands tied by quotas which would inevitably favour the status quo, this line might be more fruitful than bickering over the more ambitious pact embracing consumers and producers.

NRC's first budget: 2

The second part of the summary of the speech in which Col. Acheampong, chairman of the NRC, introduced the military régime's first budget.

Ghana's industry, said Colonel Acheampong, has been "plagued" by under-utilisation of capacity mainly because of excessive reliance on imported raw materials. The main task was to increase the use of existing capacity and a detailed study would be made of each industry for which the Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation was responsible. Certain projects abandoned after the downfall of Dr. Nkrumah would be re-assessed. They include the gold refinery and pre-fabricated concrete panel factory, for which the Russians had been responsible, the Tema fishing complex started by the Drevco group, and the Chinese pencil factory and tannery.

In a brief reference to the negotiations now being held with mining companies for government control, the NRC Chairman said that by acquiring a majority shareholding Ghana would enjoy greater benefit from the exploitation of her natural resources. In another brief reference to the proposed exploitation of bauxite Colonel Acheampong said that steps would be taken this year to initiate the exploitation of Ghana's deposits of some 300m. tons, with the potential of up to twice that amount. He also said that every effort would be made to start work on exploiting the Nauli Limestone deposits to cut down clinker imports.

In a detailed survey of education Colonel Acheampong said that if they were not careful expenditure might get out of control. The government felt that in higher institutions the students themselves, by engaging in farming, could produce much of their own food. The subsidy of £70 per student per annum to secondary schools would be halved, partly on the ground that food prices were now coming down. No secondary school would be allowed to increase its fees as a result of this decision. The free textbooks scheme, which was working very badly, would be reviewed. In 1973-74 per capita grants to students in teacher-training colleges, introduced to attract teachers to the profession when there was a serious shortage, would be abolished. Boarding schools and universities would have to accept day pupils.

The cost of running the universities was "soaring beyond what the economy can afford", Col. Acheampong declared. The government subsidies on halls of residence would be abolished and the university authorities and the students themselves must find ways of reducing the cost of running these halls. Vacancies in administrative and junior positions had been frozen. The freezing of academic posts would continue until really suitable candidates were found. The student loan scheme proposed by the Busia government would, however, be abandoned and in future all students entering universities would receive government bursaries. The

scholarship programme would be directly related to manpower needs.

Noting that the continued provision of medical services might seriously impair government efforts in other directions, Colonel Acheampong said that they were studying the possibility of a universal health insurance scheme. They hoped to relieve the pressure on the main hospitals by providing simple medical facilities.

In the past, said the Chairman, development had tended to be concentrated in the south of the country and in three main cities. These contained only some 13 per cent of the population but had accounted for 50 per cent of the people served with electricity, and 40 per cent of those with regular water supplies. In future institutions such as the National Investment Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank would pay particular attention to rural areas and each region would have a development corporation.

Urging the need for Ghana to finance development out of the people's savings Colonel Acheampong noted that the Post Office Savings Department was now autonomous.

Giving details of the financial situation he said that at present rates of taxation the estimated revenue and expenditure would leave a deficit of some £28m. They would not, however, resort to

borrowing to meet this. Two new sources of income would be testing fees for all vehicles, and a registration fee for those retailers who at present do not pay it. The tariff system would be re-arranged partly to raise more revenue from the import of "finished goods", partly to encourage local production. There would now be a charge for import licenses, as high as 7½ per cent on the face value in certain cases. This was expected to raise some £10m. A premium bond issue would also raise some £5m. A small loss is expected from abolition of the excess profits tax. Boxing would now be exempt from the entertainment tax. Ferry charges at Yeji would be substantially increased, and there would be a 10 per cent tax on the earnings of the Electricity Corporation of Ghana and the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation. Earnings of public bodies would be expected to contribute to government revenues — a return on government investment of not less than 10 per cent was reasonable.

Debts of Government Departments and institutions, the Chairman said, amounted to some £77m. In future it would be an offence for a department or official body to exceed a budgetary allocation, vary a contract price, or take an overdraft without authority from the Commissioner of Finance. In the meantime steps were being taken to pay a proportion of the debt in cash and to negotiate a settlement of the balance. The NRC's "Special Action Unit" was concerned with following up government decisions, and there would be regional units.

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WEST AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN IN BRITAIN: 1

The past three decades have seen changes in the number, nature, type and role of West Africans who are living temporarily, semi-temporarily, or permanently in Britain. Apart from students, those in Britain in the immediate post-second World War years were in the main demobilised soldiers who had been drafted from the colonies, sailors and ex-sailors, and stowaways who had come in search of the better life. Although there were a handful of professional men — doctors, lawyers and teachers — there were hardly any businessmen.

By the mid-sixties, the number of West African students who for one reason or the other did not return home immediately after becoming qualified increased the number of professionals. Many were now engaged in industry and commerce although far more were, as many still are, doing manual and menial jobs in factories and service industries, unable to break through the wall of prejudice to find employment commensurate with their qualifications.

With the volume of trade between Europe and West Africa growing yearly, it is hardly surprising that a new cadre of West Africans has sprung up in London. These are the businessmen, operating in a variety of fields but mainly in the import-export sector: setting up estate agencies and agencies to service the flow of goods and services up and down the Atlantic. Their life-line is the non-

convertibility of African currencies which, for the African purchaser, poses the problem of liquidity for purchasing goods in Europe when a West African customer has to pay in his local currency — which is the point at which the West African business operator in London comes in.

While the purchaser in West Africa approaches his local Bank to raise a Bank instrument (Letter of Credit) which is the security for any such transaction, the London-based operator scouts around Britain and Europe looking for the manufacturer who makes the best quality of the type of goods his client wants at the most competitive price. The would-be purchaser sends his Letter of Credit to the buying house in London, which then uses it to raise money in convertible currency with which to buy the goods. When the items have been shipped, the buying house or the manufacturer in whose favour the Letter of Credit has been raised, would then wait for payment through the Central Bank of the purchaser's country, in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations.

There is always the risk that such a payment never arrives, either because the purchaser cannot meet payment, being bankrupt, or because his country's central bank will not issue the foreign exchange. To guarantee against such eventualities, exporters in Britain make use of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, an official organisation which provides

insurance for exporters against the risks of selling abroad. This means that the UK exporter would get paid on the default of the overseas buyer. Any West African whose business is UK registered has ECGD facilities at his disposal.

Perhaps one of the first West African-owned UK registered buying houses to appear is the Pan African Supply Company, formed as a limited company in 1965 by Mr. E. Oti, an Ibo from eastern Nigeria. Operating from offices in London's Marylebone district with associates in the Americas and Japan, Pan African Supply Company claims to be the largest African-owned-and-run buying house in Europe. Making use of the ECGD's services last year, it dispatched a number of chartered ships with cement for distribution all over Nigeria.

Apart from arranging supply of capital goods and consumer durables the Pan African Supply Company now also designs African damasks which are produced in Germany for sale in Nigeria. "We sell to any Nigerian businessman irrespective of who his bankers are. This is very important because in a country fervent with nationalism it causes some strain when purchasers are directed to make payments only through certain banks. Until recently most banks in London would not handle credits except from Standard or Barclays" Mr. Oti told me.

A more recent arrival is Union

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Mercantile Limited which started life in the late sixties by joining the International Beauty Parlour league, selling Afro wigs. It was not until September 1970, however, that Union Mercantile was officially launched by Mr. F. B. Y. Nsiah, a Ghanaian who came to Britain originally to study economics and who, after graduation, trained as a prospective manager with Barclays D.C.O. for two and a half years before breaking off to pursue a solo career. Mr. Nsiah was the first West African to import wigs from Hong Kong, trading at the time under the name of Beauty Planning International. "The whole idea was to get one simple item that would sell easily and then move on to other things," he explained.

Now, however, Mr. Nsiah and Union Mercantile handle all kinds of goods, but particularly types required in Africa like heavy machinery, spare parts, building materials, tinned and other food. Activities fall into two broad categories, the first acts as buying agent for companies, government agencies and institutions in Africa, and as project consultants, which involves studying government development plans in Africa "to find out what needs to be done and then try to interest relevant organisations in Europe with the necessary technical know-how and resources in one area of the Plan or another, such as, for instance, the cheap housing projects in Nigeria which we are currently taking interest in".

Hotel in the Sudan

"Recently", Mr. Nsiah told me, when the African Palace Hotel was built in the Sudan "the Sudanese insurance company who were behind the project contacted us to find a contractor who would furnish the hotel and one who would manage it. We looked around Europe for the right people who could supply what was needed and then arranged credit through banks and financial institutions for supplies. What happens in such a case is that we are given a mandate and our duty is to co-ordinate". Mr. Nsiah runs his business with the help of a staff of three, all white, from offices in London's Mayfair.

A one-man band whose history dates further back than that of the wig-selling days of Mr. Nsiah's Beauty Planning International is T. A. Davison-Aitkins who inherited his business from his grandfather. Mr. Davison-Aitkins' grandfather took up residence in Regent, about seven miles from Freetown, first started by running a hotel, then went into large-scale farming and ended up in commerce.

After training in Law in Gray's Inn, Mr. Davison-Aitkins returned home to start life as a civil servant and then after a further spell in England, reading Economics, Commerce, Banking and Insurance, went back to Freetown to become Permanent Secretary in the

Ministry of Trade and Industry. His years in the civil service, during which time he came to know most of the industries and manufacturers supplying products needed in West Africa, were to prove useful when he resigned in 1964 to take over from where his father left off.

Based in London and Freetown with agencies in Ghana, Nigeria and Switzerland, T. A. Davison-Aitkins, like all the other import-export companies, trades in a wide range of commodities and also tries to arrange loans at international level for state governments, like the \$2m loan completed recently between a US agency and Mr. Davison-Aitkins' client, a Mediterranean government. He has also recently been involved in negotiating contracts for the supply of timber from Ghana and Nigeria for ship building firms in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A Government agency

Unlike most companies run by West Africans in London, Nigeria Agencies International was conceived in Nigeria as a state government venture, similar to the National Supply Company established by the Federal Government. Although originally financed by the Mid-West State, from its establishment in October 1970, Niger Agencies International, being based in London and registered as a British company, is British, except for the fact that its policy is determined by a board of directors who are all Nigerians living in Nigeria except for Mr. E. O. Atane, Managing Director, who runs the London Head Office.

Mr. E. O. Atane, who before coming to take up his position in London was a director of the Mid-West Textile Mills at Asaba, himself trained as an engineer in Germany and has had a long experience dealing with European manufacturers, industrialists and buyers.

"Many of the old-established British agencies are naturally not too happy about the emergence of these new West African-owned agencies on their home ground" he pointed out. "But from the British Government's point of view the more the merrier because the more agencies there are around, the more markets abroad would be broadened. We are helping to promote British exports more than we are doing to promote our own exports from West Africa, most of which are handled anyway by the big European buying houses, who have collecting centres throughout Africa, if not by government agencies".

Niger Agencies International recently opened a Benin office to act as an outlet for the distribution all over Nigeria of goods supplied from Europe and also as collecting centre for goods and commodities produced in Nigeria for export abroad.

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People

Soyink — it sounds like the trade name of a new wonder product. It is the term coined by publisher Rex Collings to describe what Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka wrote while he was imprisoned for nearly two years from August 1967. Soyinka, who was arrested in Ibadan, interrogated in Kirikiri goal, Lagos and transferred to Kaduna prison, wrote poems on lavatory paper, which he then hid in hollow bamboo poles. "A passing bird shed a quill for the pen", he made nibs from bones and ink from "a secret process". He does not explain the process except to say that the source was his prison food. In Kaduna, books were smuggled in by a friendly official, and he scrawled his thoughts between the lines. Many of these materials survive today. A description of how he managed to keep on writing forms part of the book he has written about his prison experiences, *The Man Died*, which will be published next month. Collings says that the book is an attack on military rule, in Nigeria and in general. "Secondly, it shows how under great physical and psychological pressure, the human spirit can still survive and flourish. That even the wastelands and desolation of solitary confinement are not wholly sterile, for from them strong and beautiful poems can come." Soyinka is currently working on a novel, the draft for which was also prepared while he was in prison, and on an adaptation of *The Bacchae*, to be staged at the National Theatre in London early next year. He was recently appointed Research Professor of Dramatic Literature at Le University.



President Bongo (above) has appeared on television in Gabon with the former leader of the opposition, Jean-Hilaire Aubame, who was released on August 17, Gabon's national day. The President said that he alone had taken the decision to release Aubame (sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in 1964 for complicity in the coup which temporarily overthrew President Mba in that year) because he had foreseen negative reactions from his colleagues of the Political Bureau of the ruling Gabon Democratic Party. "But on a ship there is only one captain, and I am the captain".

Nigerian echoes of the anti-pornography campaign currently being led in Britain by Lord Longford after *Lagos Weekend* has published a front-page photograph of a girl wearing only the bottom half of a bikini — and even that appeared to be giving in to the law of gravity — the acting Editor, Angus Okoli, was questioned by Lagos State Commissioner of Police Joseph Adeola. After hearing Okoli's explanation — that publication was intended to bring to the notice of the authorities the immoral abyss into which society was fast falling — the police chief pointed out that the picture gave a false impression to the outside world that Nigeria had become a melting pot of immorality. No attempt was being made to censor the press, but it was the duty of journalists to exercise the greatest moral restraint on what they published. "A country without a set standard of ethics and morals is as good as dead". The police were prepared to co-operate with members of the press, who should in turn "avoid doing things that might bring them into open collision with the law enforcement agencies".

The front page picture featured in the following week's issue was headlined "Bye, Mummy," and was of a neatly-dressed girl who "will miss the tender care of her mummy for a few weeks" because the latter had gone on an overseas business trip.

Francis Perrin, former head of the French Atomic Energy Commission and one of France's leading nuclear scientists has presented an unusual discovery from Gabon's geological history to the French Academy of Sciences. The Commission describes the discovery of uranium ore in the Oklo mines in Gabon which was formed in a natural reactor which became critical about 2,000 million years ago. The uranium underwent a chain reaction in a natural environment which did the work of a modern atomic reactor producing nuclear fuel. French nuclear scientists believe they are faced with a unique phenomenon of considerable scientific interest. But if this anomaly were discovered elsewhere, a redefinition of natural uranium would be necessary. Criticality was reached in a natural manner through the combined reaction of several elements — an ancient nuclear field, a high uranium percentage in large deposits, the near-absence of neutron absorbing elements and very probably a certain amount of water. The presence in the ore of slightly enriched U-235 uranium may also be explained by a migration of plutonium 239 formed by a chain reaction. Through the ages this had disintegrated into enriched U-235. President Bongo and the *Compagnie des Mines d'Uranium de Franceville*, which operates the Oklo mines, have agreed to suspend digging in the mineshaft leading to deposits of several hundred tons of uranium to allow scientists to complete collection of samples and measurements.



VIVE LE CHEQUE

The fascinating story is told often enough of the young lady, who upon being informed by a bank cashier that the cheque she presented for payment was a dud, cried out loud "My God! I've been raped".

One would have concluded that this episode would immediately and permanently put this daughter of eve off cheques in payment for services rendered. But reality is truly who, in this day and age would be so naive as to think that a small thing like an india rubber cheque would put off one of the moderns — groupie hippie or any other type — from one of the most practical institutions of modern times? There are cheques and cheques but the fact remains that Banks still enjoy even with the way-out flower generation a fair amount of respect — after all there may not be much room for more than the odd piece of silver in a pair of hot pants, but you could always find room to tuck in a slim cheque book folded, of course! So may be all is not lost yet — for what Americans for better coming new words and phrases call "checking accounts".

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Books and Publications

Nigeria's Puzzle Puddle

Lake Chad by Sylvia K Sikes (Eyre Methuen, £3.95)

Fishermen on Lake Chad may now use nylon nets and lines but they still have to use old bones of oxen and horses for weights because there are no rocks or stones in or near the lake. This could sum up the situation in the Lake Chad area, one of the many so often cited as a Nigerian tourist attraction. Dr Sikes, who is now Consultant Zoologist (wild life) in the Ministry of Natural Resources in Nigeria's Benue Plateau State, had visited the lake in 1955 and in 1962. In 1968, when working in Canada, she was awarded a *Guardian* Exploration Bursary, sponsored also by the publishers Eyre and Spottiswood.

She used the bursary to fulfill a long cherished ambition, to navigate Lake Chad's uncharitable waters and meet the Yedina people, those whom others called the Buduma or "grass-men", and who in the distant past were called "the pirates of the papyrus". With the assistance of many suppliers she took out a shallow draft yacht, the 2 23 ton *Jolly Hippo* and a pair of dinghies. She was accompanied by Mohammedu Shehu, who had been with her on her first two visits to the lake, and she was occasionally joined by other friends and assistants.

The result of this expedition is a very readable and informative book. It is, however, really two books in one. The first is a traveller's tale for laymen, the other a hydrological, topographical, botanical and zoological survey of a more specialised kind. There are also a very large number of photographs, but to include them all many have been made so small as to diminish their value.

Lake Chad, says Dr Sikes, is really a "vast shallow puddle", the remains of a large vast inland sea or swamp. The lake probably assumed its current average level some 5,000 to 2,500 years ago. The lake rises and falls significantly each year, and its basin, roughly circular in shape, is some 1,600 km from north to south. The lake lies in the middle of the basin and has no outlet, although it is regularly fed by a number of rivers and by the rainfall. Some 80 per cent of the intake is lost by direct evaporation and a small percentage by seepage. It is not known how the rest is lost, although Dr Sikes says it may be by evaporation from the aquatic vegetation.

The morphology of the lake is not uniform and is constantly changing with the rise and fall in surface level. "Indeed

it is the complex cyclic oscillation of surface level of Lake Chad which determines the unique character not only of the lake itself as an environment but also of all the human activities associated with it. While one may list the main facts as far as they are known today, and some of the biological and economic repercussions resulting from its queer hydrology, no one as yet knows for certain either what factors control the hydrology of Lake Chad or what effects modern man's attempts at lake management, politely known as development programmes, may ultimately have upon it."

The lake, as everybody knows, is full of floating islands, consisting of vegetation which may take root again. Dr Sikes suggests that such vegetation plays a major role in controlling salinity, and water is sweet on the whole. "Clearly a sound knowledge here will be of the utmost importance if development plans for the lake one day include vegetation clearance schemes. Careless interference with natural salinity regulation mechanisms might well result in tipping the balance of salt concentration towards a point of no return."

Dr Sikes ends the more specialised part of her book by saying that despite data so far collected "we are still no nearer to finding the solution to the real puzzle of the puddle which causes and regulates the overall climatic cycle that determines the oscillatory regime within the whole Chad basin and the lake itself? How can we predict the timing of its future major oscillations in terms of progression or regression, inundation or desiccation? Date we try to manage and manipulate the lake's water regime by building dykes or drainage installations? Would it be safe to clear papyrus fields, spray them with insecticides or use them for industrial purposes? What will happen if we exhaust, with our artesian wells, all the pressure water in the groundwater aquifers under the lake? And when the Chari River begins to add industrial effluents to its annual two million tons of dissolved natural salts and suspended silt, and when motor vessels and hovercraft crowd the shipping lanes across the lake, what will happen to the chemistry of the water, and the fishing industry that feeds a million protein-hungry people?"

As might be expected from the author of the now standard *The Natural History of the African Elephant*, Dr Sikes dwells lovingly on the Chad herd, although not neglecting the other fascinating animals

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or the birds. She strongly recommends, and suggests the area for, a wild life conservation park and claims that it could actually produce a profit. Otherwise, she fears, the elephants may disappear. It is a little surprising, however, to find her saying in this book that the Chad herd numbers only some 100 although in her earlier book, published in 1971, she puts the figure at some 300 — perhaps 100 is only the Nigerian figure? She also says in this book that the Lake Chad elephants grow unusually large and tall, although in her earlier book she said that past slaughter had meant that Chad elephants on the whole are small. She is herself an elephant hunter and shot three during this expedition to further her scientific research.

The story of the hippos of Lake Chad is much the same as that of the elephant, but for these beasts gillnet fishing is a main hazard.

For most people the most interesting part of the book is probably Dr. Sikes' account of the little-studied Yedma people, although it is surprising that she makes no reference to the part they played in the building of Thor Heyerdal's reed boats. She does, however, describe their canoes and canoe building, their fishing, agriculture and animal husbandry. Until recently fresh cow's milk was their accepted drink, and their cattle are better swimmers than any other — because, they maintain, their huge horns have air-filled cavities.

Dr. Sikes, a devoted Christian, says the best hope of the area lies in the work of the medical missionaries. She is particularly enthusiastic about the floating hospital now operated by the Sudan United Mission. Although conceding the best possible intentions to the Chad Basin Commission, established by Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, with a Nigerian secretary, she fears that it lives in too rarefied an atmosphere. She particularly commends, however, its emphasis on "balance". She concludes, "it seems to me that the status quo of the whole Lake Chad complex is too delicately poised for complacency. On the one hand lies its encouraging potential for prosperity and progress; on the other its alarming potential for disaster. Whatever the result, it is quite clear that, today, man feels he can and should try his hand at harnessing and mastering Lake Chad. I wonder which will persist in the future: lake — or mirage?"

D. W.

Emerging Nationalism in Portuguese Africa, by Ronald H. Chilcote, (Press of the Hoover Institution on War Revolution and Peace, Stanford, California, 645 pages, \$25, casebound).

The "public" life of African nationalism in Portugal's colonies dates from the middle 1950s when its early manifestations began to take a documentary form. At first very scarce and circulated to few persons, these "ephemera" in various forms of Roncoteype grew rapidly in volume after 1961, and became something of a flood by the middle of the

1960s. Then and since they represent an important contribution, though of widely varying individual value, to the historical records of African nationalism, as well as encapsulating much of the political background to the emergent independent states of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau (or of whatever, after independence, the latter's name will be).

In 1963 the American political scientist, Professor Ronald Chilcote of the University of California, made a fortunate arrangement with Stanford University's Hoover Institution to collect, translate and edit such documents relating to African nationalism in Portugal's colonies as Chilcote had by then collected or might continue to collect. In 1969 he published a bibliography of the large and various collection he had made up to the end of 1965, having also placed these on microfilm to the advantage of his fellow scholars. Now he has published, again with the Hoover Institution, a large number of the more important among these documents (well translated into English), including thirty-seven more or less important statements by leaders of movements, out of the total of 378 such statements in the whole collection.

These make a volume that every Africanist library will be grateful for if they go up only to the end of 1965, this was precisely the early period when the trends of collective or individual thought are likely to be the hardest for historians to trace. And if many of these documents relate to little splinter movements whose importance, in so far as they ever had any, has largely vanished, this only helps to emphasise the success of the principal movements which have grown vastly in strength and self-confidence since 1965.

B.D.

Handbook for whom?

Handbook of Reason by Dagobert D. Runes (*Philosophical Books*, \$6.00).

Dagobert D. Runes has been described as one of the modern world's pre-eminent thinkers. His book's title gives one a first impression that it is an easy guide to philosophical principles or thinking in the manner of Bertrand Russell's *History of Western Philosophy*. But, on opening it one is confronted by an interesting collection of aphorisms, observations, metaphors, etc., many of which do not seem to have any direct connection with philosophy in its strictly scientific sense. The author's justification for such a collection under such a title seems to be reflected in one of his sayings in the collection: "if you want the truth in philosophy, you have to search for her in byways and side tracks. The grand avenues of philosophical exposition are full of empty sound and thunder. The thinkers of any time speak not freely in their official parade tracts. What they really mean you will uncover if you read their diaries, letters, notes and footnotes".

Bertrand Russell, who is, no doubt, an exception to Dr. Runes's rule, wrote in *History of Western Philosophy* that "philosophy, throughout its history, has consisted of two parts inharmoniously blended on the one hand a theory as to the nature of the world, on the other an ethical or political doctrine as to the best way of living. The failure to separate these two with sufficient clarity has been the source of much confused thinking". Perhaps Dr. Runes decided to make the separation and concentrate on ethical doctrines about the best way of living in making the collection for his *Handbook*. Each of the total of about 150 aphorisms has its sidehead and they are all arranged alphabetically; for example, "Agnostics, Ambition, Bullying, Byways, Censorship, Christian Love, Coexistence, Epistemology, Marxist Anti-Existence, Nudism, Old Age, Propaganda, Reward, Serenity, Thought, Value, Words and, finally, Zionism".

Some of Dr. Runes's bits and pieces do indeed reflect the soundest philosophical principles and universal truths, but, perhaps inevitably, many of them reflect the bitterness of a staunch, free-thinking Zionist over the hounding and persecution of Jews throughout the centuries. Thus, the book is fragrant with the compelling nostalgia of most books written by Jewish writers and provides a grim reminder of the sad Jewish story.

In the grim tail-end of his book, Dr. Runes writes "Zionism, or the feeling of togetherness with the people of Israel, is the essence of Judaism. The Hebrew faith again and again declares its indomitable determination to return to the land of divine promise and to overcome all efforts of hostile subjugation... I wish I could return a thousand years hence and find out if the ancient Hebrew was right — that there will always be with us the stench of Satan, that nothing new can come to this world".

The book is recommended as a handbook for all who wish to increase and deepen their understanding of our complicated human problems and at the same time enjoy writing which is both spicy and peppery.

Thomas Decker

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Commercial News

£½m. for Nigerian company

A remittance of £544,430 has been received from Nigeria by the Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation, the private British-owned company which generates and distributes electricity on the Bauchi Plateau area in Benue Plateau State. In his review of the year the chairman, Sir Miles Clifford, explains that the sum represents the balance of dividends declared by the Corporation in respect of the period prior to November 18, 1968 and all dividends between then and December 31 1970. During this four-year period, he notes, the company had existed on a hand-to-mouth basis. There is still a backlog in respect of dividends declared in the last 20 months.

Sir Miles notes that for the

year ended last February the value of tin metal exported by Nigeria was about £5m. less than the previous year because of "substantial reduction in production" by the tin mines on the Plateau, which are the Corporation's main consumers. This, together with the continuing inflation, caused a reduction of 25 per cent in the company's pre-tax profit. The profit available for distribution amounted to £122,000, which for the time being has been added to the Reserve Account.

During his visit to Nigeria in May, Sir Miles met the Governor of the Benue Plateau State "to discuss at his request the rural electrification of townships and villages lying outside our concession area which the

State Government is eager to provide for. The Corporation is both willing and able to furnish the expertise to enable such schemes to materialise and provided the State Government can obtain the necessary finance these rural areas could become a useful source of revenue in a few years time". Arrangements were made for the State Government to purchase a 20 per cent shareholding in the company, for cash. On the Nigerian economy, the chairman notes that although all indications were that Nigeria "has turned the corner... there is still a long way to go. Continued economies must... be made to contain the menace of inflation and the resources of the country, prodigious as they are, need to be developed to the full. This calls, inevitably, for increased overseas investment and it would appear sensible to put as few obstacles as possible in the path of the investor".

- A £450,000 abattoir is to be built in Nigeria's North Central State, the State's Commissioner for Animal and Forest Resources, Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli, announced.

Japanese loan to Nigeria

Nigeria and Japan have exchanged letters paving the way for a new Japanese loan of 6,200m yen (about \$20m.) for Nigeria's development programme. The Federal Commissioner of Finance, Alhaji Shelu Shugart, said that the way was now clear for negotiations with the Japanese banking consortium which was putting up the money. With increasing financial ties between the two countries he added, efforts should be made to correct the imbalance in trade, which was heavily in Japan's favour. (A previous Japanese loan worth \$30m. was granted in 1969)

- A motor cycle and motor scooter plant is to be established in Nigeria by Enfield India Ltd. The share capital of the Nigerian company will be £200,000 of which 60 per cent is reserved for Nigerian participation.
- An initial order for 5,000 tons of Nigerian coal has been placed by Morocco.

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m.s. Southwind	Sailing New Orleans October 5, Houston October 9 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown
m.s. Sophie 'C'	Sailing New Orleans October 17, Houston October 14 for Lagos, Freetown

For rates of freight and other information apply to: Southern Star Shipping Co., Inc., 29 Broadway, New York, N.Y., Suite 2000 - or - Texas Transport & Terminal Co., Inc., New Orleans and Houston

WEST AFRICAN AGENTS

General Agents: SOUTHERN STAR SHIPPING CO. (Nigeria) LTD.
P.O. Box 318, Apapa, Nigeria.

Other Agents: Airline Ltd. (Freetown, Lagos, Monrovia, Port Harcourt, Tema, Takoradi, Warr)
Socopao (Abidjan, Dakar and Douala)
PHS. Van Ommeren (Angola) Ltd. (Luanda and Lobito).

U.K. General Agents: WAINWRIGHT BROS. & CO. LTD., 15-17 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LD, ENGLAND, and Cunard Building, Brunswick Street, Liverpool L3 1JJ.

ECA warning on Portugal — EEC link

A warning has been given by the ECA's Technical Experts of the risk that Portugal's association with the EEC might be used as grounds for the provision of economic aid to that country or for indirect support of its colonial war in Africa. The Committee, meeting in Addis Ababa, obtained an undertaking from the ECA Secretariat that its Special Study on African Economic Co-operation Efforts would look into the advantages associate members derived from the EEC and, in particular, whether exports of the associated members to the EEC had increased faster than those of the non-associated members. The Secretariat also said that it would offer advisory services for the negotiations with the EEC.

The Committee adopted a draft resolution backing the establishment of an Association of African Trade Promotion Organisations, and recommending that the inaugural meeting should be convened in October, November 1973.

Following an explanation by an official of the secretariat that a fact-finding mission had already visited 14 West African countries and the central African sub-region, with a view to establishing the Bukavu, Dakar and Niamey United Nations Development Advisory Teams (UNDATs) and that the Yaoundé-based UNDAT was already operational, some members of the Committee observed involvement in purely national programmes, contrary to the multinational and interdisciplinary nature of the team. It was suggested that UNDATs should be exclusively concerned with multi-national projects and that in implementing any projects, all the members of the team should be involved, otherwise the multi-disciplinary character of the team would be lost.

TP's secretariat explained that the setting up of UNDAT was based on the need to serve countries that

required more assistance. It was also indicated that UNDATs were to pay more attention to projects of a multi-national nature. If help was given in national projects, this was done at the request of the individual governments concerned.

Delegates expressed regret at the postponement of some of the projects which had been programmed for implementation during the current biennium, notably the regional training projects and the studies that were envisaged under investment promotion. In view of the priority placed by governments on the development of industrial skills, the secretariat was urged to re-programme the training projects that had been envisaged.

With regard to the projected programme for 1974-76, the secretariat was urged to pay particular attention to activities aimed at promoting effective policy measures and actions for the development of rural and small-scale industries sector.

Delegates from Guinea Bissau and Mozambique participated in the Committee's talks for the first time. The Committee expressed support with their request that the ECA should assist their countries, particularly through undertaking studies and projects relating to the problems of the liberated zones of the territories still under colonial rule.

Loan agreed

An agreement for a CFA 834m (£12.5m) loan from the African Development Bank to help improve road communications between Ivory Coast, Niger and Mali has been signed in Abidjan. The Ivory Coast Government is to contribute CFA 5m towards studies to improve communications in the area.

• A net profit of £3.42m was made by the Ghana Commercial Bank in 1971-72, a 20 per cent increase over the previous year.



Nigeria's Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Shethu Shugari, with Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Anthony Barber, right, and the Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr. Arnold Smith, during a break in the Commonwealth Finance Ministers conference in London.

Finance Ministers meet

Welcoming the decision of the governors of the International Monetary Fund to establish a "Committee of 20" to discuss the reform of the monetary system, Commonwealth Finance Ministers suggested at their two-day meeting in London that the Committee should give urgent consideration to the modification and development of special drawing rights into a more effective and acceptable reserve asset. Such an asset could in due course become a principal component in world reserves. They agreed, that the consideration of any modification in the existing SDR facility should not lead to any interruption in the allocation of SDR and hoped that the question of larger and more equitable allocations of SDR to developing countries would be kept in view. They were pleased that the concept of a link between SDR and development finance was gaining increasing support in the international community.

After discussing various proposals for monetary reform the Ministers of 31 countries listed a number of broad objectives which should be kept in view, notably: that any reformed system should be based on fixed but adjustable parities; that the general convertibility of currencies should be re-established as soon as practicable; that world liquidity should be effectively reviewed; and that full recognition should be given to the special interests of the developing countries.

During the meeting, Britain's Chancellor of the

Exchequer, Mr. Anthony Barber, gave a renewed assurance to countries banking their savings in sterling that they would be consulted in advance before any radical changes were made to sterling's role as a reserve currency. Delegates from developing countries apparently voiced concern over the effects which "floating" could have on their own currencies, but said that it had not yet had

• After the meeting, many of the delegates flew to Washington for the annual meeting of the 123-nation International Monetary Fund. Before the conference opened, the "Group of 24" developing countries set up by UNCTAD to co-ordinate the views of the developing countries in monetary reform talks, called for a substantial new allocation of special drawing rights over the next two years. This, they said, was "the best means of providing adequate liquidity for the international monetary system".

Air accord

Delegates to the eighth meeting of the Commonwealth Air Transport Council, meeting in London, agreed to pursue their desire for the establishment of improved training facilities within the framework of the Council, it was announced at the end of the conference. This decision, said a communique, was based partly in recognition "of the advantages of working together through the medium of a common language".

Africa's Tourist Problems

African tourist organisations had found out that most expatriates in the industry went to Africa to gain practical experience, Mr. Ignatius Atigbi, the Nigerian chairman of the African Travel Commission, told a seminar on tourism vocational training, which was held in Nairobi from September 18-20. In his introductory address, Mr. Atigbi noted that the object of the meeting was to find practical solutions to one of the pressing problems which had been plaguing the industry over the last decade — that of shortage of trained personnel. The problem was not peculiar to African countries, but had a more damaging effect on their struggle for a worthwhile share of the market because they had attempted to solve the problem by recruiting from abroad, sending their nationals on short overseas courses and, only very recently, by availing themselves of the opportunities offered by "some benevolent nations" who had established tourism institutions specially designed for developing nations.

Some of these measures had proved helpful but they were nevertheless makeshift solutions which could never lead to a successful breakthrough in this highly competitive industry. If it was fully realised that Africa was in direct competition with

the other continents for tourists, the futility of the measures employed so far should be obvious, as the problem of shortage of trained personnel had a global dimension. "It means therefore that we can hardly secure the services of highly skilled and experienced personnel from outside to work in our continent for any reasonable length of time to be worthwhile".

The other measures did not offer much consolation, as the intake of training institutions from Africa was too inadequate and most of the institutions were designed for the specific needs of the countries or regions in which they were located. There were a few exceptions, such as those specifically designed to train personnel from developing nations and the courses run by the International Union of Official Travel Organisations in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation. If the programmes offered by these exceptional institutions were carefully studied, however, it was found that the old notion that tourists coming to Africa should be prepared to accept a lower standard of facilities and services than they would expect elsewhere in the world. The present competitiveness of the industry would force Africa

out of the market if African tourist institutions continued to pin their faith on the hope that visiting tourists would understand their position.

A permanent solution to the problem of vocational training would be the establishment of regional and sub-regional vocational training centres in Africa, whose scope and intake would reflect the aspirations of the continent in this field. An extra advantage to be gained from this solution would be the facilitation of the standardisation of services in the sub-regions.

"In the past we have been told that regional and sub-regional vocational training institutions are not feasible because of the problems in establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements, but my findings after discussing the subject with both the ILO and our Secretary General in Geneva is that the establishment of regional training vocational training institutions has now proved to be a reality, particularly in the Americas". In establishing these institutions, added Mr. Atigbi, admission policy "should rest on predetermined specific allocation for candidates of every member state of the region or sub-region. This will eliminate the fear that the host countries will monopolise or dominate the institutes with their candidates".

• There are some 26 railway organisations operating in Africa with different technical specifications with respect to gauges, coupling and braking systems, differences which are a great handicap to the physical linkages of the railway systems. This was stated by Mr. Robert Gardiner, executive secretary of the ECA, addressing the conference for the Establishment of the Union of African Railways. He said that the total route length in Africa was now 75,000 kms. of which there were over 47,098 kms. or 62.4 per cent using the 1,067 mm. gauge; 13,045 kms., or 17.4 per cent with the 1,435 mm. gauge; 12,744 kms. or 16.8 per cent the 1,000 mm. gauge, and almost 2,549 kms or 3.4 per cent using a gauge below that of one metre. African railway systems currently operating

• An African Groundnut Council spokesman said in Geneva that producers and consumers had negotiated a new sales contract, and had also agreed on arbitration procedures and details concerning the oil content of groundnuts. Arbitration measures would come into effect when a buyer failed to make a delivery and then defaulted on penalty. Arbitration would be settled by a Council, representing both sides of the industry.

• Interviewed about the market for textiles in Nigeria, Mr. D. Sodhani, general manager of Nortex Nigeria's Kaduna factory, said that there had been a slight improvement in the position and that the company's four-day working week might be reviewed in the next few weeks. He claimed that prices had been inflated by distributors trying to get too much profit and regretted that in spite of representations to the industry the Federal Government was not keen to review the decision to end the ban on the importation of textile goods. He also noted that local producers could not compete with foreign manufacturers who had skilled manpower and better machines and whose factories were subsidised by their own governments through methods such as the abolition of export duties.

In view of "the present low level of prices in the market" cocoa sales were suspended last week by the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. A company official was quoted as saying, "We have made much higher prices than what obtains in the market at present, and in view of the quantities we have sold we think we can conveniently wait and watch market developments for the next few weeks". The decision followed a drop of £14 a ton in the previous seven days, largely because of continued sales by producer nations.

• The Governor of Lagos State, Col. Moholaji Johnson, has led a delegation on a five-day visit to Malaysia to study development projects.

• Nigeria's Mid-West State has placed an order for a complete VHF television network worth £600,000 with Pye IAT of Cambridge. A team of Pye engineers is currently on site working on the installation which, when completed, will consist of a studio complex, a main transmitter and regional transmitters. The studio centre is located in Benin City, with the main transmitter at Uzalla. The southern part of the State will be served by a five-kilowatt transmitter at Eku, and the northern area will be covered by a similar transmitter near Auchi.

• The total external reserve of the Central Bank of Nigeria stood at £92,586,742 on August 15.

• A £1.5m. grant has been made by the Federal Government to the Nigerian National Shipping Line for the purchase of two vessels. A statement issued by the Cabinet Office said that the extra funds were intended to relieve the Line of its financial difficulties and to reduce its dependence on the expensive chartering of foreign-owned vessels.

• The Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria, on behalf of the Benue Plateau State Government, has bought monochrome TV equipment from Britain's EMI Group. This equipment will be used to inaugurate the State's own television service next year. There will be stations at Jos and Makiadi,

Shipping News

ELDER DEMPISTER LINES
SOUTHBOUND - From Liver pool - DEHDO slg Oct. 5; DUBAI due Tema Sept. 29.
 From London - TULANI due Tema Oct. 1; PALABA slg. Oct. 5; MANO due Lobito Oct. 2.
 From Glasgow - DUNKWA slg. Pointe Noire Sept. 29; EBANI slg. Apapa Sept. 29.
 From N. Continent - KABALA due Bremen Sept. 29; PEGU slg. Hamburg Oct. 4.
 From India - CLEARWAY due Apapa Oct. 4.
NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool - POURAH BAY due Tema Sept. 30.
 To London - EBOE due Abidjan Sept. 29.
 To Avonmouth - KUMBA due Sept. 29.
 To N. Continent - PATANI due Amsterdam Oct. 2.
 To Middlebrough - DEGEMA due Sept. 30.
 To Avonmouth - KUMBA due Sept. 29.
 To Southampton - AUREOL slg. Apapa Sept. 29.
WESTBOUND - To USA/Canada - SARU due Cotonou Sept. 29; MORIAS due Norfolk Sept. 29.
EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada - AKOSOMBO due Abidjan Sept. 29; FIAN due Pointe Noire Sept. 20.
 Eastern Service to West Africa - ERNEBANK due Freetown Sept. 30.

BARBER LINES
OUTWARDS - FERNLAND slg. New York Oct. 3 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.
HOWARDS - FERNGATE Idg. Monrovia, FERNALD Idg. Lagos S. Bound Oct. 20, Sapele Oct. 22, Douala Oct. 24, Ghana Oct. 28, Abidjan/Monrovia end Oct./early Nov.

'K' LINE
WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan - TENNESSEE MARU slg. Japan Sept. 5 due Lagos Oct. 13.
EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. - TENNESSEE MARU slg. Lagos Oct. 20, Freetown Oct. 29, Abidjan Nov. 3, Pointe Noire Nov. 9.
DAFRA LINE
EASTBOUND - FRANKIG from New Orleans Oct. 13, Monrovia Nov. 3, Warri, Lagos/Apapa.
WESTBOUND - BELGIE due Abidjan Oct. 8, Charleston Oct. 22, New Orleans Nov. 2.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA
WESTBOUND - OHTIN RIVER Montreal Sept. 25, thence Great Lakes.
BLACK STAR LINE/JUK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA
SOUTHBOUND - SUBIN RIVER Newport Sept. 25, Dublin Sept. 28, Glasgow Oct. 4.
NORTHBOUND - NAKWA RIVER Amsterdam Sept. 22, AFRAM RIVER Middlebrough Sept. 25, London Oct. 3.

PALM LINE
SOUTHBOUND - ANDONI PALLI due Freetown Oct. 6; KANO PALI due Port Harcourt Oct. 6.
NOR 'B'OUND - ULMINA PALM Idg. Sapele Oct. 1; ILORIN PALI Idg. Warri Oct. 2.
W.A. S. LINE
WESTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12/15, Abidjan

Oct. 25/26, Takoradi Oct. 27/28, Tema Oct. 29/30.
EASTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12/15, Abidjan Oct. 25/26, Takoradi Oct. 27/28, Tema Oct. 29/30, Japan first Port Nov. 30.
MITSUI OSK LINE
SALAMBRIA slg. Kobe Sept. 30 due Lagos Oct. 21; ARIZONA IARU slg. Kobe Oct. 4 due Lagos Nov. 10.
MAERSK LINE
INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan - MAREN MAERSK slg. Kobe Oct. 5 due Luanda Nov. 1.
OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi - SUSAN MAERSK slg. Freetown Sept. 30 due Abidjan Oct. 2.

PARRELL LINES
HOWARDS - AFRICAN MOON slg. Lagos/Apapa Oct. 17 for Douala, Luanda, Lobito, Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports; AFRICAN SUN slg. Lagos/Apapa Nov. 14 for Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.
OUTWARDS - AFRICAN MOON due Monrovia Oct. 2 for Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Oct. 10, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 12, Warri, Douala, Luanda, Lobito, Matadi; AFRICAN SUN due Port Oct. 27 for Freetown Monrovia Oct. 31, Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Nov. 8, Lagos/Apapa Nov. 10, Douala.
NEDLÖF - SWAL JOINT SERVICES
BANDA slg. Hamburg Oct. 6 Antwerp Oct. 10, Rotterdam Oct. 11, Rouen Oct. 13, AMSTEL - HOEK due Bonaire Oct. 11, Pointe Noire Nov. 12, Luanda Nov. 15.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE
NORTHBOUND - INDIANA slg. WA mid Oct./early Nov. for discharge Scan mid Nov. COVENTRY CITY slg. WA end Oct./Nov. for discharge Scan end Nov.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE
INWARDS - IARBON SPRINGS from Japan, slg. Aug. 18 due Abidjan Oct. 3, Tema Oct. 15, opt. Port Harcourt Oct. 13, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 6, STRAIT FREMANTLE from Japan, slg. Sept. 14 due Luanda Oct. 17, Monrovia Oct. 22, Freetown Oct. 24, Port Harcourt Oct. 30, Lagos/Apapa Nov. 2, Takoradi Nov. 7, Abidjan Nov. 10.
OUTWARDS - STRAIT FREMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong and Japan early Nov. STRAIT MAGELHAEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong Japan and Shanghai late Sept.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE
SOUTHWIND slg. New Orleans Oct. 8, Houston Oct. 9 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown; SOPHIE 'C' slg. New Orleans Oct. 17, Houston Oct. 14 for Lagos, Freetown.
THE I.A.C. LINES
SOUTHBOUND - IOGOTA slg. Hamburg Oct. 4, Antwerp Oct. 7, Rotterdam Oct. 9, Rouen Oct. 10, due Takoradi 19, Monrovia Oct. 22, Abidjan Oct. 24, Cotonou Oct. 27, Lagos/Apapa Oct. 28, Douala Nov. 4.
NORTHBOUND - SIMBA slg. Pointe Noire Oct. 2, Cotonou Oct. 8, Abidjan Oct. 11, Monrovia Oct. 14, due Amsterdam Oct. 23, Copenhagen Oct. 26, Aarhus Oct. 28, Bremen Nov. 1, Antwerp Nov. 6, Rotterdam Nov. 8.

SITUATIONS VACANT

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

(E.C.N.)

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitable qualified Nigerian candidates for appointment to the following vacant posts in the Finance Division of the National Electric Power Authority (E.C.N.).

(i) SYSTEM ANALYST:

Qualifications:

A good University Degree in Mathematics, Science or Economics or Professional Certificate in Accounting, Engineering or Statistics with not less than 3 years extensive practical experience in Data Processing.

Salary Scale:

SAP 13E, EN2,690 (Consolidated)

Duties:

- Investigation, documentation and analysis of systems after gathering data about current methods.
- Recording of data collected in a suitable manner for analysis by use of computer systems so as to be useful to train user personnel in system analysis work.
- Design input and output documents and computer files.
- Co-ordinate and monitor systems testing and implementation to needs of user.
- Specify clerical procedures and prepare feasibility studies for further applications.

(ii) ANALYST PROGRAMMERS:

Qualifications:

A University Degree in Mathematics or Science with full training and extensive programming experience in a Commercial environment. Sound verbal experience and knowledge of Fortran and Basic Assembler Language will be an advantage.

Candidates with GCE (Advanced Level) or Higher School Certificate in relevant subjects with considerable practical experience may be considered.

Salary Scale:

SAP1 (Upper) - EN1,640 x 60 - EN2,060 per annum. (Point of entry will depend on qualification and experience).

Duties:

- Investigation, documentation and analysis of components of systems and operations.
- Data preparation and control programming in user departments.
- Assist in the development of computer systems design and input and output documents and the compilation of computer files.
- Design computer programmes, prepare detailed flow-charts.
- Code, test, implement and document computer programmes.
- Co-ordinate and monitor the work of programmers and trainees in the areas of programmes development.
- Review standardisation and programme testing manuals, prepare manuals and file documents of systems.

Conditions of Service:

Appointment is pensionable but selected candidates will be on probation for three years. Other conditions of service will be the same as for other senior Officers.

Method of Application:

Application must be made on prescribed forms obtainable from

The London Representative
 National Electric Power Authority (E.C.N.),

5th Floor,
 York House,
 Westminster Bridge Road,
 London, S.E.1.

and returned to reach him not later than 22nd October, 1972.

C. K. O. Ademuke
 Chief Personnel Officer

University of Ibadan

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following vacant posts:

1. Department of Forestry:

Lecturer in Forest Mensuration, Inventory & Aerial Survey

Applicant should hold an honours degree in Forestry, though a higher degree will be an advantage. Post-graduate experience either in the field or research is essential. The successful candidate will be required to lecture and conduct research in the special fields of forestry stated above. He will be expected to maintain a close liaison with Government in their Management of Forest Reserves and Plantations.

2. University Library:

Assistant Librarian/Sub Librarian

Applicants should be holders of good University degrees plus professional qualifications in Librarianship e.g. Ibadan Diploma, Previous Library experience, especially in Cataloguing, will be an added advantage, as well as proficiency in language e.g. French or German.

3. University Reading Centre:

Lecturer

The Centre offers courses in Developmental Language Arts and Study Methods and applicants should be holders of higher degrees in either Use of English or Educational Psychology with special reference to Reading and/or Study Techniques. Previous experience in a Reading Centre will be an advantage.

4. Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology:

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

Applicants should be members of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the posts carry consultant or non-consultant status with the University College Hospital. Preference will be given to candidates with undergraduate teaching experience, active interest in research and practical knowledge of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the tropics.

5. Department of Linguistics & Nigerian Languages:

Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in Hausa

Applicants should possess good degrees in Hausa or closely related subject (Linguistics, a Modern Language) with research experience and preferably also teaching experience in Hausa. A fluent speaking knowledge of Hausa is essential. (Applicants with a good first degree but no research experience may be considered for an appointment as Junior Research Fellow). The teaching of the successful applicant will consist of the teaching of Hausa language and literature to non-Hausa speaking undergraduates.

6. Department of Physiology:

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

Applicants for the Lectureship must possess either good first degrees in Human Physiology or Registrable Medical Degrees. Preference will be given to candidates with Registrable Degrees.

For the Senior Lectureship, applicants without medical degrees must have had at least five years post-doctoral experience in recognised institutions or at least seven years post-graduate teaching and research experience after a good first degree in human physiology. Applicants with Registrable Medical degrees must also possess post-graduate degrees in Medicine or Physiology and must have had at least five years post-graduate teaching and research experience. Preference will be given to applicants with Registrable Medical degrees.

7. Department of Preventive & Social Medicine:

Lecturer in Community Health

The successful candidate will be expected to carry out teaching duties in the area of Community Health and he will normally reside in Igbo-Ora where the rural health centre is situated.

8. Salary Scales:

Senior Lecturer (Medical) £N2,950 x 100 - £N3,250.

Lecturer (Consultant) £N2,440 x 100 - £N2,900.

Lecturer (Non-Consultant) £N1,980 x 100 - £N2,415.

Lecturer (Pre-Clinical) with Medical degrees £N1,380 x 100 - £N1,880/£N1,980 x 100 - £N2,415.

Lecturer (Non-Medical) £N1,380 x 75 -

£N1,830/£N1,905 x 75 - £N2,415.

Senior Lecturer (Pre-Clinical) with Medical degrees

£N2,515 x 100 - £N2,075.

Senior Lecturer (Non-Medical) £N2,515 x 75 - £N2,875.

Assistant Lecturer, Assistant Librarian £N1,075 x 50 -

£N1,280 (if holding an approved higher degree £N1,230 x

50 - £N1,330).

Sub-Librarian £N1,380 x 75 - £N1,830/£N1,905 x 75 -

£N2,415.

9. Conditions of Service:

Except for No. 4 which appointment is to commence on or after November 1, 1972, all other appointments are to commence as soon as possible and for three years initially subject to review thereafter. Passages are paid for fully on appointment, approved overseas leave and termination, where applicable. F.S.S.U./N.U.J.S.S., children and car allowances. Part-furnished accommodation or housing allowance is provided.

10. Method of Application:

Detailed application (4 copies) stating age, full qualifications, experience and naming three referees by 16th October, 1972 to the Registrar, University of Ibadan from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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MUST BE PREPAID**

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SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

Government of the North-Western State of Nigeria

Applications are invited for the following vacancies:

DRILLER VEHICLE INSPECTION OFFICER; WORKS SUPERINTENDENTS (WATER), (ELECTRICAL), (BUILDING), (MECHANICAL), MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS.

Qualifications: H.N.C. or H.N.D. or Final City and Guilds plus experience.

TOWN PLANNING OFFICER; SENIOR TOWN PLANNING OFFICER.

Qualifications: A.M.P.I. or U.K. recognised equivalent; at least five years' experience for Senior post.

SURVEYORS (LANDS); SENIOR; GRADE II SURVEYOR.

Qualifications: R.I.C.S. plus at least five years' experience for Senior post.

ARCHITECT.

Qualifications: R.I.B.A.

ENGINEERS (MECHANICAL), (ELECTRICAL), (WATER), (CIVIL), (IRRIGATION), (AGRICULTURE).

Qualifications: Degree plus Membership of appropriate Institute.

PRINCIPAL IRRIGATION ENGINEER.

Above qualifications plus at least ten years' experience.

STATISTICIAN.

Qualifications: Degree plus at least two years' experience.

AGRICULTURAL SUPERINTENDENT (MECHANICAL).

Qualifications: Diploma in Agriculture plus experience.

SENIOR ZOO CURATOR.

Qualifications: Degree or double diploma plus at least five years' experience.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

Qualifications: Degree in Forestry.

HIDES AND SKINS SUPERINTENDENT; LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENT (MEAT INSPECTION).

Qualifications: Diploma plus experience, in the case of Meat Inspection, experience of ritual killing an advantage.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OFFICER.

Qualifications: Degree plus experience (non-graduates may apply for Livestock Superintendent).

VETERINARY OFFICER.

Degree plus experience (non-graduates may apply for Livestock Superintendent).

AGRICULTURAL OFFICER.

Qualifications: Degree or Diplomas with degree status plus experience.

FOOTBALL COACHES.

Qualifications: Certificate in Education plus experience at secondary school/adult education level, at least five years' experience for Senior post.

TOURISM OFFICERS.

Qualifications: Degree plus experience and ability to speak at least two foreign languages; at least five years' experience for Senior post.

ACCOUNTANTS AND SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS.

Degree and/or A.C.C.A. and/or I.C.W.A. (credits given for C.I.S.)

MEDICAL OFFICERS (GENERAL DUTIES).

Qualifications: MB BS (or MB ChB) plus GMC Registration.

CONSULTANT RADIOLOGIST; CONSULTANT SURGEON; CONSULTANT E.N.T.; CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST; CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN.

Qualifications: three years' experience in Speciality after gaining Specialist qualification registrable in the U.K.

ASSISTANT ORGANISING SECRETARY; SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (ALSO SENIOR, PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS).

Qualifications: Degree plus experience in Social Work; at least five years' experience for Senior post, and ten years' for Principal/Chief post.

INFORMATION OFFICER (ALSO ASSISTANT, SENIOR AND PRINCIPAL).

Qualifications: Degree (BA or other) or Diploma in Journalism recognised in the U.K., plus experience in Journalism.

Age Limit for all above posts: 57 years at time of application. Salary credits are given for relevant additional qualifications and/or years of experience.

Attractive salaries and fringe benefits.

Further information may be obtained at time of interview with Recruitment Team in late October.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

**STATUTORY CORPORATIONS
SERVICE COMMISSION.**

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NOTICES

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before 7th October 1972

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MEETINGS

ONDO UNION

(Great Britain & Ireland)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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The Blythe Hall, Blythe Road, London W14.

on Sunday 8th October, 1972 starting at 2.00 p.m. and lasting till 8.00 p.m. Please make it a duty to be present and punctual.
Agenda - 1. Minutes of last A.G.M.

2. Reports

- Financial Report - Financial Secretary.
- Social Secretary's Report - including the Annual Dance & General Secretary's Annual Report.
- Chairman's address - President.

3. Election & refreshments.

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PUBLIC LECTURE

The Ghana High Commission in London invites the general public to a lecture at Porchester Hall (Porchester Road, W2, Bayswater) on Sunday, 8th October, 1972 at 5.30pm.

Speaker: Mr. Joe Appiah, Ghana's Roving Ambassador.

Topic: Current events in Ghana.

LECTURE

Mr. Joe Appiah Ghana's Roving Ambassador, will speak on "Ghana Today" at a lunch-time meeting (1-2pm) at Africa Centre (38 King Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2) on Tuesday, 10th October, 1972.

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EGBE OMO IJESHA of Great Britain & Ireland

It is with deep regret that the names of the below Elected Officers were not among the list of Elected Officers, first published in this Journal (week ending 7th July 1972)

O Dada
Asst. Social Sec.
O Adelolaju
Auditor

The above Omo Egbe also seizes this opportunity to thank members and non-members who contributed, in no small measure in making our last Dance a great success. May God be with you all.
*Bosun Ajayi, General Secretary

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Dateline Africa

Amin and Africa

Nigeria is making efforts to reconcile Uganda and Tanzania, External Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Okoi Arikpo, has announced. He declined to go into detail when questioned after addressing the opening of an induction course for 80 new external affairs officers. "We have passed the state of self-praise. You can be sure we are doing something to see peace in that area."

• The *New Nigerian*, owned by the six northern states, described the fighting in Uganda as indefensible aggression and charged Tanzania with complicity. Its editorial said that the troops that attacked Uganda might not, as asserted by Tanzania, have been members of the Tanzanian army, "but the fact is that an attack was launched on Uganda and that the attack originated from Tanzania."

Recalling Tanzania's support for the rebels during the civil war the *New Nigerian* said it was foolish to allow Obote to raise and train an army on Tanzania soil. "This is indeed against the provision of the charter of the OAU. While Nyerere need not support Amin, it is equally wrong for him to act as if only Obote can represent Uganda."

In another editorial the Western State-owned *Daily Sketch* urged African leaders, especially Emperor Haile Selassie, to intervene and ensure that relations did not deteriorate further. "African states have enough tasks fighting the forces of imperialism on African soil... African leaders cannot afford to be at loggerheads if they are to present a united front against the bigotry of Vorster and Ian Smith".

• In identical messages to Presidents Amin of Uganda and Nyerere of Tanzania, Col. Acheampong appealed to the two leaders to exercise the utmost restraint and states-

manship to avert any aggravation of the situation along their borders. Col. Acheampong said that he hoped that in the interests of African unity, the good offices of the OAU would be used to find a lasting and peaceful solution. "My colleagues and I are most anxious that the enemies of African unity are not given the opportunity to exploit the incidents to their advantage", said his message. Col. Acheampong also requested King Hassan of Morocco, current chairman of the OAU, and Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, its Secretary General, to continue their efforts to find a solution to the problem.

A Ghana View

The state-owned *Daily Graphic* has said that the Tanzania-Uganda dispute could be an example of stark foreign interference in the affairs of African countries. "So long as Africans lend themselves to be used as tools, this interference will continue. Whoever is behind the attack on Uganda there is no doubt that the primary object is to remove President Amin in order to halt the measures he has taken to make the country truly independent". The attack, coming as Asians affected by Uganda's expulsion order were beginning to leave the country, clearly showed the hand of external forces, said the editorial.

• In a telegram to President Amin President Tolbert has expressed deep concern at the "treacherous, unsuccessful, invasion of Uganda by external troops". The deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs had just visited Uganda and had reported on the situation to President Tolbert, who said that he wished and prayed that the people of Uganda would "prevail", was pleased to receive

President Amin's assurance that Uganda's military operations were limited to defending Ugandan territory.

• The All-African Students Union has appealed to the Ugandan and Tanzanian Presidents to "lay down arms for the sake of African solidarity". In a statement issued in Accra the Union regretted "the waste of resources by both countries as a result of the conflict between them". The soldiers and arms used, said the union, could have served as a great and patriotic contribution to the liberation struggle in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and South Africa. "We therefore implore African leaders to use effectively the good offices of the OAU to find an amicable solution".

• Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has sent another message to President Amin of Uganda through Mr. Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. It is the third visit Mr. Gardiner has made to Kampala as representative of the UN Secretary-General since Gen. Amin first announced that he would expel all non-Ugandan Asians.

• In a message to President Nyerere, President Sekou Touré of Guinea said: "The people and government of Guinea follow with great anxiety the new situation in Uganda, which seems to be clearly based on opposition to the Uganda government by Great Britain and Israel following the decision to expel nationals of these two countries". President Touré also sent a message to President Amin informing him of the message he sent to the Tanzanian President. "The people and government of Guinea remain convinced that the struggle of the Ugandan people will lead them to a full realisation of their desire for independence", said the message.

• King Hassan of Morocco, current Chairman of the OAU, sent identical messages to the Ugandan and Tanzanian Presidents saying that he knew "wisdom would prevail" and that the good offices of the OAU and the peace initiatives of some African leaders could con-

tribute to a peaceful solution of the conflict. (OAU Secretary-General Nzo Ekangaki has been very active diplomatically, first asking Kenya to mediate, and then when Kenya preferred to be neutral, encouraging the Somali President's peace initiative. It is not long since Ekangaki was in Rabat to consult with King Hassan on a number of OAU matters, including action in the UN General Assembly, which has now opened. The Secretary-General has also just visited Kampala for talks with Gen. Amin).

Boumedienne backs OAU

President Boumedienne of Algeria has sent a message to all African heads of state saying of the Uganda-Tanzania dispute that "these events which affect a key area already tested and particularly threatened by colonialist and racist régimes call for diligent and strong action on our part. We cannot remain insensitive to a conflict which by its nature and implications risks assuming unpredictable proportions both as regards African countries and the liberation movements in Southern Africa". Supporting the OAU peace initiative, the President said "past results have sufficiently proved the moral authority of our organisation".

An editorial in the French evening paper *Le Monde* commenting on the Libyan military assistance to Uganda, referred also to the "exceptional zeal" which diplomatic representatives of Libya were deploying in Niger and Chad. This, it said was "causing several worries to the French government, in spite of its good relations with Colonel Gaddafi".

Not Cricket

Nigeria's cricket tour of East Africa has been postponed again. As the team prepared to board a flight to Nairobi a telephone call from the National Sports Commission advised that it was not safe to travel to Kenya. The 34-day tour was to have begun earlier, but the trip to Kampala was cancelled because of the fighting near the Tanzanian border.

GHANA

Relations with Guinea

Guinea is willing to restore normal relations with Ghana, strained since 1966 when Dr. Nkrumah was given asylum in Conakry after the military *coup* during his visit to the Far East. An official statement on the situation was issued after the return of a delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Commissioner, Maj Gen Afen, from Guinea. The statement said, "The two governments will, as soon as possible, take steps to make concrete the conclusions reached during the discussions". The Ghana delegation expressed gratitude to President Sekou Touré "for what he did for the late ex-President Nkrumah during his lifetime and assured President Sekou Touré that the Ghana Government would do everything possible to restore the fraternal links between the two countries in the spirit of African unity". President Sekou Touré also expressed satisfaction at the meeting. Among members of the Ghana Delegation was Mr. Kojo Botsio, former CPP Minister.

When Dr. Nkrumah died in a clinic in Rumania in April his body was flown back to Guinea and interred in a mausoleum. It was returned to Ghana in July following lengthy negotiations between the two governments and finally buried in his hometown of Nkroful on July 9.

Gen. Aferi stopped in Ivory Coast on his way to Guinea and held talks with the Minister of State, M. August Denise Gen Aferi said that his mission to Guinea was to dissipate the misunderstanding between the two countries. His present round of contacts was aimed at consolidating relations between African countries.

- Col. E. M. Osei Owusu, Managing Director of the Food Distribution Corporation, has begun a two-week visit to Israel to study the marketing, processing and storage system for agricultural products.

- The new Chinese ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Ko Hui, has arrived in Accra.

- The government is to recover over 70,000 cedis from a number of Trade Union Congress officials who held office under Dr. Nkrumah, according to a new decree. The money recovered would be paid into the TUC chest. The decree implements the findings of a Commission of Enquiry into the funds of the TUC from 1957 to 1966. Under the decree Mr. John Tettegah, a former TUC Secretary-General and now organising Secretary of the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union, and three other former officers of the Congress are to refund 20,700 cedis to the Congress.

- The present executive board of the Ghana Trade Union Congress inherited debts of over 600,000 cedis, the acting Secretary-General, Mr. Issifu, told a rally.

- Before leaving Ghana to take up his post as one of the assistant secretaries of the OAU, Mr. Peter Onu, Nigerian High Commissioner in Accra, described the NRC as the most dynamic government Ghana had seen since the Nkrumah régime.

- Ghana Railway and Harbours Administration made a net profit of about 1.5m. cedis on operations during the past two years.

- An unemployed person, said to be called Osei Yao

Badu, has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour by a Kumasi District Court for publishing false news about a *coup*. He pleaded not guilty. The Prosecution told a Kumasi District Court that the accused went to the home of Col. Acheampong's father in August and told him that some people were planning at the house of one Mr. Joseph Ohene to overthrow the NRC. Police investigations had revealed that the story was false.

- The government is to give the new Post Office Savings Bank 1.5m. cedis as its equity capital it was announced during the inauguration of the seven-man board.

- Mr. E. A. A. Papoe has been appointed Director of Prisons. He succeeds Mr. M. E. A. Drapson, who has retired after 40 years service.

- Following the government decision to mount an intensive anti-hoarding campaign it has been decided that house to house searches will be conducted by combined army, border guard and police teams. The public are warned that anyone caught in these searches will be brought before a military tribunal.

- Negotiations are well underway for Ghana to begin annual export of about 51,000 tons of cassava, worth more than \$1.5m. in foreign exchange, this year according to a *Daily Graphic* report.



A six-member delegation, led by Major Bash, Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources is on a good-will and trade mission in East European countries. Major Bash is fourth from right. Other members are Mr. N. M. Doodoo, of Attorney General's Department, Mr. Albert N. Abankwa, Principal Assistant Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. E. W. Glover-Akpey, Senior commercial officer Trade and Tourism, Dr. Alhassah Mohammed of the Bank of Ghana and Mr. Kwesi Amako-Ata, NRC consultant on Economic Relations with Eastern Europe. With them are Major A. H. Selormey (third from right), Commissioner for Transport, and Mr. E. M. Debra, formerly Ghana's Ambassador to the United States (second from right) who saw the delegation off.

SIERRA LEONE
Port problems

For the West African Coast Port Management Conference arranged by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, which takes place in Freetown from October 9 to 13, Captain A. R. N. Macauley, General Manager of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority, has prepared a paper on Freetown Port itself, giving his personal views. Captain Macauley says that after the Ports Authority was created, in 1965, there was a serious failure to recognise the importance of good senior management. The authority also inherited "unrealistic" tariff structures. Since the 1970 quay extensions came into operation, giving six cargo berths and much increased storage, there had been no congestion. Shortage of capital, however, limited their ability to buy equipment, but they felt that their increased charges were justified because of the improved services to ships. Now they had to order a great deal of equipment all at once, and it was far more expensive now than it would have been if ordered much earlier. The current account was in good shape but the capital account, which included payment for two tugs, gave cause for worry.

Captain Macauley suggested that there seemed to be some confusion as to whether the Ports Authority, wholly-owned by the Government, was to operate on purely commercial lines or whether it still had some of the features of a government department, and they could still not attract all the staff they needed. Statutory authorities still lacked the appeal of the civil service or the professions but attitudes were changing; for most senior staff the authority could still not offer competitive conditions. Cargo handling had improved and there was excess capacity.

- Following introduction of new exchange control regulations in the UK, Sierra Leone has extended its own regulations to all countries. They previously applied only to non-sterling area countries.

Dr. Arthur Porter has been appointed the first full-time Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone. Canon Sawyerr, named principal of Fourah Bay College and Dr. Matturi Njala. The two colleges are constituent bodies of the university and until recent legislation the Vice-Chancellorship alternated between the two principals. The tenure of office of the new Vice-Chancellor is to be five years, and he is eligible for a further term of five years.

Dr. Porter was formerly Vice-Principal of Fourah Bay College and Professor of History. He later became principal of the University College of Nairobi and then a UNESCO advisor. He is the author of the standard work *Creed and of many articles and papers on historical and educational topics.* Dr. Porter is 48.

● In another by-election, that for Tonkolih West, the APC candidate, Mr. John Kamara, has been returned unopposed. The Opposition SLP has decided not to contest any of the 12 by-elections now being held. The election of a Paramount Chief MP for Tonkolih District was also unopposed.

When the trial of the SLP leaders for alleged murder arising out of the Kailahun by-elections was transferred from Freetown to Kailahun, there were disturbances in the town. The case was then returned to Freetown. While it was proceeding there, further disturbances took place. A statement from the President's office assured the public that there was no cause for alarm because of the shooting which had been heard in the vicinity of the Law Courts. The police, said the statement, had been forced to fire warning shots into the air to disperse a crowd. The statement said that the "normal judicial proceedings" would carry on. The trial is now adjourned.

The State of Emergency is due to be lifted in Freetown for a by-election.

● Mr. Herbert Johnson has been appointed general manager of the Daily Mail in succession to Mr. C. P. Patnelli, who is retiring.

● Air strips are to be established at Aberdeen, Kabala and Kailahun.

● Wearing the flag of Sierra Leone because the President was aboard, one of the two British frigates visiting Freetown, joined her sister-ship HMS Andromeda in a display some three miles off Cape Sierra lighthouse, which included firing and transfer of ratings from one ship to the other.

● Thirteen officers of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress are attending a leadership course in Bulgaria.

LIBERIA

Tubman Aide Jailed

Col. James Bestman, the late President Tubman's Chief Security Officer, has been found guilty of embezzling nearly £100,000. Col. Bestman was said to have received the money for operation of the special security service and for purchase of equipment. He told the Court that he had acted solely on the authority of President Tubman. "Equipment" shown on most of the vouchers signed by him was mere cover, he said if any security agency disclosed why it needed money it would be defeating its purpose. The trial was held in Robertsport, 90 miles from Monrovia, after Col. Bestman asked for the change of venue because of public feeling.

Col. Bestman was sentenced to two months imprisonment and a fine of \$500. Restitution of the sum embezzled was also ordered. If this cannot be paid in cash he will serve one month for every \$50 dollars. This could be equal to a further prison term of over 400 years. He gave notice of appeal.

● M. Dmitri Safonov, aged 63, has been appointed Soviet Ambassador to Liberia. A historian, he has been First Secretary and then Counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Britain and Ambassador to Uganda. Since 1968 he has headed the third African department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

● A delegation led by Agriculture Minister James T. Phillips, has held talks in Rumania on expanding trade and economic co-operation between the two countries.

CONGO Leaving OCAM

It has been announced that the Congo is to withdraw from the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation (OCAM). The decision was taken at a special meeting of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labour Party, of which President Nguabi is the chairman. The Committee had "taken this responsibility because the organisation has not been able to respond to the interests which the Congo placed it in and, because the political directions no longer correspond to the major interests of all the states. The organisation's policy has revealed directions dangerous and unacceptable to the unity of our continent and the interest of our people. OCAM has become the posting-house of anti-African political ideas and the centre of alienating political predictions". The communiqué concluded that the Congo is "eager to underline its will to keep open doors to inter-African co-operation and will continue to make its contribution to OCAM's specialised organisations".

At the same time it was announced that "in view of the total absence of any policy of reinvestment of foreign interests in the Congo Republic", the transfer of funds overseas would be limited. Lastly, the Congolese government has unilaterally denounced the agreement with France on posts and telecommunications. This would prevent the French from using the radio station known as Radio Brazzaville. The station and the installations of France-Cables, would become Congolese station, and the installations of France-Cables, would become Congolese.

President Nguabi, speaking to reporters, said that the take-over stemmed from the "harrying of our country by imperialism and the French government". The French, he said, had tried to threaten and intimidate the Congo by taking unilateral measures, the last of which had been the "abrogation by France" of the P and F agreement. In consequence, the Congo had also denounced the agreement. The dispute

arose from a debt of about 1,000m. CFA francs (£1.5m) from the Congo to France under the agreement. The Congo had been willing to settle this peacefully said the President and had suggested a monthly payment of 43m CFA (£65,000). This the French had refused, and had then "cancelled the agreement covering communications from Congo to France" making it impossible to send money transfers to France. (The agreement on Radio Brazzaville dates back to April 1961 and permits ORTF to use the station, as long as the programmes do not threaten institutions and legal and moral foundations of the Congolese Republic. What is now the Voice of the Revolution used to be Radio-Interequatoriale, with a less powerful transmitter).

● In a telegram to President Nguabi, President Sekou Toure said that the Congo's criticisms of the Afro-Malagasy Common Organisation (OCAM) was a "great testimony to the clear-sightedness of a people faced with neo-colonial menaces". He went on "in the common struggle against foreign domination, my party and government express their total support for your initiative in revising your country's position in this anti-African organisation".

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

MACIAS ON OIL

In an interview with Cuban Press Agency, President Macias Nguema said that his country was working on its reconstruction after two centuries of colonial domination. He stressed that just as in the cases of Chile and Cuba in Latin America, Equatorial Guinea was attacked by Western media. "Many lies are said about our country. This is proof that we are on the right path", the President added. The political consolidation of his country had been attained by the establishment of the Workers' National Party in February 1970, in which all other parties were merged, and in which, he said, all the people participated. Just as with other nations of the third world, the colonialists and

imperialists had tried to divide Equatorial Guinea, but their attempts had been futile. His administration had denounced before international organisations' attempts to take away national territory.

The discovery of oil deposits in a country which already exports cocoa, and the strategic position of its continental territory and the islands which form part of it, had awakened the interest of NATO countries. NATO member nations, the President said, had united their efforts in the exploitation of oil in that part of Africa and in controlling the seas surrounding it with the aim of dominating the South Atlantic. Since attaining independence in October 1968 Equatorial Guinea had firmly resisted attempts to penetrate it by Western powers and their allies in the area.

DAHOMAY

Kidnapping wave

Mama Atouma, Minister of the Interior and Security, has announced that a special armed corps of frontier police has been set up to halt a wave of child kidnapping which has spread to Dahomey from Nigeria. The Minister, in a broadcast said that the police corps had orders to fire on people accompanied by children trying to cross the border illegally. A special office has been set up in the Ministry of the Interior to collect tip-offs from the public. There have been a number of reports in the Cotonou press of kidnappings and arrests of kidnapers at the frontier.

• France and Dahomey have signed an agreement for 214,660,000 CFA francs (about £330,000) for the second phase of a development project for cotton production in the Zou and Borgou departments. Total aid for the project is about £1.2m.

• Canada is to lend \$5.3m to help build a \$12m Polytechnic as part of the new University of Dahomey at Abomey-Calavi. The college will house 750 students training in public and private administration.

• France is to give Dahomey £512,000 worth of aid, including funds for the buildings of the new University.

SENEGAL

Senghor in Algeria

President Senghor, on a three-day working visit to Algiers has proposed a treaty of co-operation and friendship between Senegal and Algeria, as well as trade and cultural agreements signed at the end of the visit. On arrival in Algiers the President had said that the aim of his visit was to overcome "the split between Arabs and blacks in Africa". While there a three-cornered summit was held between Presidents Senghor, Boumedienne and Ould Daddah. The latter was on a three-week holiday in Algeria. Also visiting Algeria for talks has been President Aliouf.

The trade and cultural agreements provide for the setting up of a merchant shipping link between the two countries, and for an increase in educational exchanges. The possibility of joint industrial projects is also being considered.

ZAIRE

Belgian Talks Success

It has been decided to annul retaliatory economic measures taken against Belgium last July and August. The measures had cancelled investment advantages for foreign countries accused of selling Zaire currency fraudulently. It had also limited to 15 per cent the imports which could come from any country (Belgium is Zaire's biggest supplier). Thus, since July, import licences for Belgian products have been blocked by the National Bank.

The decision to annul the measures is seen in Kinshasa as the logical result of the recent talks in Brussels between the Zaire National Councilor in charge of Foreign Affairs, Nguzi Kauli Bond, and Belgian Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel. M. Harmel is reported to have made concrete proposals to end the selling of Zaire currency.

NIGERIA

University "Quota" Protest

Delegates representing Lagos, Ibadan and Ife universities and Adeyemi College of Education walked out of the 16th annual convention of the National Union of Nigerian Students in protest against a motion calling for the introduction of a quota system in all federal institutions. However, delegates from 13 other institutions, including Ahmadu Bello, Nsukka and Benin voted in favour. Attempts to get the delegates to return failed and the chairman, Mr Adedehoro, suddenly announced his resignation as national president as well as his life membership of NUNS. Mr Mustafa Bulami of Zaria was elected chairman for the remainder of the season.

University staff should allow students to take part in the running of their affairs, Professor Herbert Kodilinye, Vice-Chancellor of Nsukka, told the convention. Such a "responsible" approach, he said, would solve the problem of student power which had resulted in several campus riots, demonstrations, sit-ins,

boycotts and strikes.

• The Federal Government has directed that the payment of the monthly ration allowance of about £6 to soldiers should cease from October 1. Students in Nigerian army training schools and institutions will continue to enjoy the allowance, which was introduced during the civil war.

• Companies have been warned against violating the Income Tax Capital Allowance and Industrial Inspectorate decree of 1970. The Federal Ministry of Industry announced that some companies had submitted their end of financial year's accounts for tax purposes without attaching a separate certificate to substantiate newly incurred expenditure. Under the decree a company which fails to notify the Ministry of its intention to incur new or additional capital expenditure over £10,000 is liable to a £500 fine.

• Trade experts from Czechoslovakia have been invited to Nigeria to discuss the trade imbalance between the two countries, the Federal Commissioner for Trade, Mr Wenike Briggs,



Chief J. M. Johnson seen outside St. Martin-in-the-Fields after the London memorial service for Mr. Oged Macaulay, son of Herbert Macaulay. In the photograph is Bishop Nelson Collins and Chief Oluwa, one of the two Lagos White Cap Chiefs at the service. There was also a wake-keeping in London and, after the service, a gathering in the Limbo Club for prayers.

said on his return from trade fairs in Algeria and Czechoslovakia. It was because of this imbalance that the Czechoslovak trade agreement had not been renewed, he added. Mr. Briggs said that he had held talks on a trade agreement with Algeria and that an economic and trade delegation would visit Nigeria early next year.

● Nigeria had a trade surplus of about £39m. with the US last year. According to an official announcement Nigeria exported £114m. worth of goods to the US and imported nearly £76m. worth in 1971-72.

● The enquiry into the dispute between Nigerian External Telecommunication Ltd and the joint action committee of their workers, union has been put off indefinitely. The chairman of the industrial arbitration tribunal said that there were irregularities in referring the dispute to the tribunal.

● Brigadier Esuene, Governor of the South Eastern State, and other passengers escaped when their aircraft crash-landed at Port Harcourt in heavy rain.

● An investigation has been mounted by the African Continental Bank into allegations that loans worth at least £1m. were given without all the conditions surrounding the award of loans being fulfilled, according to a report in the *Sunday Times*.

● Chief Esema, who led a delegation to five East African countries to elicit support for the 1974 Black Arts Festival in Lagos said that Ethiopia had been accepted as the zonal co-ordinating centre by the countries visited (Ethiopia, Sudan, Mauritius, Madagascar and Somalia).

● Japan was asked to correct its trade imbalance with Nigeria, estimated at several million pounds, when the Commissioner of Finance, Alhaji Shehu Stagari, exchanged letters of credit for a new Japanese loan of about £7m. with the ambassador. It is the second Japanese credit to Nigeria in recent years. The first was a £10m. loan granted in 1969, committed to a number of projects, including the purchase of Japanese-made

locomotives. Japan's exports to Nigeria are made up mainly of textiles, vehicles and electrical goods, whilst it buys primary products and crude oil.

● Shell-BP of Nigeria has given £12,000 to the Rivers State for the development of science education. The amount represents the second instalment of the £60,000 promised by the company to assist the payment of six science teachers salaries, and the development of science teaching in the state. Receiving the cheque, the State Commissioner for Education, Mr. Melford Okilo, said that the State was determined to develop science in all its schools.

● An Ibadan Chief magistrate has ordered criminal summons to be issued against Alhaji Ajibade Hassan, owner of the four-storey building which collapsed at Oremet, Ibadan, in October 1971 claiming 26 lives.

● A Nigerian Educational Research Council has been established. It will undertake, promote and co-ordinate educational research programmes throughout the Federation.

● Tax collectors in the East Central State have demanded the introduction of life insurance schemes and adequate security measures at their annual conference in Enugu. They also requested that collectors in riverine areas be provided with life jackets.

● Teachers in the Rivers State are no longer to have normal holidays. Instead they are to be assigned other duties or attend orientation courses. All schools in the state now come under the state government.

● Roman Catholic bishops condemned armed robbery and "the kidnapping of innocent children" at the end of their conference in Lagos. They also warned on the take-over of schools. They wanted reassurance that the takeover would not be achieved "at the cost of a reduction of religious and moral education and in a weakening of moral standards among our youth".

● Nigeria hopes to persuade Zaïre to allow the Nigerians recently deported to recover their seized assets, said the External Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Okoi Arikpo.



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