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organised the big get-together of African economic ministers to draw up an "economic charter" for the second decade, parallel to the political charter. This economic charter was approved by the Heads of State in Addis Ababa.

The new declaration is designed to reinforce African states in their forthcoming negotiations on commercial relations with the European Common Market, which almost all accept as necessary in some form. It is also, however, important for the development of inter-African cooperation, where so much has yet to be achieved, but can be achieved relatively easily given the political will West Africa, where, in spite of considerable goodwill, even a modest economic grouping of the fourteen states in the sub-region seems far away, is one area where immediate action is possible.

On the question of "liberation", the fact that towards the end of the 1960s the tide of independence which was sweeping the continent at the beginning of the decade came to a standstill, currently presents the OAU with its biggest challenge. The most recent addition to the OAU was Equatorial Guinea, in 1968. The Zambesi has now become the barrier between black independent Africa and white-dominated Africa, and there can be no illusions about how easy it will be to crack the barrier. Despite the setback of the tragic assassination of Amilcar Cabral, it can still be hoped that there will be

developments in Portuguese Guinea, and it is encouraging to find the UN's Dr Waldheim repeating his prediction made in Rabat last year that all Africa will achieve its freedom. There is certainly no talk of "dialogue" with South Africa, which now can only mean accommodation with the enemy.

There was also wide agreement in Addis Ababa that Colonel Gaddafi's proposal to move OAU headquarters from Addis Ababa to Cairo was ridiculous, and for all to break with Israel was too extreme. Who in black Africa, at least, would agree with Gaddafi that Israel presents a greater danger than South Africa? By overstating his case he risked isolating the Arabs in Africa. The OAU resolution on the Middle East, however, gave no comfort to Israel, in that it called in the strongest terms yet used for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories (not just those of Egypt, an OAU member), and warned that Israel's negative attitude might lead OAU member states "to take, at the African level, individually or collectively, political and economic measures against it". This is a genuine reflection of increased misgivings in Africa about Israel, and was approved in spite of and not because of Col. Gaddafi. In other respects, however, Col. Gaddafi's action served as a reminder of how much African states have to lose if the organisation were to split, or even if it is seen as too openly set about with fractious disputes.

# Nigeria's week at OAU

From Michael Wolfers in Addis Ababa

It was Nigeria's week at the Organisation of African Unity, not as has happened so often in the past because Nigeria had troubles to deal with, but because Nigeria, revelling in the strength of its hard fought unity, is making the running in directing African unity. After Nigeria's Commissioner for External Affairs, Dr Okoi Arikpo, had held the chair at the Ministerial Council meeting, General Yakubu Gowon, Nigeria's Head of State, was asked by King Hassan II of Morocco, the current OAU chairman to stand in for him at the tenth anniversary celebration, and the General was subsequently elected chairman for the next year.

Dr Arikpo's task had been no sinecure. The council had faced its longest-ever agenda and finished more than two days behind schedule despite meetings until dawn. The most delicate issue, the complaint by the Somali Republic about its common border with Ethiopia, was not resolved at council level, despite energetic efforts by Dr Arikpo to formulate a compromise. A Burundian complaint of border infraction by Rwanda was also put into Dr Arikpo's hands, but feeling generally among delegates was that there were probably equal demerits on both sides.

General Gowon's duties were more ceremonial. He replied to the Emperor of Ethiopia's toast at the tenth anniversary banquet in the Menelik Palace in Addis Ababa. He showed a slight weakness both at the anniversary and at the banquet for the flowery phrase that sat ill with his military precision — "gracious banquet" and "enchanting hall" — and sometimes a philosophical turn of thought. "We have passed through a turbulent decade. Crisis is the stuff of which life is made," he commented at the state banquet. He was also host, in place of the King of Morocco, at the return feast by the heads of state. In the chair at the plenary he showed a sense of practicality. He was, for example, careful that people knew what time things were meant to happen, and kept delegates informed of changes in programme. He told the plenary for instance, that President Sadat's lunch on May 25 would be delayed forty five minutes to allow the Emperor to meet President Nimeiry, of Sudan, at the airport — the kind of protocol detail that is often transmitted only through scurrying private secretaries.

Politically Nigeria at council and head of state meetings was unobtrusive but firm in putting a position. It had a "correct" stance on the Middle East in

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line with the Security Council resolution, despite some jostling of the OAU as a whole by some Arab members who wanted to push the Middle East policy further than the position of support for Egypt taken up at last year's Rabat summit meeting. African states tended to say thus far and no further, and President Gaddafi's suggestion that the OAU headquarters be moved to Cairo was not only shouted down at the Ministerial Council's last dawn session but also confounded by President Sadat's cheerful and willing presence at the OAU meeting.

Far from there being any boycott of the anniversary celebrations, there was a full house. Every country, including Libya which sent Mr. Abouzeid Daroula, as acting Foreign Minister, had a visiting delegation, and the leaders of Africa showed what President Albert Bernard Bongo, of Gabon, described in a preliminary speech as a "presence massive". When the tenth anniversary celebrations were formally opened by the Emperor, some six hours later than expected because of the protracted Ministerial Council meeting, there were present 21 heads of state, and four heads of government, and the other 16 delegations had high level leadership.

Heads of State were Koumedienne (Algeria), Khama (Botswana), Ahidjo (Cameroon), Biassu (Central African Republic), Nguema (Congo), Kerekou (Dahomey), Sadat (Egypt), Haile Selassie (Ethiopia), Bongo (Gabon), Houphouët-Boigny (Ivory Coast), King Moshohoe (Lesotho), Tolbert (Liberia), Traore (Mali), Ould Daddah (Mauritania), Diiri (Niger), Gowon (Nigeria), Senghor (Senegal), Nyerere (Tanzania), Lyadema (Zaire), Amin (Uganda), Mofutsa (Zaire). A twenty-second Head of State, President Nimeiry (Sudan), arrived during the celebrations, as he remained at home for the early part of May 25, the anniversary of his own take-over of power in 1969. President Siad Barre of Somalia also arrived after the summit had started following a pressing call from Addis Ababa.

Heads of government were Beavogui,



President Houphouët-Boigny greeted by the Emperor.



President Senghor with Emperor Haile Selassie at Addis Ababa Airport. Behind them is Mr. Ekangaki, Secretary General of OAU.

Prime Minister of Guinea, Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, Makhosini Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland, Quedraogo, Prime Minister of Upper Volta.

Among leaders of other delegations were several vice-presidents (Camara (Gambia), Arap Moi (Kenya), Koroma (Sierra Leone), Chona (Zambia)). The King of Morocco was represented by his brother, Prince Moulay Abdallah.

If the spirit of the Rabat summit was reconciliation, the initial feeling at Addis Ababa on the tenth anniversary was self-criticism. Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, the Cameroonian-born administrative Secretary General, completing a first year of his office, gave a healthy picture of the past decade with a strong call for greater commitment in the second decade. He had had a minor row in the Ministerial Council when Mr. John Malecela, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, had reacted critically to Mr. Ekangaki's call to the Liberation Committee and Liberation Movements to organise themselves more efficiently. This perennial point was backed up by some careful investigation by the OAU secretariat, but Malecela suggested that Mr. Ekangaki was seeking self-aggrandisement. An irony of the Liberation Committee's position was that its previous executive secretary, Mr. George Magombe, was attending the council as a Tanzanian national delegate. He is now Tanzania's Ambassador in Ethiopia.

Mr. Ekangaki, making a review of ten years' progress and speaking in English to the opening meeting of the anniversary celebrations, asked that whenever there was an African consensus all must bow to it. In a telling phrase, he said, of those who might lose materially, that they should realise "that the essential wealth of the African—that citizen they are dedicated to serve—does not lie in cheese, smoking and limousines but in the spiritual satisfaction of his inner man".

President Anwar al Sadat, of Egypt, had a warm reception at Africa Hall because he had rejected pressure from Libya's Colonel Gaddafi, whose notion of moving OAU headquarters to Cairo had been laughed out of court by the

Ministerial Council. When Mr. Sadat completed his speech in the plenary there was more applause than the cry "Vive al Sadat" from Bokassa. President Ould Daddah, of Mauritania, a past chairman of the OAU, came to Addis Ababa just after mourning his father's death at the Ministerial Council opening. Baba Hassane, the Foreign Minister of Chad, called for a minute's silence of tribute to the Mauritanian leader's father in what looked like a preliminary hint that Moukhtar would be prevented from attending the celebrations and summit. Hamdi Ould Moukknass, the Mauritanian Foreign Minister, seemingly a little put out, thanked the Council for condolences but hastened to affirm that President Moukhtar Ould Daddah would be with his brother Heads of State.

General Gowon scored a point from the chair at the anniversary opening when he quoted a proverb in Amharic, apparently comprehensively. Speaking of the Charter he said the equivalent of "Those who dream to dream must be prepared to forego their sleep". Some delegates found Gen. Gowon's military style of speech unusual. He announced programmes at so many hundred hours (e.g. 1400 hours to 1500 hours), spoke of "top secret subject matter", and engagingly enough told fellow Heads of State who wished to speak "Let me know".

From the scores of messages sent to the anniversary, Mohammed Sahnoun chose to read out only two: the first from President Dauda Jawara of The Gambia, regretting that his sudden illness prevented him from coming and saying that he was "making speedy recovery", and the second from President Jomo Kenyatta.

General Gowon in his speeches made much of the "collective wisdom of the founding fathers". At the tenth birthday party, only seven heads of state attending were in power when the Charter was signed: the Emperor of Ethiopia, Presidents Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon, Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Moukhtar Ould Daddah, of Mauritania, Hamani Diori, of Niger, Leopold Sédar Senghor, of Senegal, and Julius Nyerere, of Tanzania.

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GHANA

# Search for the third partner: 1

From a correspondent, Accra

If another company or group can be brought in to the Bascol consortium to replace the American Reynolds firm, there now seems little reason why work should not begin fairly soon on the development of Ghana's bauxite deposits at Kibi, and construction of an alumina smelter to process them. Reynolds, which held 30 per cent of the 70 per cent in the Bascol enterprise held by private firms (the Ghana government has asked for 30 per cent) withdrew, it seems, for domestic reasons and not because of doubts about the viability of the Ghana project. But in a world which seems to have an endless supply of bauxite and no shortage of alumina processing capacity it is not easy to find another partner. Kaisers, who operate Ghana's Valco alumina smelter (in which Reynolds also has a small holding, holds fifty per cent of the private holding in Bascol, the rest, 20 per cent, is held by a Japanese group).

Alumina, the product which is processed from bauxite and is used into aluminium smelters, is not generally produced for a speculative market. Its production is so expensive that it is prudent to tie it to definite users. The Ghana government is not a customer for alumina so that private enterprise partners in Bascol should be committed to taking the whole of the project's output, roughly in proportion to their share holdings. Obviously Kaiser's Valco, in Ghana itself is a customer, since at present this aluminium smelter at Tema, where the alumina plant might be established, imports alumina. But the Valco smelter, even if its capacity may be further expanded, at present would need only half of the initial output of 600,000 tons planned for the Ghana alumina plant. This corresponds to the Kaiser holding in Bascol. The Japanese would take their share. Somebody must be committed to the other 30 per cent.

Although their shares may vary, it is also important that all partners should be committed to taking any increase in the output of Ghana alumina. The initial planned capacity is that of a small plant, and the economic size for plants increases all the time. Nobody wants to exhaust the Kibi bauxite deposits overnight. But if the prospecting, which is nearly completed, confirms the estimate of a deposit of at least 150,000 tons, the expected initial demand from the new Ghana alumina plant for 2m tons a year of bauxite (to produce 600,000 tons of alumina) could be increased to at least 3m tons (to produce up to 1m tons of alumina), which might make the life of the alumina plant economic without depleting a valuable Ghanaian asset in an unreasonably short time. But even Valco



Bauxite being mined at the Ghana mine of British Aluminium Company. The truck will take it away.

may not expand its demand for alumina quickly enough to absorb the Kaiser share of the increased production which may prove necessary to make the alumina plant economic. The search for the new partner therefore, becomes a key issue.

This doesn't mean that all other problems have been solved. Originally and this was many years ago, the idea of producing aluminium in Ghana was born because of the known existence of bauxite deposits and the estimated potential of the Volta River for producing hydro-electric power, of which aluminium smelters require prodigious amounts. In the end, the Volta Dam was built to provide power for Valco — and for the general needs of Ghana and even neighbouring countries as well — but the alumina for Valco has been imported. The vast capital investment needed for the dam and for the Valco plant, and world market factors, were claimed to make a completely integrated operation impossible for the time being. We had Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. Valco without Ghana's bauxite.

## "Enclave" enterprise

The Valco smelter alone could make the Volta hydro-electricity scheme economic, and the smelter provides employment and brings in foreign currency. But so long as the main raw material, alumina, is imported the operation's advantages to Ghana are restricted, and it represents an "enclave" enterprise.

Just before the end of the first military regime Mr. Edgar Kaiser, to the surprise

of many in view of the world market situation, announced in Accra that his group was now ready to consider, in consort with partners (almost everything in the aluminium world today seems to require partnerships, even for gigantic groups), developing bauxite mining and alumina production in Ghana.

It was natural that the outgoing military regime should not at once ask for further commitment. But it was inexplicable that the incoming civilian regime could not see that here was the one big new mining and industrial project which Ghana could expect. Instead of forcing Mr. Kaiser, who, it is said, did not have universal support inside his own group, to follow up his undertaking, the Ghana government looked around the world for other firms who might be interested in Ghana's bauxite (already being produced and exported, purely as bauxite, in a relatively small way by British Aluminium, in which Reynolds is a major stockholder).

Many of the firms approached were, in fact, connected with Kaiser. But in the end it was Kaiser who set up the Bascol consortium which obtained from the present military government the prospecting licence which allowed a full appraisal of the Kibi deposits, the deposits in Ghana believed to offer the possibility of economic development in association with an alumina plant.

The prospecting is almost finished. There is, however, a long way to go before production can begin. Apart from the need to find a new partner for the Bascol consortium, there are a host of local questions to be answered. With these I shall deal in a second article.



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# Matchet's Diary

From Accra

When I was last in Ghana I felt that nobody could be more energetic and enthusiastic in advocating the "Feed Yourself" programme than General Addo, then Commissioner for Agriculture. Since then, the General has been superseded by Colonel Frank Bernasko, who appears to be, if that is possible, even more enthusiastic. But now enthusiasm is even more necessary than in the days of General Addo. For, at the end of the dry season, Ghana's food problem is, if anything, more serious than it has ever been. As *The Spokesman*, which has been supporter of the Government, has said: "Food is in short supply and prices have jumped up astronomically."

Colonel Bernasko is an unusual soldier. He took a degree at Legon, and later qualified as a lawyer. He was a notable success as Commissioner for Ghana's Central Region, based on Cape Coast. It was he who brought out the students for sugarcane cutting. It was he who, in Chief Mullen's phrases, told the Regional House of Chiefs: "We shall plant on the hills-tops, we shall plant on the slopes, we shall plant in the valleys, we shall plant everywhere. We shall have a break-through in poultry, dairy and livestock farming. We shall fish in the seas, in the rivers, in the lagoons."

Now, as *The Spokesman* has said, the time has come to take another look at the food situation. By transferring its responsibility for cocoa to the Cocoa Marketing Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, which for almost the whole of its history, has concentrated on cocoa, has officially become a Ministry of Food. This is part of the many sided attack on food production which the present government has mounted. But while it has had enormous luck in the rise in world cocoa prices, in the new records established in world free gold prices, and in the return of the herring shoals to Ghana, the government has had bad luck with respect to food.

The drought which has affected so badly the "savannah" areas of West Africa has not affected Ghana directly, except in reducing the level of the Volta Lake. But, as Colonel Acheampong recently noted, the drought has restricted imports of cattle into Ghana; it is also reported that people in Upper Volta have both been buying food imported from Ghana, and have themselves been entering Ghana, sometimes with their animals, to make their claim on local food and fodder (Giraffe, it is said, have for the first time, entered Upper Volta from Niger, since the Niger is low enough for them to ford and they are seeking grazing. Will they go into Ghana?).

Like his fellow military commissioners,



Col Bernasko squeezing the men in the middle

Colonel Bernasko does not pretend that all is well in Ghana. "We have been trying to create an atmosphere in which food production is all important," he told me. "Some people may have supposed that we have been claiming to have solved the problem. We have never suggested anything of the kind." The Commissioner still feels that enough food is being grown in Ghana to satisfy everybody's needs at a reasonable price, even if more is needed, and at lower prices.

## Market women

When I asked him how he could reconcile the needs of the consumers, who want low prices for food, and the demands of the farmers, who want high prices to induce them to grow more food, Colonel Bernasko replied that there was no real contradiction. There was such a vast area "in the middle" that if the middle-man's charges were reduced, farmers could get more and consumers could pay less. In the end the only answer was to produce food so plentifully that competition would reduce the middle-man's margins. In the meantime, he was appealing to market-women, the most important middle-men, had met them in his office, and had put one of them on the board of the State Food Distribution Corporation. He did not pretend that he had achieved more than his energetic predecessor, but he felt that his experience as a Regional Commissioner had introduced him to the country's real problems. In his present job he was able to address himself wholeheartedly to what is perhaps the most important of these problems, the shortage and high price of local food.



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President Hama Diori of Niger plays at Accra Golf Club during her 24-hour visit to Ghana to discuss West African economic co-operation.

From Freetown I reported that Sierra Leoneans felt some relief that Lornho's efforts to become established there had come to nothing, and that President Stevens had broken off negotiations with Mr. Rowland and Mr. Ball about possible Lornho participation in mining following the government's announcement that it would be taking 51 per cent of the shares in the big mining companies, particularly the SLSF diamond operation. Here there is much discussion of Lornho, which is parent company of Ashanti Goldfields, one of the country's most important enterprises, in which the Ghana government has just increased its holding to 55 per cent and which has just announced record profits for the first six months of the current financial year. But here the whole Lornho argument is overshadowed by the figure of General Sir Edward Spears, the former chairman of Ashanti Goldfields, and now one of the directors who is attempting to remove Mr. Rowland as Lornho's chief executive. The long statement of the Ghana government on the issue is interpreted as support for Mr. Rowland and some newspaper comment suggests that, in some way, the issue in London concerns the Ghana's Government stake in Ashanti Goldfields.

Mr. Rowland, it seems to be argued, is ready to accept this participation but General Spears and his colleagues, if they were victorious, would attempt to reverse it. As far as I know, there is no truth at all in this suggestion, even if General Spears is known to have been critical of the takeover. I much prefer the attitude of the *Legon Observer*, which advises Ghana to take no sides in the London dispute but to safeguard Ghana's interests against anybody. Certainly the apparent irresponsibility of Lornho's top management is used here as complete justifi-

cation for the government's takeover of Ashanti Goldfields.

Ghana is at present receiving very little external aid except through international agencies. It is somewhat surprising, therefore, to read strong attacks on "aid" in newspapers here. It is almost suggested that countries, such as Britain and America, are virtually forcing aid on Ghana to suit their own purposes, although both countries are simply carrying on with projects which started before Ghana's debt repudiation and with technical assistance as and when the Ghana government requests it. But at least nobody seems to be complaining about the scaling down of aid which is, perhaps, thought to contribute to the self-reliance which the present government preaches.

Everybody agrees in principle with the government's view that Regional Commissioners should be drawn from regions other than those in which they serve. In some of the new states formed out of Nigeria's former region the principle has been followed, in both cases it is intended to promote and to symbolise national unity and integration. There is, however, one big difference. Almost everywhere in the former northern Nigeria, Ilausa is spoken and understood. But many people here wonder how a Regional Commissioner is going to get on if he has not mastered one or more of the vernaculars of his region. The government, however, is determined to go through with the new arrangement.

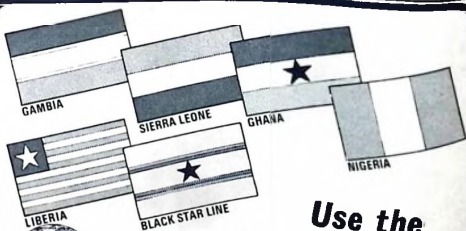
## EAST CENTRAL STATE BUDGET

# "Happy days here again"?

From a correspondent

Revenue raised in Nigeria's East Central State in the current financial year is now greater than revenue received from the Federal Government, in great contrast to three years ago, said the State Administrator, Mr. Ukpabi Asika, announcing his 1973-74 budget. "To have arrived at a situation in which internal revenue is greater than Federal revenue in only three years in the post-war circumstances of the East Central State is truly remarkable; it is even more impressive if it is realised that such a situation is definitely a record in the fiscal history of the Federation and almost certainly a record in the history of various world federations created after 1945". The share of total revenue attributed to internal sources had risen from the "dismal" 1970-71 proportion to 55 per cent in the current year. In 1970-71 the State contributed only 37.8 per cent of total revenue and the Federal Government the remainder. Recurrent revenue for 1973-74 was estimated at 71.8m. naira, with an increase of 12.5m. naira in internal revenue.

On the other hand, for capital receipts, said the Administrator, "very little is expected from internal sources since



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facilities are still being restored". Mr. Asika said that so far the State had not benefited from Nigeria's External Loans programmes in the current Development Plan. He hoped that some of the administrative problems would be resolved and progress made this year.

The Administrator was pleased with progress so far, but could not yet "truly say that 'happy days are here again'". "While some of the wounds of conflict are only too patently still with us, it is our determination henceforth to review our situation and requirements in the context of present day realities and future needs. It is our intention to begin to face up to the even greater challenge of establishing our place in the fast-developing economy and contributing our full share to national development."

## Continuing desperate

For 1973-74 the State is budgeting for 82.9m. naira for recurrent and 56.66m. naira for capital expenditure. The original appropriation for 1972-73 was 61.2m. naira. Estimated revenue on current account for 1973-74 is 71.8m. naira, against estimates of 59.2m. for the previous year. There is an overall deficit on current account of 11.1m. naira. "Although the figures underline the continuing desperate condition of our finances, they represent on the one hand a welcome improvement in our ability to generate revenue internally and on the other hand the considerably expanded high level of public services (especially in education, health and welfare, water and utility services) which the State is carrying and the fortuitous increases in the cost of some of these services (for example the increases due to the improved conditions of teachers) and the irrevocable commitment which we made last year to repay during this financial year the compulsory loan — the 25 per cent surcharge which we had to borrow from all workers".

Although last year the Administrator said that he hoped to reduce the massive education expropriation, it takes the largest slice of this year's budget, accounting for a total of 44.8m. naira (36.7m. naira recurrent and 8.1 capital expenditure). And as the Finance Commissioner, Dr. Ukwu I. Ukwu, pointed out when expanding on the Administrator's figures, more than 50 per cent of total State revenue on current account is spent on education: the School Board alone swallows up 35m. naira for salaries and other expenses.

The State take-over of schools had enabled the government to direct investment where it would do most good, said Mr. Asika. "Today in the East Central State we have an enrolment of 1.3m. children in State Primary schools and nearly 100,000 in State post-primary institutions. This represents an increase of over 60 per cent on the pre-war figures for

the area now constituting the state and accounts for well over a quarter of the total enrolment for the Federation".

Mr. Asika was particularly satisfied that two of his major policies — Community government and community ownership and control of schools — had stimulated hitherto underdeveloped areas of the State to action. For example, Nkanu showed a 196 per cent increase in post-war school enrolment, Igbo-Eze 146 per cent, Ukwu 178 per cent. In urban centres too, there were exceptional increases — 272 per cent in Onitsha, 264 per cent in Aba, 216 per cent in Enugu. These increases were due mainly to the post-war urban explosion, representing the "dizzy summits of a major and fundamental transformation in the structure of our society from predominantly rural society in 1966 to the most highly urbanised and mobilised society in Nigeria". Mr. Asika explained: "I use the term urbanised in its full sociological sense, that is not merely in terms of demographic densities but also in terms of the heterogeneity of the population in their division of labour and differentiation of functions. It is very important to understand the nature of this transformation, of this mutation. It is a situation of great hopes and expectations but alas also one of great pain, trauma and neurosis in the process of it becoming."

There were other "problems" which, continued Mr. Asika, he would not try to solve — those of the privileged who asked "who is going to be the steward if everyone goes to school?" The "problems" of those "who worry that there are now no more special schools for their Little Lord Fauntleroy; instead the children of the bigman and the children of the onyeburu now share the same facilities". But the State school system catered for about 35,000 teachers — who have a total wage bill of over 34.5m. naira.

## Reviving the industries

Mr. Asika blamed some trouble at the College of Technology on the fact that the LCS government was anxiously waiting release of the remainder of the grant by Britain towards construction of the College, "a state of expectancy induced and sustained by the repeatedly affirmed and re-affirmed promises of agents of the High Commission in their perennial ambulations between Lagos and Enugu since 1970". The State needed aid, but not at the cost of self respect and dignity.

Industrial reconstruction in the State increased in 1972. This year 11.2m. naira had been made available for various capital projects. Provision for reconstruction included expansion of the Golden Guinea Breweries at Umuhia, the modernisation of Aba Textile Mills. Work is continuing on the rehabilitation of Nigersteel at Enugu, Modern Ceramics at

Umuhia, the Mineral Waters Plant at Onitsha and Nigergas at Enugu. New industries include new investment in the General Cotton Mills at Onitsha, completion of the Paints project at Enugu, formal establishment of the Investment Company and Hotel project at Enugu and the holiday Resort Centre at Oguta. The Central Water Transportation Company is also to be expanded.

"With the creation of a national organisation for the purchase of export produce the raison d'être of the State Marketing Board would seem to have disappeared", Mr. Asika thought. "A new Marketing Organisation properly structured to carry out the remaining functions on commercial principles is being considered and will be established shortly. The Old Board would have 'withered away'."

The Administrator concluded on the topic of abandoned properties in the Rivers State. He confessed "to a sense of mortification and grief" that this question remained "an issue worth talking about". Progress has been made, but he had strong words to say about "vested interests anxious to expropriate and to continue to enjoy their illegal booty". "This charade must end now. Enough is enough. A solution can no longer be postponed without permanent injury to the interests of the people of the Rivers State, of the East Central State and indeed all the people of Nigeria".

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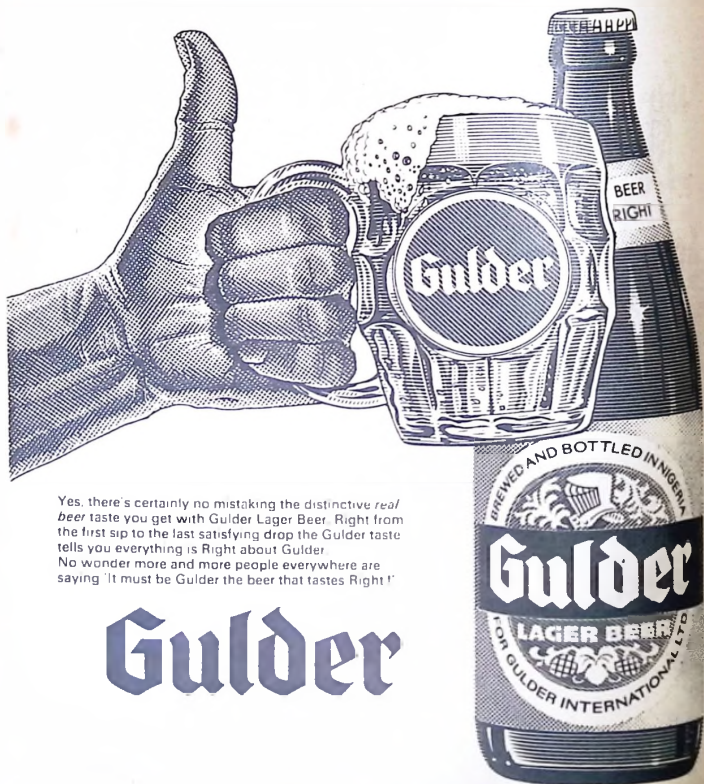
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# Books and Publications

## Dr. Elias and the OAU

Africa and the Development of International Law by *T.O. Elias* (Suthaff-Leiden/Occana Publication Inc-Dobbs, New York, 1972).

This is an excellent and learned book by the Chief Justice of Nigeria. It will have a deservedly wide readership not only among lawyers but among students of international affairs. The book is divided into four parts - Africa's contribution to the general international law; the Organisation of African Unity; Human Rights; and a brief study of international economic institutions in Africa.

A major defect of traditional international law was that it originated in Europe where it was gradually developed within the framework of Christian principle. Naturally, such a system was not always suitable and acceptable to other parts of the world. What the world needed was an "inter-civilisational and multi-cultural" system which would reflect the needs of all mankind. Fortunately the last 20 years have seen a move towards this direction. This is largely the result of the fall of the European empires and the coming into existence of large number of independent states in Africa and Asia. When the United Nations was founded there were only three (four if we include South Africa) African states which became members, today there are 41. This has given the people of Africa the chance to participate in the United Nations system and contribute to the development of the modern Law of Nations. It is no mere coincidence that during the last 20 years the United Nations has taken an uncompromising stand on such topics as racial discrimination, colonialism and self-determination for all people.

The United Nations Charter was a compromise between those who wanted a global organisation and those who felt that such a scheme could not work in a world still divided by national sovereignty. Accordingly articles 52-54 of the Charter make provision for regional arrangements. Some regional arrangements have a simple purpose, such as NATO or the Warsaw Pact, others cover more than one objective. The Organisation of African Unity is of the latter type. It was founded in 1963 to provide a framework for effective co-operation among the states of Africa. The Charter provides for co-operation in a number of matters including political, economic, educational and scientific

affairs, and defence and security. Dr. Elias gives a detailed account of the efforts by various leaders to promote African unity. He is modest enough not to mention the role he himself played to bring this about but it is a well known fact that the Charter of the OAU was largely his own work.

One of the interesting features of the OAU Charter was the establishment of the Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration. All member states 'pledge to settle all disputes among themselves by peaceful means' and not to resort to the use of force. This was a most encouraging step forward. Ever since the Hague Conferences of 1889 and 1907 a major problem of international law has been the reluctance of most countries to use judicial institutions to settle disputes. Thus less than a third of all members of the United Nations have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court, and about the same number are parties to the Hague Conventions. Let us hope that most African states will make use of this important institution.

It was unfortunate, however, that the OAU Charter failed to adopt some of the proposals of the International Law Commission by providing for compulsory arbitration in certain cases. Dr. Elias states that such a step was not taken because it was felt that at this early stage in the life of the Organisation persuasion was likely to be more successful than any other method. This may be so, but rules can play a part in establishing norms of conduct.

Another criticism of the Charter is that it is too much concerned with "sovereign" States and hardly at all with the people. This is more unfortunate. Traditionally, individuals have had no place in international law, but more and more their interests have been recognised under the modern international law. Human Rights is one such important example of this development. The most interesting example of this development today is that found in western Europe where a number of states are parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms which established a Court of Human Rights to which individuals have direct access. There is no mention of this most important subject in the OAU Charter apart from a brief mention in Article 21(1e).

Dr. Elias has once again succeeded in

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writing a book which is a lasting contribution to the development of knowledge of Africa's place in international law.

Anthony Steel

## Soldiers and politicians in Turkey

The Turks, by David Hotham (John Murray). £3.50

When Dr. Azikiwe put forward his proposals last year for a joint military-civilian form of government many drew a comparison with Upper Volta, where such an experiment is working reasonably well. Few people, and perhaps nobody in Nigeria, recalled that in Turkey a joint military-civilian regime was established in 1960 after the overthrow of the Menderes regime. In fact, as Mr. Hotham points out, the Turkish arrangement gave real power to the National Security Council, which had a majority of Generals.

The Turks, however, are so accustomed to military rule that it was only in the 10 years of the Menderes regime that the army can be said to have been outside politics in modern Turkey. It is true that during the Menderes regime the Turks showed that democracy is not so alien a system for them as some people believe. But ironically the army itself, claiming to be the custodian of the doctrines of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, (uncertain though their precise nature is today) also claim to be the custodian of democracy, and among the younger officers at any rate there has always been, even before the overthrow of the Sultan, an attachment to radical reform. It is amusing to learn from Mr. Hotham, that Ataturk himself in 1920, alarmed by the spread of communist ideas in Turkey, decided to create a puppet communist party on which he could keep his eye and wrote: "any communist ideas must be limited to the senior commanders".

Overthrow of the Menderes regime, however, had the grim aftermath of the vast trial of all the leaders of the deposed regime, resulting in 15 death sentences and 3 executions, including that of Menderes himself. Menderes lives on in popular myth and the Justice Party which came to power when the soldiers handed over, on paper at any rate, is regarded by many as the successor of Menderes' own party.

Today Turkey is racked by political violence, and military tribunals are handing out severe sentences under the martial law which has been in force for a couple of years. There is still nominally a civilian government, with a Prime Minister, and the Justice Party has a programme of reform, while there is an Opposition, but everybody knows that the army have the last word.

Mr. Hotham's book is an excellent introduction to Turkey by a man who knows to know and like it well as *The Times* Correspondent. One interesting section deals with the desire of the Turks to be part of Europe, although there is also a growth in the strength of Islam, in spite of the "secular state" allegedly established by Ataturk. Although much of the book is taken up with history and politics Mr. Hotham also finds space to tell us that, for example, among the Turks the most shameful of all crimes is theft, almost unknown in big cities. In prison thieves are ostracised while murderers can be heroes.

There is also an interesting section on the terrible damage that goats do. Turkey has an excessive number, perhaps 25m, which are destroying the forests and worsening the soil erosion which, added to fragmentation of holdings and to landlordism, makes agriculture so unproductive.

Well-produced, the book has a number of good photographs.

A. M.

The Mind of the Qur'an, by Kenneth Gragg (George Allen and Unwin, 14.25)

A work of refined scholarship on what for Muslims is, as the author says, "the ultimate literature" Gragg writes in all humility, aware of the great body of erudition on the subject Islam is, after all, as he says, near the end of its fourteenth century. There is, however, in each century, room for new interpretations, particularly in the light of Muhammad's injunction to "read in the name of the Lord". The author's "reflections" include consideration of "having the text by heart", of "the explicit and the implicit", of the significance of the word *la'alla* or "perhaps" (so frequently used in the Qur'an), of concepts like "forgiveness", "the face of God", "No God but Thou", and the preoccupation with birth and sexuality ("Have you considered the seed you spill?")

I. D.

Under an English Heaven, by Donald E. Westlake (Hodder and Stoughton, £3.00)

A breezy account of the Anguilla fiasco of a few years back, appropriately written by a comic novelist, who saw the comic potential of the British attempt to keep St. Kitts and Anguilla together. The author writes with a frank bias for the Anguillians, which may annoy some people, and his efforts to draw all the comedy out of the situation become occasionally forced. But it is generally entertaining reading.

K. W.

John Hatch's Nigeria: A History, the hardback of which was reviewed in the May 14 issue of *West Africa*, is also available in Africa in paperback from Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) Ltd., P.M.B. 5205, Ibadan and Heinemann Educational Books (East Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 45313, Nairobi at the local equivalent of £1.50.

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26 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NIGERIA

## African theatre in London

This is clearly the time of the year for African theatrical productions in London. After "The Trials of Brother Jero", noticed in these pages a few weeks ago, we now have had "Temba", by South African Alton Kumalo, and "The Model Village", by Rasheed Gbadamosi. Below we publish assessments of these two plays.

None seems to know exactly what is to be done about the disgraceful dehumanizing situation in South Africa. Not even the Africans be they South Africans in the 'hell-hole', or liberated Africans dining at Number 10 Downing Street or at the Elysée. *Temba*, a documentary made up of honest, admirable cinematic sketches presented at the Arts Theatre in London by Alton Kumalo, himself a South African (Zulu) tries hard to confront us with the horrifying human problems that have for so long plagued his native South African peoples. Temba is a young student. He sees more than his father sees. He questions everything. He is dissatisfied and he does not hide it. He is ambitious, but not only for himself. His ambition is for his country and his countrymen be they black or white. He hates because he loves and he gets bitter because he cannot endure the tortures and humiliation which his father could easily shrug off. He asks his father: 'When does a man become a man?'

Temba was asking in fact as to when does a Black South African man become a man and treated as a man. It is not pleasant to watch a whiteman of twenty and five years addressing an old man as 'BOY'. It is not human to know that you have to go through life as a number. It must be rather distressing to watch your black sister being seduced by a white police officer who had already sent your brother to gaol.

But after all this, I was still unable to understand what Mr. Kumalo was really aiming for. Not sympathy of course, I did not on the other hand feel incensed enough to rally a few people for a 'demonstration', or if you like a 'temporary take over', so as to get Vorster to react, or Mr. Heath to take some more notice about what is going on in South Africa, which is a British responsibility and for which they will soon have to give account.

Anyway, it was quite obvious that *Temba* had come a long way, finally arriving at the Arts Theatre. Mr. Kumalo's professionalism must be applauded in every way. One would like to pick a few bones with certain trivialities, since there was no constructive alternative suggestion as to what is expected of those who feel very strongly about the whole South African situation.

Nevertheless, in the final summing up, Temba's message from prison - since he was arrested by the same policeman who had been trying to seduce his sister - Temba's message was strikingly conciliatory: "I agree with people who say that South Africa belongs to all the people who live in it - black or white - I also agree that people should share in the country's wealth. The land should be shared among all who work it".

Alton Kumalo might not be the best 'all-rounder', (playwright, director, manager, actor, singer, dancer), but no matter how much he had to do, his attempts were honest, professional, sincere and direct. His end production may not have earned himself and his actors much financial reward, but the satisfaction of being able to create such a standard of professionalism among a group of black actors and in England is in itself a commendable achievement.

The cast of *Temba* was one of the best I have seen for a long time. And, under a black director. In this respect, it is perhaps essential that we watch with interest Mr. Kumalo's future developments. Anni Domingo as the mother of Temba was superbly convincing.

Yulisa Amadu Maddy

● The Pan-African Theatre Company which represented the UK in the 1966 Dakar Festival has now found new life. For the past two weeks, they have been entertaining audiences at the Mercury Theatre, a fringe events venue in London's Notting Hill Gate, with their production of *The Model Village* by Rasheed Gbadamosi.

Set in a remote village away from the city lights of Lagos, Kano or Ibadan, the play centres around an 'institution' where people are sent to for suffering from that rare disease known as mental fatigue or over-active brain. Here Siji, a girl of erratic nervous disposition, played by Sibhon Quinlan, meets and falls in love with Ili, a cracked-up Professor of Anthropology, played by Yemi Ajibade. They are matched by the skilful manipulation of the doctor-in-the-house, played by Willie Payne and soon they are married. It is not long before the whole village is sent on a merry-go-round as the over-sexed Siju traps and seduces every male that comes her way, including the local prophet and the palm-wine seller. The universality of its appeal therefore lifts the play from its parochial background and the characterisation give ample excuse for humour in almost every dialogue.

"What really impressed us was the way the author was able to internationalise the play for making free references to the life of the African student in Britain or America. Because its humour is cosmopolitan, the play would go down well in any country. That is why we have been able to get an English audience to laugh so freely all through the play", says Iliano Pedro who produced the play with the direction of George Eugenio of the Greek Arts Theatre. *The Model Village* is one in a series of plays and experiments the Pan-African Theatre Company is mounting.

Bob Okonedo

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## Letters to the Editor

### Why Ghanaians won't go home

SIR, Whilst welcoming the news that the Ghana High Commission held a meeting in Manchester to inform Ghanaians of the developments in Ghana, I suspect that the primary aim of the meeting was to assess their opinion and to prepare the way for the proposed visit of the NRC delegation to Britain to examine recruitment problems here. This is because many Ghanaians here are dissatisfied with the administration in the Recruitment Section.

I have met and discussed with many qualified Ghanaians who are willing to return home immediately, if they could obtain a firm offer of employment. They all complained of administrative inefficiency of the Recruitment Section. Many of them have applied to the Director of Recruitment of the High Commission, but nothing substantial has come out of their applications.

I myself applied in December last year. I received a letter saying that my application had been forwarded to the Public Services Commission in Ghana and they were awaiting their decision. Since then nothing has been heard from the Director of Recruitment. The only alternative open to me now is to return to Ghana before looking for employment. However, I have heard of many instances where it took many Ghanaians who had returned home between three months and one year to secure jobs.

Many Ghanaians here have families and it will be suicidal to go home without any means to depend on for at least 3 months for which period they may be unable to secure jobs. They must, therefore, reluctantly stay here with the view of working to save sufficient money before returning home. This explains why many Ghanaian students are unwilling to return home immediately after completing their courses.

May I say also that many of the qualified Ghanaians here financed their studies themselves, without any financial help by the Ghana Government. Thus they are not assets to the government. It is, therefore, absurd for successive governments in Ghana have not taken any significant action to make use of this valuable asset which is so important to the economic development of Ghana.

I hope, therefore, that after the visit by the delegation, the NRC will make sweeping changes in the recruitment procedure under which qualified Ghanaians are selected overseas. The fundamental problem here is to look to re-organise the Recruitment Section so as to improve administrative efficiency so that applicants will at last receive replies.

MILHAM

OHINE OBAMI

### Rivers prospects

SIR, I have been taking keen interest in the fascinating publications being made in West Africa about the social and economic progress of new Nigeria. It appears the states have all been improving although one thing is lacking. It reflects that the Rivers State has not been actually pulling its weight as it should. This state I should say is the most potentially viable state in Nigeria. Its government appears to be disappointingly too inefficient or slow.

It is understood that there are presently no good roads, and no proper drainage system, gutters being filthy. The government should do something about things like these.

In addition to knowing the real social and economic needs of the state, the government should properly compare its activities and progress with those of the states and countries outside the state.

L.K. KOLA

### OAU and Gaddafi

SIR, The OAU summit has met in Addis Ababa. I am pleased that Heads of State ignored in the agenda the impossible personal call of Col. Gaddafi of Libya to remove the OAU seat of administration from Addis to Cairo.

The Middle East War is almost a lost cause. The Palestinians may have reasons to grieve. The Israeli action and role glaringly is an actual imperialistic expansionism by force.

Anwar Sadat with his daily war call as he people has spelt self deflation. It is obvious that war can no longer solve this complex situation already in motion. The parties to this conflict should better think again and start an honorable negotiation to save the plight of the fedayeen refugees, as a dream solution by force of arms is impossible.

Gaddafi's call on all African states to sever diplomatic relations with Israel is unacceptable. The Arab-Israeli war should not be given as a torch for other African states to tamper with relations with Israel.

BI-NAMIN E. FAGBENI

MUNCH

### No revolution

SIR, Please permit me to comment on the heading of Mr. Ayidi's paper in his address to the Nigerian Economic Society reported in your journal on May 7. Neither the military coup of 1966, nor the resultant war, nor the following rehabilitation could be a revolution either in socio-economic or in socio-political sense or politico-economic sense or each of these notions taken separately.

The word revolution means a complete change from one state to another. In transitional states can hardly be a revolution. What we have arrived at is an administrative re-arrangement and a socio-economic boom induced largely and in the main by the increase in oil revenue. I, therefore, find the heading of his paper inaccurate and am hoping him to use an appropriate one.

LONGJIN

KAY S. KAY

### Nigerian-ness

SIR, It was reported that Colonel Olu Babu was appealing to Nigerians to come home to help in the building of the nation.

I think many Nigerians overseas would like to read about the provisions made by the Nigerian Government for those who are willing to return. Naturally they would like to read of availability of jobs, assistance or payment of their pass-ages home.

The call to change Lagos' name to Eko is another insignificant suggestion. For a long time now, Nigerians have known Lagos as Eko. The Nigerian Government has got important tasks to face than changing unnecessary names all over the country. Government should provide job opportunities, construct better roads, build up hospitals and help the have-nots.

Can they tell us that Musuqpha, Jambura, Ileson and Ismailah are Nigerian names originated from Nigeria?

OLALIKAN ISMAILAH

# Commercial News

## CROWN AGENTS

### A £100m. business

Orders shipped by the Crown Agents and paid for in 1972 were valued at £98.6m., just short of the 1971 record of £101m. The number of separate orders was 85,000. Some 90 governments and a large number of public authorities overseas and international bodies use the Crown Agents for financial, professional and commercial transactions. Although the office was originally established to serve British colonial governments, it now serves all the independent Commonwealth governments in Africa, as well as the Nigerian states and bodies such as the Sierra Leone Ports Authority, the University of Ghana and the Gambian Public Utilities Corporation.

Among transactions during the year noted in the Chairman's summary in the Annual Report was the purchase of 2,000 tons of coal from Nigeria for the Sierra Leone railways. Seven mobile libraries were ordered for Nigeria as well as large quantities of rolling stock for the Nigerian Railway. The increase in orders for pumping plant and associated water equipment placed during the year was largely due to orders from the North Central State Water Board in Nigeria, to the total value of some £13m.

The Crown Agents are no longer confined to Commonwealth countries. Atmistan for example ordered bore hole pumps and similar equipment to the value of £100,000 during the year and surveys were undertaken by the Crown Agents on behalf of Ethiopia and Egypt. The Crown Agents also provide direct engineering services. For example, a Crown Agents team provided technical supervision and management

for a major road in Sierra Leone. Among other subsidiaries is Trade Winds, the air freight service whose main activity is in Nigeria.

The Crown Agents are also engaged in merchant banking and investment consultancy for their clients. They recruit staff and attend to the needs of the staff when on leave and conduct training courses in Britain and overseas. The Crown Agents also maintain offices in client countries such as Nigeria, and have purchasing offices in several parts of the world. During 1972 they were also dealing with supplies under 13 World Bank loans.

There was a deficit in both 1971 and 1972 on the provision of services but Crown Agents' dealings in the London money market and the world stock markets produced increased revenue which more than covered these deficits.

• The Nigerian Housing Development Society (Nigerian Building Society) made a record pre-tax profit of £605,786 in 1972, £85,814 over the figure for 1971, the chairman, Alhaji Babatunde Jose, has announced. The company's total assets increased from £41,130,058 in 1971 to £44,519,004 last year, largest in the company's history.

Alhaji Jose, who is also chairman of the *Daily Times Group*, said his company will build more houses in the next four years. Offices will also be opened throughout the country to enable people make use of benefits offered by the company. On higher mortgage interest, he noted that money being lent out by his company was borrowed and "we have a little margin to use".

He said an offer by the

Rivers State for people to acquire "abandoned properties" in Port Harcourt mortgaged by the society was unacceptable. He added that "much as we have the legal right to repossess their houses, we have not done that".

• An international working group has held a week's private session in Geneva to study the effects of the International Cocoa Agreement on marketing and production.

Most major cocoa exporting and importing nations — except the US which did not sign the agreement — were represented at the meeting.

The working group will report to an Interim Committee of countries which have signed the agreement when they meet in London next June 20 to 30 to continue work on setting up an organisation to administer the accord.

The task of the Interim Committee is to draw up rules of procedure for the International Cocoa Council.

## Ocean profit up

Ocean Transport and Trading, whose name was changed from the Ocean Steamship Company in January 1973, recorded a profit before taxation in 1972 of £10,441,000 (£7,235,000 in 1971).

The Annual Report says that 1972 profits from West African business were slightly up on 1971 "notwithstanding that, in our main West African Trade, tonnages from the United Kingdom declined by some 24 per cent from the high level of 1971, due to severe Ghanaian import restrictions and to a fall from the very high level of 1971 in cargo moving to Nigeria". Ocean Transport says that although northbound tonnages were about the same as in 1971 "northbound rates, particularly for produce, generally remained uneconomic and continued to represent a degree of subsidy to the exports of some West African countries, reluctant though these countries are to recognise the fact." The company saw that the "understandable" wish of

African countries to participate more fully in the economies was "bound to have some effect upon some of our longstanding activities in West Africa". "The transfer of the whole or part of some of these activities to indigenous owners is proceeding. Where the transactions have been completed we have received fair compensation."

## Bokassa's economic priorities

Increased agricultural production and the ending of superstitious resistance by the rural population to modern agricultural methods are the top priorities of the Central African Republic Government's development programme.

Agricultural production, based essentially on coffee (9,000 tons exported in 1971) and cotton (14,000 tons exported in 1971), accounts for about 45 per cent of national exports. With diamonds, of which some 440,000 carats were extracted during the first ten months of 1972, accounting for another 45 per cent of exports, agriculture is the main money earner. With a regular slow-down in diamond production since 1968, agriculture has become the number one priority sector for the country's economic development. To alert public opinion, Head of State, General Jean-Bedel Bokassa, called together nearly 200 leading farmers for a first national agricultural congress. Delegates and officials agreed that the greatest drawback to the country's agriculture was poor output and that every effort should be made both at Government and farm level to remedy this.

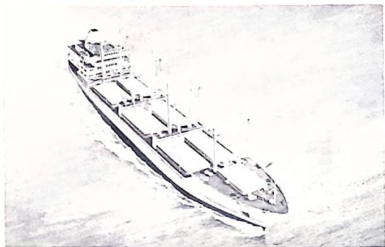
For Government officials, this means that the agricultural development timetable must be respected. This timetable, drawn up by the Rural Development Ministry, lays down in detail the deadlines that farmers must meet. Agricultural officers are touring the country trying to impress on farmers the vital need to stick to this timetable. But the Government has been faced with hostility to

mechanisation and to the use of modern fertilizers and insecticides. It was this inertia encountered by officials which led the President to convoke the congress. His aim was to encourage enthusiasm and launch a reform as much of thought patterns as of methods and techniques.

• The shift of world population to urban areas and the resulting environmental problems were discussed at the World Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce in Rio De Janeiro.

The 1,300 delegates from 50 countries were debating a report by World Bank official, Harold Dunkerely, which pointed to the problems of developing countries which faced a three-fold increase in urban population by the end of the century and a lack of arable land to accommodate a rural population which because of medical advances was also increasing rapidly.

• Mr. Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions had demanded that African workers in South Africa be granted full union rights.



Artist's impression of Shonga.

• Elder Dempster Lines, a partner in the UK/West Africa Lines Joint Service (UKWAL) and a member of the Ocean Group, has signed a contract for the purchase of three ships (12,000 dwt tons each) for about £8.5m from the West German shipowners and shipbrokers H. Schuldt of Hamburg.

These three semi-container/multi-purpose freighters were ordered by H. Schuldt in 1970 and are being built at Szczecin shipyard in Poland for delivery in October 1973, April 1974 and October 1974. The first ship, *Shonga*, was launched on May 26, 1973.

The three ships will be operated primarily in the fortnightly UKWAL Express Service from London and Liverpool to Lagos.

Elder Dempster with other members of the UKWAL service has been studying future requirements and has decided that the immediate needs of the trade require a combination type vessel.

These new vessels have a capacity of up to 410 twenty foot containers or a combination of containers and general cargo. They represent the most significant change in ship design by Elder Dempster for the West African service.

• Lever Brothers, Ghana Ltd., has presented a cheque for 980,000 cedis to the Ghana Government as its share of the dividend for the 1972 trading year. In 1964 the Government acquired 49 per cent shares in the company, originally established and owned as a Unilever subsidiary. The company has since paid dividends totalling 4,517,800 cedis to the Government. The company's manager, Mr. M. C. Hagan, said the amount was the highest dividend to the Government since the partnership agreement came into force on March 1, 1964.

• De Beers Consolidated Mines has announced a rise by in an average of 10 per cent the price of certain categories of larger rough gem stones marketed through the Central Selling Organisation. The increase will apply to diamonds over two carats.

• The proposed US release of stockpiled tin may spell "economic doom" for the commodity's main producing nations, the Malaysian Tin Bureau in Washington says in the latest issue of its newsletter.

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## CAST-Ghana's takeover

Consolidated African Selection Trust has issued its half-yearly figures up to December 31, 1972. These show a trading profit of £399,000 (£412,000 in the same period in 1971) and profit after taxation of £386,000 (£207,000).

A dividend of £445,000 gross (£245,000 after tax) was received from the National Diamond Mining Company (Sierra Leone) included in the half-yearly figures was in respect of operation in 1971-72. An interim dividend of £891,000 gross (£490,000 after tax) has also been received from NDMC for the 1972-73 year. "This is the first occasion on which NDMC has paid a dividend in advance of the end of its financial year". CAST now has a 49 per cent holding in the NDMC and the Sierra Leone Government 51 per cent. The additional payment from NDMC reflects both the sale of the "Star of Sierra Leone" for around £1m, and the general firmness of diamond prices.

In Ghana "consequent upon the taking over of the business of the company in Ghana by Ghana

Consolidated Diamonds Ltd., the trading profit for the half year to December 31, 1972 includes the profit from the Ghana operations for only the three months July to September 1972". Ghana Consolidated Diamonds Ltd. was established by a Ghana Government decree in December 1972 to take over CAST business there retrospectively from October 1972. The Ghana Government has a 55 per cent holding in the new company. CAST states that the publication of its half-yearly report was deferred until now in case the company was able to report conclusions from discussions with the Ghana Government over compensation for the 55 per cent takeover.

The NDMC has, says CAST, as a result of a final payment in February 1973, repaid in full the working capital loan of £4m. made to it in 1970 by the Sierra Leone Government and SLST.

Referring to the possibility of a merger with Selection Trust Ltd. (West Africa April 9) CAST said that no offer or proposal had so far emerged for such a merger.

• The Consultative Group on the African Census Programme has met in Addis Ababa. Participants stressed the importance of training courses on population inquiries and on the computer processing of census data.

Of the 21 countries participating in the African Census Programme, 15 are carrying out their first census.

The last two proposed courses appeared particularly important in view of the fact that it was normally a matter of years before the data collected during a census was published and utilized.

The meeting suggested that the value of future census courses be improved and the training material be adapted more specifically to African conditions and practices.

• Richard Costain, the construction group, had a turnover of £124m in 1972 compared to £107m the previous year. Net profit was £3,915,000 (£2,228,000 in 1971).

• A fall of 50 per cent, in the Ivory Coast's intermediate cocoa crop is being forecast because of drought conditions. In the 1971-72 season the intermediate crop was nearly 19,000 tons, while the main crop was a bumper 205,000 tons, making the Ivory Coast the world's third biggest producer of cocoa.

It is estimated that the 1972-3 main crop fell to just over 171,000 tons, and the latest forecast for the intermediate crop this summer — by merchants Gill and Duffus — was between 10,000-15,000 tons.

• Mr. Sylla Lancinet, President of the newly-formed organisation of African trades union unity (OATUU), has made a week's visit to Ghana.

Mr. Lancinet, who was received by Colonel Acheampong, had discussions with officials on the proposed establishment of the Organisation's headquarters in Accra.

## Shipping News

### ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

**SOUTHBOUND** — From Liverpool: MANO sig. Jun. 14; DHAMO sig. Jun. 14; IRINI sig. Jun. 14, FOURAH BAY due Jun. 4; MARON sig. Port Harcourt Jun. 2.

From London: FULANI sig. Jun. 1; PEGU sig. Jun. 18, FIAN sig. Jun. 2.

From Glasgow: DEGEMA due Pointe Noire Jun. 9.

From N. Continent: MACHAON sig. Hamburg Jun. 1; KUMBA due Appapa May 31.

From Southampton: AUREOL due Freetown Jun. 1.

To London: FALABA due Jun. 3; PEGU due May 31.

To Dublin: KOHIMA due Abidjan Jun. 1.

To Avonmouth: DIXCOVE due Jun. 5.

To N. Continent: KABALA due Rotterdam Jun. 2; KADUNA due Bremen Jun. 10.

To Apapa Jun. 1.

**EASTBOUND** — From USA/Canada: DONGA due Lake Charles Jun. 1; DUMFRIED due Freetown Jun. 9; DUMFRIED due Milwaukee Jun. 1.

**WESTBOUND** — To USA/Canada: DEIDO sig. Lobito Jun. 1.

Essex Service to West Africa: TESTBANK due Banjul Jun. 1; TWEEBANK due Douala Jun. 1.

**BARBER LINES**

**OUTWARDS** — BARBERROOK sig. Stephenville for Monrovia, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Appapa, Warri, Douala.

BARBERGATE sig. New York Jun. 22 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appapa, Douala.

HONOR — BARBERGATE sig. Freetown for Jacksonville, Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, BARBERROOK Idg. Lagos Jun. 5, due Hong Kong Aug. 24, Douala Jun. 27, Ghana Jul. 3, Abidjan/Monrovia 1st week Jul. Freetown Jul. 8.

**'K' LINE**

**WESTBOUND** — From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Abidjan: TENNESSEE MARU sig. Japan May 9, due Lagos Jun. 14.

**EASTBOUND** — From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. TENNESSEE MARU sig. Lagos Jun. 22, Tema Jun. 23, Freetown Jun. 24, Abidjan Jun. 25, due Hong Kong Aug. 3, Japan Aug. 7.

**BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA**

**WESTBOUND** — AFAM RIVER Ghana Jun. 29, Abidjan Jun. 30, Philadelphia Jun. 15; KORLE LAGOON London Jun. 8.

**NORTHBOUND** — KORLE LAGOON Rotterdam Jun. 13, Hamburg Jun. 16, NASIA RIVER Avonmouth Jun. 10, Middlebrough Jun. 25.

**DAFRA LINES**

**WESTBOUND** — FRANKRIG sig. Luanda Jun. 19 due Matadi Jun. 20, Douala Jun. 25, Abidjan Jun. 29.

**EASTBOUND** — DAFRA 'X' sig. Houston Jun. 25 due New Orleans Jun. 27, Monrovia Jul. 15.

**PALM LINE**

**SOUTHBOUND** — ELMINA PALM due Appapa Jun. 6; ILORIN PALM due Warri Jun. 6.

**NORTHBOUND** — KANO PALM sig. Tema Jun. 6; LOBITO PALM sig. Abidjan Jun. 6.

### N. Y. K. LINE

**WESTBOUND** — SAIKYO MARU Tema Jun. 15/17, Lagos/Appapa Jun. 18/27, Douala Jun. 28/30, Abidjan Jul. 3/4.

**EASTBOUND** — SAIKYO MARU Tema Jun. 15/17, Lagos/Appapa Jun. 18/27, Douala Jun. 28/30, Cotonou Jul. 1/2, Abidjan Jul. 3/4, Takoradi Jul. 5/6.

### MITSUI OSK LINE

TACOMA MARU sig. Kobe May 7 due Lagos Jun. 10; HAWAII MARU sig. Kobe May 19 due Lagos Jun. 24, ARIZONA MARU sig. Kobe Jun. 8 due Lagos Jun. 17.

**MAERSK LINE**

**INWARDS** — From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan: JOHANNES MAERSK sig. Kobe Jun. 5 due Luanda Jul. 2.

**OUTWARDS** — From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Takoradi: NOVIA sig. Luanda Jun. 11 due Matadi Jun. 12.

**SCAN-LOYD AB**

HOEGH AUGVALD due Boma/Matadi Jun. 10, Luanda Jun. 16, Lobito Jun. 19, BANDA sig. Rotterdam Jun. 12 Rouen Jun. 15 due Boma/MATADI Jun. 30.

**SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE**

**NORTHBOUND** — TORONTO CITY sig. West Africa Jul./early Aug. due discharge Scan. Aug; CIRRHUS III sig. W.A. Jul. for discharge Scan. Aug.

**ROYAL INTERCOASTAL LINES**

**INWARDS** — STRAAT FORCADOS sid. Japan Apr. 18 due Lagos/Appapa Jun. 1, Tema Jun. 10, Takoradi Jun. 11, Abidjan Jun. 15; STRAAT VAN DIEMEN sid. Hong Kong Apr. 6 due Dakar Jun. 2, Luanda Jun. 16.

**OUTWARDS** — STRAAT FORCADOS from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt. Hong Kong, Japan early Jun. STRAAT VAN DIEMEN Nigeria/Ghana to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan mid/end Jun.

**FARRELL LINES**

**HOMEWARDS** — AFRICAN MOON sig. Lagos/Appapa Jun. 6 for Port Harcourt, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito, Abidjan Jun. 18, Monrovia U.S. Ports: AFRICAN MERCURY sig. Lagos/Appapa Jun. 20 for Douala, Matadi Jun. 27, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. Ports.

**OUTWARDS** — AFRICAN MERCURY due Freetown Jun. 7 for Monrovia Jun. 9, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Jun. 16, Lagos/Appapa Jun. 18, Douala, Matadi.

**AFRICAN SUN** due Monrovia Jun. 23 for Abidjan, Tema Jun. 29, Lagos/Appapa Jul. 1, Matadi, Luanda, Lobito.

**WESTWIND AFRICA LINE**

**EASTWIND** sig. Houston Jun. 7, New Orleans Jun. 9 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown; BLUENA FORTUNA sig. New Orleans Jun. 22, Houston Jun. 27 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown.

**THE E.A.C. LINES**

**SOUTHBOUND** SARGODHA sig. Hamburg Jun. 1, Antwerp Jun. 3, Rotterdam Jun. 6, Rouen Jun. 9, due Freetown Jun. 17, Abidjan Jun. 20, Lagos/Appapa Jun. 22, Douala Jun. 30.

**NORTHBOUND** — WIMBA sig. Douala Jun. 2, Abidjan Jun. 6 due Antwerp Jun. 16, Copenhagen Jun. 21, Aarhus Jun. 24, Oslo Jun. 27, Rotterdam Jul. 4.

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# Dateline Africa

## NIGERIA

### Hassan confirms 1976

The newly appointed Federal Commissioner for Establishments and Service Matters, Maj-Gen Hassan Usman Katsina, has assured the nation that the Federal Government was determined to hand over power to a constitutionally elected civilian regime in 1976. "We are determined to hand over power to civilians in 1976 as earlier promised in order to create a good history of military rule."

Gen Hassan was addressing newsmen on his way to Argentina to represent the government at the handing of power by Argentine military to an elected government headed by Dr Hector Campora. He noted that his presence in Buenos Aires would reassure "sceptics" that the military would not remain in power longer than necessary.

He called on Nigerians to ensure that the country would not be mismanaged in future. He said that there was much pleasure-seeking among the people and warned that this attitude was not conducive to nation building.

Gen Hassan carried a message of goodwill from the Head of State to the Argentine authorities on the hand-over. On his future, Gen Hassan said "I am still a soldier, the present assignment is only temporary and I shall still be in the army until I attain the retirement age or I am retired."

- A commission has been appointed to probe the conditions of Nigerians working in Equatorial Guinea. Future labour relations between the two countries will depend on the findings of the commission, the Federal Commissioner for Information and Labour, Chief Anthony Enahoro, has said. He had been on a visit to Santa Isabel at the head of a government delegation for

on-the-spot assessment of allegations of arrests and harassment of Nigerians there.

At present, over 30,000 Nigerians, mainly recruited under the 1971 labour accord between the two countries, are working there. Chief Enahoro said it was difficult to know the exact number of Nigerians working in Equatorial Guinea because many took up jobs without the government's knowledge.

Asked about the alleged non-cooperation of the Equatorial Guinea Government, Chief Enahoro said: "The issue is a very delicate one now, it is better not to say or do anything lest we jeopardise the interest of Nigerians now working in that country."

### Youth Corps decree

The Federal Government has promulgated a decree establishing the National Youth Service Corps. The decree provides that every Nigerian up to the age of 30 qualifies for membership after a first degree at any university in the country and will serve for only one year. Nigerians up to the age of 30, who graduated from universities outside the country, also qualify for service, if so ordered by the Federal Government. The Government can extend the programme to other Nigerians who attain the age of 30. The Service Corps will have a directorate headed by a chairman.

- Explaining aspects of the Federal Budget to the West African Committee, Nigeria's High Commissioner in London, Alhaji Sule Kolo, said that the exchange control order of April 1, 1972, would only apply in respect of certain imports. The Federal Government

would not insist on Nigerian importers getting their supplies on credit terms except where they wished to import plant and machinery costing over ₦100,000, he said.

"If we do not seek credit for the bulk of imports, it seems to me perfectly logical that whenever such is the case, we should not be charged interest on such imports by our suppliers." The High Commissioner expressed concern over heavy payments that Nigeria had to make on the services account.

- Certificates awarded by Nigerian and Soviet educational institutions are to be mutually recognised by the two countries following signing of a protocol in Lagos during the visit of the Soviet Minister of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, Mr. V. P. Yelyutin. The Soviet Union will increase its scholarships to Nigeria from 110 to 130 yearly and further talks are to be held on secondment of teachers.

The Federal Commissioner for Education, Chief Abdul Ike has described the signing of the protocol as a "serious step towards meaningful cooperation between the two nations in the field of education." Chief Ike has since left Lagos for a two-week tour of the US.

- Locally made goods are to carry certification marks to guarantee that their quality conforms to required standards, the director of the Nigerian Standards Organisation, Mr. David Ogun, has said. He announced that a council - the Nigerian Standards Council - has been set up for the purpose. He noted that efforts being made by his organisation were aimed at giving consumers confidence in local products.

## Nigeria and oil companies

Shettima Ah Monguno, Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power and current President of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has described as "negative" the attitude of major oil companies following failure of the Tripoli negotiations. Products were not begging for a price increase but rather asking for full and just compensation for loss of revenue following US dollar devaluation, he said. The extraordinary meeting called by OPEC at its headquarters in Vienna, following the failure of the Tripoli talks, has been held.

After two meetings between OPEC members and Western oil companies in Geneva, the Iranian Finance Minister, Mr. Jamshid Amouzegar, said "a lot of progress" had been made in price negotiations. "We are having a detailed discussion of this very complicated problem", he said.

- The last performance of an opera, based on the exploits of King Jaja of Opoho, whose resistance to British influence led to his capture and subsequent exile to the Caribbean has been staged in Lagos.

- A 15-man Italian economic mission arrived in Lagos on a two-week visit. The leader of the delegation expressed "the desire of his country to make available to Nigeria its technological know-how and experience". The delegation will visit Kano, North-Central, East-Central and the South-Eastern States.



Guests at a party in London for the new Information Counsellor at the Nigerian High Commission, Mr. Scott Enuakpor (centre). The host was Prince Ade Adakoya (second from left).

• Mr. Haruna Bin Musa has been appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to Egypt in succession to Mr. Osman Ahmadu-Suka who has since been reposted. Mr. Musa was director of the African department of the External Affairs Ministry.

• Standard Bank of Nigeria has made a net profit of ₦4,790,000 and would pay a dividend of 33 per cent the highest ever paid by any bank in Nigeria for the year ended March 31, 1973, the chairman, Mr. C.P. Johnston, has told newsmen in Lagos. He said that over ₦3.2m dividend had been declared but payment was subject to the approval of the Central Bank. There are 4,000 shareholders and the government and public hold 49 per cent of the shares.

On the bank's loan policy, Mr. Johnston said "We gave more than 50 per cent to Nigerians last year as against the government recommendation of 40 per cent." He added that of the 77 branches of the bank, 55 are controlled by Nigerians.

• Virtually all land in the North Central State is owned by the government and persons or organisations occupying land are tenants. Governor Abba Kyari has told visiting East Central State Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Urban Development, Mrs. Flora Nwakuche. This contrasts with the situation in the East Central State where the government has to acquire land for public use from private owners. Mrs. Nwakuche was in Kaduna to study the master plan for the state capital, particularly in road development.

• Governor Usman Faruk has called for the establishment of two universities in the northern states to cope with the tremendous expansion in education.

• The South-Eastern State Government has closed down the *Victorian Standard*, a daily newspaper in Calabar, for another period of 12 months. The newspaper was first closed down in 1970.

• Two area court judges in the North Eastern State have been dismissed and a third demoted. The Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General, Alban Buba Ardo, has announced. He said that three other judges were being tried departmentally by his ministry for alleged abuse of office.

• The North Eastern State Ministry of Land and Survey has announced that eight towns are to be re-planned to stop the influx of young people into Maduguiri. The towns are Potiskum, Gombe, Bauchi, Nguru, Jimeta, Yola, Mubi and Dadin Kowa.

• Mr. James Oladipo Williams has been named the new director of Public Prosecutions for Lagos State. He succeeds the former DPP, Mr. C.O.O. Bada, who has been made a judge of the high court of Lagos. Mr. Williams was the former legal adviser to the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power.

• The Director-General of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Christopher Kolade, has told Governor David Baumoye that work on a new transmitting station and a broadcasting house in Kwara State will begin soon.

## GHANA

### Bauxite mine agreement

The Government and the British Aluminum Company Ltd are to set up a joint company. The Ghana Bauxite Company Limited. An official statement said the Ghana Government will hold 55 per cent of the equity shares and the British firm 45 per cent in the company, to be incorporated in Ghana.

"We are confident that the new partnership will make an important contribution to the economic life of Ghana and will operate to the benefit of all concerned, the people of Ghana, the employees and the shareholders," the statement said.

No details have been published of the compensation which is to be paid to the company, in which the US firm of Reynolds has an interest, or of the method by which compensation is to be paid.

• A group of American and Japanese financiers are reported to be ready to invest between 30 and 50 million dollars in projects in Ghana.

The group's shares in the various ventures would be held through Indesco (West Africa) Limited, a Ghanaian company headed by Mr. Krobah Eduser, one of Dr. Nkrumah's leading ministers.

Mr. James Zoe, President of Bureau of Securities Corporation of New York, is reported to have said in Accra that the group would acquire two Boeing 707 aircraft for the Ghana Airways Corporation, provide air-conditioned coaches for inter-city transportation, trawlers for the fishing industry, and would establish a sugar refinery in Ashanti. They would also engage in oil and gas exploration, Mr. Zoes said the group's decision followed talks with Government officials and Ghanaian private businessmen.

Mr. Thomas Nishizaka, Director Co-Ordinator of Sumitomo Shoji Company of Japan, told the press conference the group had noted the favourable investment climate in the country, and he would recommend to his firm the possibility of further investment.

• Major General Acheampong for the Commissioner for Land Commission, visiting the Omnibus Services Authority was told that 15m worth of spares were available at the central maintenance depot for buses. Only fifteen buses were operating in Accra. General Acheampong ordered the rehabilitation of 30 Leyland buses, saying that one must be on the road by the end of the week.

• Col. Acheampong has opened Liberty House, a new building in the centre of Accra, built for Ghana Commercial Bank, which is now 20 years old. The building now does 60 per cent of the commercial banking business of Ghana and has 100 branches in Ghana and other banks, as well as London and Lome branches. Its profits in last financial year were 3.4m cedis. Well over 80 per cent of the loans are to Ghanaian private or state enterprises. The bank is planning longer term loans particularly in agriculture. A subsidiary company has farm machinery and equipment. The staff number over 3,000 and staff Ghanaian.

• Two transport aircraft of the German airforce have been air-lifting American relief grain, landed at Tema from Accra and Upper Volta to help the drought-stricken areas. Cattle feed from the Tema food complex is to be flown later to other stricken states. Grain is also going to Upper Volta by sea transport.

### Acheampong and OAU

Colonel Acheampong said the influence of the OAU in the relations between the various African States has been a blessing.

"Many problems resulting from our colonial past but already been resolved. Those still unresolved are being actively contained with a view of their eventual elimination."

"We are now witnessing a new spirit in Africa, a new desire for co-operation and collaboration for the common benefit," he said.

Colonel Acheampong referred to the colonial struggles in Angola.

### OAU stamps

Special stamps have been issued throughout the country to mark the 10th anniversary of the OAU. An official statement said the aim was to show Nigeria's unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the OAU.

• A talk on trade unions broadcast by Radio Television Kaduna pointed out that although it is universally accepted in most parts of the world that trade unions should be free from Government intervention, it has apparently become necessary for the Federal Military Government to step into the field of the labour unions in Nigeria. "The Federal Government is to promulgate a decree which will provide for the recognition of only one central labour organisation. This development in the case of the labour movements in Nigeria puts to shame the entire bulk of the labour unions, as the Federal Government is taking this step due to the inability to come together and support their cause as a united front".

Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Zimbabwe and Namibia and the resistance movements in South Africa. He urged African countries to commit themselves anew to the liberation struggle.

• Ghanaian workers have been called upon to rededicate themselves to the African liberation struggle and the OAU by Major Asante. He was addressing a workers' rally in Accra as part of activities to mark the 10th Anniversary of the OAU.

He observed that in 10 years the OAU had witnessed a number of achievements and setbacks in the liberation struggle but "in face of all the interference and intrigues of imperialism and neo-colonialism, we have continued and will continue to fight".

## Legon and Lonrho

The *Legon Observer* stated in an article that it would be wrong for African governments to worry unduly about the fate of Mr. Rowland as Lonrho's chief executive. It was absurd to suggest that he was "the newly-found patron saint of African economic emancipation". The essential thing was to make it clear to whoever was in charge of Lonrho "that we have our national objectives from which we shall not be deflected by anybody whatsoever". African leaders must be told that what was at stake in "all the boardroom bickering in London" was the fate of Lonrho and not the future of Africa.

### CORRECTION —

In our issue of May 21 a photograph appeared of Mr. Tony Rowland, Managing Director of Lonrho, in the company of Mr. M. M. Chairman of Lonrho (Zambia) and Mr. S. W. K. Ogunbade. Mr. Ogunbade was depicted in the caption as a Director of Lonrho (Nigeria). In fact Mr. Ogunbade has no connection with the Lonrho Group and there is no such entity as Lonrho (Nigeria) although the company has a variety of interests in Nigeria. A number of well known Nigerians are directors of the separate Lonrho companies there. EDITOR

• All institutions and places named after Maj-Gen. Sir Edward Spears, former chairman of Ashanti Goldfields Corporation (AGC) and his wife, are to be replaced with Ghanaian names. The Commissioner for Lands and Mineral Resources, Maj-Gen. D. C. K. Amenu, told a miners' meeting at Parkwa that he had ordered that the changes be effected immediately.

A number of places including residential areas and educational institutions at Obuasi where the AGC's gold mine is situated, are named after General Spears who was the Corporation's chairman for many years until Lonrho took over the mine four years ago. The Ghana Government has since acquired 55 per cent shares in the mine with Lonrho holding 45 per cent.

General Amenu gave no reason for the action, but recently employees of the AGC had called on the Government to replace all institutions named after General Spears and his wife with Ghanaian names.

The influential bi-weekly, *The Spokesman*, had also reported General Spears as having said the Ghana Government would not have acquired majority shares in AGC if he had remained chairman. *The Spokesman* quoted him as saying if he had remained chairman of AGC "Ghanaian colonels and majors could not have looked a British major-general in the face and proposed such measures".

• A meeting of the Ghana-Ivory Coast Border Demarcation Commission has ended with a call to African leaders not to apply rigid laws to border problems.

The Commission's Vice-Chairman, Mr. Louis Antoine Aduko, said "As Africans our problems should not be solved through rigid laws, but rather in an African context." Mr. Aduko led the Ivory Coast delegation in the six-day meeting of the Commission which takes place every six months. The Ghana side was led by the Commission's Chairman, Mr. James Metzer.

• Pope Paul has appointed the Right Rev. Rudolph Akalu as Bishop of Navrongo. Bishop Akalu succeeds the Right Rev. Gerard Bertrand, who resigned because of ill-health.

• A three-man committee has been appointed to find out who are the paramount chiefs in the Volta Region according to customary law. The committee will enquire whether all such chiefs should be members of the Volta Region House of Chiefs and whether they are sufficient to constitute a house.

• The Registrar of the West African Examinations Council, Mr. V. Chukwuemeka Ike, has left Accra for New York on the first leg of a month's study tour, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, of educational measurements and research centres. He will also visit Sweden, France and East Africa.

• Dr. Robert Oteng, director of the National Standards Board, says a list of firms producing shoddy goods is being prepared. Some firms have had previous certificates withdrawn.

## SIERRA LEONE

### Detainees released

Among a number of detainees now released are Dr. Hadi Conteh, Mr. Dwight Neal, the BBC's correspondent, and Mr. Morlat Kamara, who as a private led the rebellion against the Juxon-Smith military regime in 1968 but was later alleged to be

concerned in a plot against the present civilian regime. Others released are reported to be former members of the banned United Democratic Party, established as a breakaway three years ago by Dr. Mohammed Forna, former Minister of Finance, and others.

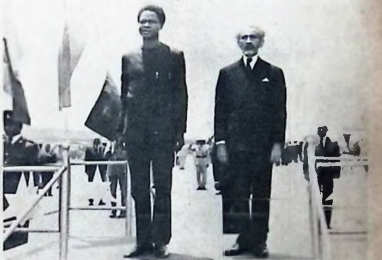
• Navrongo has been declared a disaster area following a severe rainstorm which rendered the population of 18,000 virtually homeless.

A police report said the rainfall, the heaviest in the area since 1923, caused damage estimated at 200,000 cedis.

Government buildings, educational institutions and farms were among the worst affected.

• Lever Brothers (Ghana) is to step up its production of Key soap by 25 per cent over last year's to prevent shortage. The planning manager, Mr. John Akpokavie, has announced.

• Ghana and Uganda have agreed to increase trade. Ghana is expected to buy cotton from Uganda. Uganda is interested in Ghana's textiles, beverages and other manufactured goods. Business visits are to be encouraged.



The Vice-President, Mr. S. I. Koroma, seen with Emperor Haile Selassie on his arrival in Addis Ababa for the OAU Conference. He led a 16-man delegation which included the new Minister of External Affairs.

• In the newly elected Parliament Mr. Justice Percy Davis has been elected Speaker in succession to Sir Emile Luke who did not offer himself for re-election.

• Speaking to a delegation from Moyamba District the President said that now the election was over people could concentrate on their occupations.

The prices of farm produce continued to soar and there was a great deal of money in circulation. On one day recently the Government Diamond Office had pur-

chased stones to the value of Le60m.

• A census is to be held soon to assist the government in national planning and in keeping a check on foreigners, the President has announced. At the same time he said that a committee would soon be studying ways of reducing the number of public holidays and non-working Saturdays. The President was speaking at Kenema on his first visit to the provinces since the election.

• Mr A B Pailla, an SIPP leader, has joined the APC.

• Colonel J S Momoh, the Force Commander, has been promoted Brigadier. His deputy, Lt Col Sam King, and the battalion commander, Lt Col Tarawalie, have been promoted Colonel. Brigadier Momoh, who is 36, joined the army in 1958.

• In the first of two programmes on Njala University College broadcast by the Voice of America, village leaders in the Njala area have explained the college's work in improving living standards. The Principal, Dr S T Mattion, said that Njala students were made familiar with local problems.

• External reserves at the Bank of Sierra Leone now exceed Le40m.

• Dr Ronald Krost, consultant to the government-controlled diamond mining firm Dimenco, has retired.

## LIBERIA

### Plot trial opens

The trial for conspiracy of the Former Defence Assistant Minister, Mr Prince Brown, and two army officers entered its seventh day without the selection of a jury being completed.

Both prosecution and defence exhausted their rights to challenge jurors and summonses had to be sent out for more prospective jurors.

The defendants are on charges of plotting to assassinate President Tolbert and his two brothers, the Finance Minister, Mr. Stephen Tolbert, and the President of the Senate, Mr. Frank Tolbert.

According to the indictment, the President was to have been killed while inspecting the British prototype of the Anglo-French Concorde at Roberts International airport on January 22 this year.

Liberia's only coup d'etat since it became an independent Republic in 1847 occurred in 1871, when President Edward James Roye was removed.

• The International Monetary Fund has approved a stand-by arrangement for Liberia authorising purchases of currencies up to the equivalent of 4 million special drawing rights (about \$5m) for a period of one year. The arrangement, the tenth for Liberia, will permit the Government "to proceed with its policies of diversifying and developing the economy", says an IMF communique.

"The slowdown in Liberia's economic activity, which became evident in 1971, continued during 1972. This was the consequence of adverse external developments, particularly a decline in the world market price for rubber and a hesitant recovery in demand for iron ore", recalls the IMF.

"Present indications are that there will be a recovery in economic activities in 1973 emanating largely from a marked improvement in external demand. Government revenues are also expected to recover and the authorities are pursuing fiscal policies aimed at stimulating and diversifying the economy".

• An agreement on a project costing some \$4m, has been concluded with a Dutch company known as the Liberia Beach Sands Exploitation Company. The Company, which will exploit an area of about 233 square miles, between the Costos and Cavalla Rivers in Eastern Liberia on the Ivory Coast border, was granted rights for 40 years. The company will extract minerals such as rutile, ilmenite, nephelite and zircon. Preliminary prospecting began in 1967 and is now completed.

• The Chase Manhattan Bank has promised to help in developing livestock raising in Liberia.

## CAMEROON

### The road to unity

In the general elections of May 18, the single list of 120 candidates received 3,293,428 votes. A total of 3,295,005 people voted, with 1,577 spoiled papers. The number of registered voters was 3,348,989. The percentages were votes cast for the list, 99.98 per cent, registered voters voting, 98.41 per cent. The list was drawn up on May 3, after a meeting between President Ahidjo and party chiefs. It was drawn up from 2,650 candidates from Cameroon's seven provinces. The largest number of nominations were from the Maritime Province (around Douala), which submitted 425 candidates for its thirty-six seats, and the smallest was for the Northern Province, the most densely populated region, which put forward only 205 names for 36 seats. The two English-speaking provinces which constitute the former West Cameroon (North-Western and South-Western) have twelve seats each.

*A correspondent writes:*

The elections, falling almost exactly on the first anniversary of the referendum which approved Cameroon's new unitary constitution, marks completion of the process begun a year ago. All the institutions of the new unitary state have now been set up, and the old federal institutions abolished. The two regional assemblies and the Western House of Chiefs, for instance, ceased to exist last December. The division of Cameroon into seven provinces was approved last July, soon after the new unitary government was set up.

In fact the process marks the completion of the reunification process begun when the former Southern Cameroons voted to leave Nigeria and to join the Cameroon Republic in 1961. Since then the various features which marked the separate existence of the former Southern Cameroons, such as the customs barriers, the number of small political parties and trade unions, the separate police force, have all been eliminated, so that the separate governments and

parliaments have become increasingly symbolic and meant much waste duplication of effort. The English language is obviously still used and efforts to make Cameroon a bilingual country still have a long way to go, but there is no significant resentment at the process of integration. If certain privileges have been lost others have been gained. Also, the vote in 1961 was a conscious choice, when Anglophone Cameroonians still sustain. There was also satisfaction that because they were out of Nigeria they were not drawn into the civil war.

## CENTRAFRICA

### Bokassa accuses France

President Bokassa has accused an unnamed "foreign embassy" of having been transformed into a "post of subversion and provocation using certain sons of the country to destroy the situation in the CAR". The attitude of this embassy, says the President, was dictated by "bitterness and hatred" having definitively secured independence to CAR. He indicates that the embassy referred to must be France.

• Severe new penalties have been announced for trafficking in diamonds. Traffickers of whatever nationality will be liable to periods of between five and 20 years, and to confiscation of all their goods and seizure of offenders to forced labour for life.

## MAURITANIA

### Enter the ougiya

Minister of Finance Soumaré Diarramoune has said that Mauritania's new currency, to be launched before November, will have the name ougiya (with 1 CFA franc) and that the new 1 CFA franc Note of 1,000, 200 and 100 ougiya will be circulated, as will pieces of 20, 15, 5 and 1 ougiya. All notes and coins will be inscribed in both French and Arabic in parity of the new currency had been chosen to "renew economic agents" and to upset the habits of Mauritians as little as possible.

## CONGO Elections and referendum

Elections are to take place for a new 115-member national assembly and local councils on June 24. A constitutional referendum will take place on the same day.

- The Political Bureau and the State Council have approved the setting up of a National Security Corps under the Defence Ministry to replace the old national and military police. M. Antoine Makouangou, former Ambassador to Bangui, is to head the new corps.

- The USSR and the Congo are to set up joint industrial companies to exploit mineral resources. The companies will start work late in 1974 on deposits of lead, zinc and iron in the region of Fouta, 190 miles west of Brazzaville. The announcement followed the visit to the Congo of a delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It was also announced that President Nguabi had accepted an invitation to visit the USSR at a date to be announced.

- Congolese trade unionists have called on their leaders to speed up revision of "outdated cooperation agreements" with "certain countries". A motion adopted by the Trades Union Congress meeting in Brazzaville "accused imperialism" of "maintaining the targets set by colonial pacts". They also denounced imperialism's "barbaric interference in the internal affairs of states", and the "extension and strengthening of its hold over means of production and trade". Imperialism was accused of using development plans and technical and cultural aid as means of putting pressure on developing countries. The development was denounced of "machinery" to "pillage the African wealth by the constitution of a neo-colonial economic empire built on the framework of the European Common Market and the Yaoundé Convention". The unions also pointed to "the spectacular growth of

American interests in many African countries".

- A resolution has been passed by certain units of the Peoples National Army calling for the reintroduction of a political and ideological work programme in the army, with the intention of eliminating certain putschist tendencies still present after the "Diawara adventure".

## DAHOMY

### Education reform

The National Educational Reform Commission, beginning a two week meeting in Porto Novo, was told by Education Minister Captain Hilarie Badjogoume that it should draft an educational system "which is integrated into an overall political and economic strategy which excludes the hypocritical notion of neutrality". He went on, "the fight against foreign domination has no need of this harmless and demobilising weapon no more than the fight against the endogenous reproduction of an elite class. When the fox is loose in a free hen run can you really speak of freedom?" Without going all the way with Lenin, who preaches a "schoolless society", but without also describing this as "harebrained", the Minister said school should become a part of life and cease to exist as a separate entity. The minister called for a "Dahomeyanisation of education", and a progressive promotion of Dahomey's national languages as "tools of the transmission of knowledge and instruments of functional literacy".

## ZAIRE

### Mobutu in Italy

At the end of a week-long private visit of President Mobutu Sese Seko to Italy, a communique was issued saying relations between Zaire and Italy had been given a decisive boost. The communique underlined Zaire's vital role in relations between Africa and Europe on the eve of the renegotiation and extension

of the Yaounde Convention. Much of the Zaire President's visit was occupied in talks with industrialists, including the state-owned industrial combine IRI, and the state-owned fuel company ENI. It was noted that he omitted any call on the Pope, although he is a Catholic. This was placed by observers in the context of the continuing difficulty between the President and the Catholic Church over "authenticity". Nevertheless the Italian press gave the Zaire President a favourable reception.

- West Germany has pledged aid of \$100m in the current year to Zaire, after the visit to Kinshasa of Co-operation Minister Erhard Eppler. It is to be used in a number of development projects, notably road-building. Bonn is also to increase its technical assistance to Zaire, and place a large number of scholarships at the disposal of Zairese students.

- A Paris court has fined former Zaire Minister Cleophas Kamitatu 1,000 French francs for "insulting" Zaire President Joseph Mobutu in a book called *The Great Mystification of Congo-Kinshasa*, subtitled *The Crimes of Mobutu*. The book, published two years ago, was banned in France.

## GUINEA

### Kerekou visit

President Sekou Toure has denounced "the recent servile step" taken by African States to associate French and English speaking Africa with the European Common Market. The step had been taken "under the orders of the masters of yesterday and today to create a great bloc under the domination of colonising Europe," he charged.

President Toure was speaking at the official welcome in Conakry for Major Mathieu Kerekou, the Dahomey Head of State, in Guinea on a state visit.

"The constitution of a true African unity must be based on African currency and solid economic institutions," he said.

He also warned that a new attack was being mounted

against his country in Guinea Bissau and certain neighbouring states. He said Guinean and foreign mercenaries were to take part in the attack and all the preparations for the aggression were already completed.

In his reply, the Dahomey President said his visit to Guinea was a pilgrimage "to the cradle of democratic revolution in Africa".

## EEC

### Invitation for July meeting

The Common Market countries have agreed to start drafting an invitation to developing Commonwealth countries and the Community's existing African associates to open negotiations for a new association agreement, probably at the end of July.

However, the precise nature of the agreement to be offered remained unclear at the end of the Council of Ministers session, as did the exact number of countries to be invited.

The invitation will be sent formally to the 19 Yaoundé Convention countries and 19 Commonwealth ones in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. But the Community is also considering offering similar treatment to Ethiopia, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan.

Mr John Davies, the British Minister for Europe, said he "was optimistic that the other Community members would accept the British view that the Nine should not demand reciprocal trade advantages from the developing countries". He was surprised how wide agreement was on this point.

One way to make an arrangement without "reverse preference," compatible with GATT, would be to seek a waiver under Article 25, Mr Davies suggested. But he said the first priority was a clearer definition of the proposed new association system.

It was also the feeling of the Council that the developing countries should start the negotiations with a free hand, not necessarily committing themselves in advance to the form of link they wanted with the Community, said Mr Davies.

## DROUGHT

## Lake Chad one-third normal size

A report from Fort Lamy says that large areas of Lake Chad are now mudflats as far as the eye can see. Fish lie dead or dying in the mud, which is so deep that villagers cannot wade out to pick them up. The lake has reportedly shrunk to a third of its normal size, and for the first time it is possible to wade across parts of it from Chad to Nigeria. In the south of the lake large numbers of elephants from Chad and Cameroon have gathered around what is left of the water. Most of Chad's three million head of cattle and goats have moved to the south of the country but it is estimated that 300,000 have remained in the north, with little hope of survival.

● A resolution passed by the World Health Organisation Annual Assembly in Geneva calls for immediate food aid and medical help for African countries hit by "unprecedented drought and threat of imminent famine".

● Pope Paul VI has appealed for governments to aid countries affected by the drought, saying that private aid was insufficient.

● President Pompidou told the French cabinet that France had a duty to help the drought-hit countries, and developing countries could count on France to give exemplary help when they needed it.

● The British Government is contributing £300,000 to the FAO in response to the Director-General's appeal for donations to a special \$15m. trust fund to provide animal feed, vaccine and well-deepening equipment for the drought-affected states. This is in addition to the EEC aid, of which Britain will bear her assessed share, said a government statement.

● Three US C-130 aircraft have been made available to fly food and supplies to the affected areas in Chad and Mali, after requests from the respective governments. One of them has already arrived in Bamako.

● UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim had urgent consultations in Rome with FAO chief Addeke Boerma on the drought crisis.

## UPPER VOLTA

## Assembly head criticises government

National Assembly President Joseph Ouédraogo has accused the Government of timidity in dealing with the country's development problems. Opening the new session of the Upper Volta Parliament, Mr Ouédraogo called on the Government to make new foreign friends, who would provide the investment cash to launch a number of developing projects. Main aid-giver to the former French colony remains France.

M. Ouédraogo said that a number of projects which have been canvassed for several years by the Ouagadougou Government, such as the mining of manganese deposits at Tambao, the integrated development of the three Volta rivers, and of the sugar-growing area of Banfara, could all be carried out over a short period, and would provide at least 10,000 new jobs. The government lacked the "political deter-

mination" to put through projects "whatever the price and the political consequences", M. Ouédraogo said, adding that Upper Volta international relations had to be adapted to the national interest. He said that the Government was over-influenced by the "country poverty", and that its actions were dictated "by the goodwill of friendly donor countries".

Immigration of Upper Volts to neighbouring African countries was only a "palliative" to the unemployment problem, M. Ouédraogo declared. The country should refuse to be a cheap supplier of labour, and a mere outlet for European and even African products, he said.

He said the Government feared to approach "all banks and all sources of finance" and urged it to make a new effort to attract investment and to introduce a "bold" new spirit into the management of the economy. The President of the National Assembly claimed that development projects he mentioned would produce profits at a higher level than the current world interest rate for investment loans.

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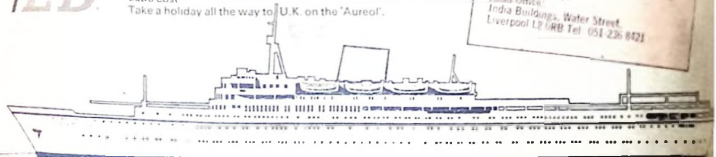
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