

West Africa

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Amin and Africa

Because of the difficulties which will arise if some 50,000 British citizens suddenly arrive in Britain from Uganda, perhaps destitute and certainly demoralised, General Amin's expulsion of the Asians is being treated as a unique case. In fact, although this time there are special difficulties because the country to which the Asians will go is already overcrowded and is not the land of their ancestors, the history of African in recent years has been marked by expulsions or flights of thousands across the international boundaries.

Whatever the sins of colonialism, the colonial regimes made possible large-scale migrations for economic reasons. There was free movement inside Africa between, for example, Nigeria and Ghana, or between Togo and the Ivory Coast. At any one time a majority of adult males in Fernando Po were Nigerians. In addition, there was free movement from the Asian parts of the British Empire to the African ones and there was no particular obstacle to the settlement of Lebanese and Syrians in both French and British West Africa. When independence came in Africa many newly independent states found that they were playing host to large immigrant communities, African and other, who sometimes appeared to dominate certain sectors of the economy.

Even before independence, local people in Africa had sometimes shown hostility to immigrant communities. The most notable example in West Africa was the flight of many thousands of Ewes and Dahomeyans from the Ivory Coast, producing such a problem in Togo that the UN was asked for help (the UN refugee office then established has just been closed on the grounds that this job was over). The Ewe refugees from the Ivory Coast in Togo were joined by large numbers from Ghana, by no means all of whom came over for political reasons. After independence there was the expulsion by Sierra Leone and Liberia of Fante fishermen from Ghana.

The greatest flight of immigrants in West Africa, however, far more serious than the one General Amin is now dictating, was that ordered by the Busia regime in Ghana. Precise figures are still unknown. But the people affected certainly far out-numbered those now

being compelled to leave Uganda, at least 30,000 being driven out into Western Nigeria alone. It is true that these people were being forced to return to countries where either they or their ancestors had been born; but the brutality of the expulsion and the damage it did to the economy were probably far more serious than they will be in Uganda. In this a democratically elected government and a military dictatorship, and probably for the same hysterical reasons, behave in the same manner.

Legislation designed to restrict the commercial activities of aliens has led to the departure of a number of Asians and Lebanese from Sierra Leone and Ghana, but in these cases it was types of enterprise and not categories of people who were, in theory at any rate, affected. Nigeria's indigenisation decree will drive out large numbers of Indians and Lebanese, but once again, this is not a measure directed against any racial group but a move to advance local interests in commerce in particular fields. Indeed Nigeria, with The Gambia, still has an admirable record of hospitality to immigrants, in spite of the troubles experienced by Nigerian emigrants elsewhere.

The political turbulence of the former Belgian Congo and the bitter tribal conflicts in Burundi and Rwanda have forced tens of thousands of people to flee from their homes to neighbouring countries. So did the civil war in Southern Sudan. It should be remembered that Uganda was one of the main countries to which these people fled - it is said that there were as many as 60,000 Tutsi from Rwanda and 150,000 refugees from the Sudan in Uganda. There are refugees from Portuguese territory, and political exiles from almost every independent African state in almost every other one. Zaire has recently expelled large numbers of West Africans originating in many countries, but most appear to have been designated "Sierra Leoneans" or "Senegalese" because of their alleged connection with illicit digging or diamond smuggling. Even before independence Sierra Leone was obliged to expel many thousands of people, particularly Mandingoes, believed to be concerned in the same activities



wholesale nature of the expulsion) then although repeated expulsions in this case seem to have had little effect on the problem.

In most, but by no means all, of these cases there has been heavy suffering and loss of property. If the Asian exodus from Uganda can be organised in an orderly fashion and if - which now seems unlikely - the Asians will be allowed to remit the value of their property (even if this will be artificially reduced by the

● Nigerian officials in business

● Ghana's subversion trial opens

● Sir Dauda in London

this flight may cause less suffering than many others Africa has seen in recent years. Since a former Conservative government so cheerfully committed itself to accepting East African Asians with British passports there should never have been any equivocation about accepting them now. Happily the British Government soon accepted its responsibility and the problem now is one of practice not principle. We believe that General Amin will cause suffering which can be of no service to Uganda, and that he will further damage an already ailing economy. The charge that the Asians have been "sabotaging" the economy is so vague as to have no meaning. The Asians may, indeed, have brought their fate on themselves, by their social exclusiveness (with which the Lebanese in West Africa cannot be charged) and by their failure to train or advance Africans in their enterprises (a failure in which the Lebanese in Africa do share). But unhappily, in view of the African record, General Amin can be forgiven for feeling that the fuss now being made about his intentions is unfair to him. Yet this latest example of the attempts of African states to achieve a "closed system" is so cold-blooded and precipitate that it has rightly attracted condemnation. Whatever the faults of the Asians in Uganda or of the British who have final responsibility for their presence there, women and children should not have to suffer for them.

African High Command

Reasons why an African High Command is not at present a practical idea have been given by Brigadier Obasanjo, one of Nigeria's military leaders during the war and now head of the Engineer corps, in a paper read to the Nigerian Society of International Affairs. The chief reason, he suggested, was the poverty of African states and the dependence of so many of them, notably ex-French colonies, on some form of outside military assistance. He did not believe that differences in official languages or types of equipment and training were a serious obstacle since groupings such as NATO had succeeded in overcoming this. What was more serious were the poor communications between African states, many of whom still have to communicate with each other through a European capital. There was also still a degree of suspicion between Francophone and Anglophone states. Moreover, it was much easier for the régimes against which an African High Command would be directed to collect military intelligence in independent African states than it was for these states to collect information in, say, South Africa. He saw the proposed "African unity road" from Nairobi to Lagos as being of military as well as economic importance and urged its extension.

Brigadier Obasanjo did not even feel that regional military commands would be present work; they had to face the fact that they would have to begin from scratch, by establishing a permanent military branch at OAU. This should become a clearing house and a collection centre and attempt to co-ordinate the activities of liberation movements in assistance to them. Only when such an organisation showed that it could work effectively could they start to talk of an African High Command.

Who goes to Munich?

As we go to press the African boycott of the Olympic games because of the participation of Rhodesia has assumed serious proportions, with the announcements by Ethiopia and Ghana that they will boycott the games unless Rhodesia is forbidden to take part. Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Zambia, Sudan, and Uganda have all said they will do the same. More African nations are likely to respond to the appeal by the new OAU Secretary-General, Nzo Ekwangaki, to boycott the games — Kenya just done so (August 17).

Why is Rhodesia in Munich at all? The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, a non-governmental organisation in which all national sporting committees and councils are represented, has been acting in the African interest here, and deemed it acceptable that Rhodesia could participate as long as it did so under the colonial name of Southern Rhodesia, and under the pre-UDI (Union Jack) flag, with a multi-racial team. This may have seemed to be a satisfactory compromise, as it corresponded with the view of most African states that Rhodesia is still Britain's responsibility, however odd it may seem that African states should be so enthusiastic for any country to demonstrate colonial status.

What was perhaps unforeseen was the willingness of the Smith régime to stand on its head and accept any inconsistency in order to take part in the Olympics, reckoning shrewdly that the prestige to be gained from taking part would more than counter-balance the comic illogicality of their stance. The glee with which the news of Rhodesian participation was received in Salisbury shows the true thinking there on this subject. Colonel Acheampong in his reply to Mr. Ekwangaki's appeal, which was circulated to OAU members, reasonably described Rhodesian policy as "using backdoor tactics to achieve international respectability".

Col. Acheampong also raised the equally important question of African solidarity on this issue. It must be said that the OAU initiative has come very late, at a time when many states have already sent their teams, some with high hopes, to Munich. It must have been a hard decision, for example, for the Ethiopians, with the prospect of more than one gold medal at Munich, to withdraw their team. But the Emperor,

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clear of vision as always as far as African interests are concerned, seems to have realised that the prestige of the OAU had become involved, and that high political interests were at stake. The Ethiopian and Kenyan withdrawal also gives the lie to those who say that only those who stood very little chance at Munich have been enthusiasts for boycott. The attitude of Nigeria will be important here.

There are some, however, who will be reluctant to follow suit, not only because they oppose boycott on principle, but also because they feel that the concessions made by Rhodesia are adequate. A number of people who had looked forward to going to Munich will be disappointed, including a number of African leaders, ministers, and even tourists. Most of Nigeria's Military Governors, for example, are expected to be among the visitors. Mr. Abraham Orba, the Nigerian President of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, has called on all African countries to attend the games, saying that if they refused they would break faith with the International Olympic Committee and "Africa will not be taken seriously in future". But there is a strong head of public opinion in Nigeria against any Rhodesian participation. Dr. Okoi Arikpo, External Affairs Commissioner, said that he hoped the Nigerian Olympic Committee would give serious thought to the OAU boycott call. He hoped they would "do nothing to negate" Nigeria's foreign policy.

One problem is perhaps that the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has tended to view matters entirely through a sportsman's eye, without sufficient sensitivity to the political issues, while OAU and the African governments must have assumed that in this the council

would reflect African political opinion. For, although the ideal of sport without politics is laudable, it has on many occasions been impossible to ignore political implications in sporting events. The obsessional desire in some quarters to see a Rhodesian participation is, after all, already a political attitude. It is Africa's athletes who will cause Africa to be taken seriously in sporting terms. And with Rhodesia gloatingly taking part in the games, a cloud is cast over the seriousness of Africa, in any case. Sadly, it may be a little late for effective action.

Crisis in Chad

The paucity of reliable information on what is happening in Chad at the moment makes effective analysis of the situation there difficult. However, going on what information has been available, the political situation appears delicate to say the least. Of positive news available the most worrying has been the wave of arrests which have taken place, following sabotage attempts and alleged plots in June. Although the names of all those now detained are not certain, enough are known to indicate a widespread crisis of confidence in the regime surpassing anything which the rebel organisation Frolinat might have caused.

The latest arrests have been those of two southern Chadian ministers, Antoine Bangui and Marc Douma, the former having formerly been one of President Tombalbaye's most trusted confidantes. There had been grounds for believing that since many of the arrests were of Northern Moslems, the reconciliation was breaking down, but the malaise would appear now to be deeper than simply one of regional tensions. There is now a

significant group of the southern elite, notably from M. Tombalbaye's own Soudanese people, who feel that the present leadership in Chad is deficient. If they are ally with disaffected northerners, as Tombalbaye now seems to claim, it may in the long run be a more effective route to national unity than any which the present government may contrive. In this context, one should note, too, that the strong man of the regime seems more a more to be a Moslem Northerner, the Interior Minister, Mahamat Douba Ali.

Thus the generalisations which have been made about Chad's north-south division seem not applicable in the present situation. The present malaise springs not so much from the actions of Frolinat in the north and east than from French military intervention, which although officially over, can still be reckoned as continuing in disguise, having averted off the serious military threat. Diplomacy has also limited support for Frolinat, notably from the Sudan and more recently Libya. What now could give them renewed importance is the canker within, coming in part from the disastrous economic situation, caused by the effects of years of unrest on an already piteous economy. Declining production plus a permanent crisis over *fin du mois*, the monthly supplies of cash in the treasury for paying civil servants have led to an atmosphere of desperation.

President Tombalbaye is still seeking to renew his image by the means of "cultural revolution" and other slogans. Yet he can no longer be sure who supports him. Traditionally the ranks of the civil service, and above all the army, both of which have large southern majorities have been Tombalbaye's people. But are they any more?

NIGERIA

Civil Servants and Business

Since the resignation of Mr. Reginald Maudling as British Home Secretary, there has been much discussion in West Africa about the behaviour of public men in his position. In this article Professor Udo Udo-Aka of California State University, Sacramento, examines another aspect of the relationship between public men and commercial activity which he thinks to be particularly important in Nigeria now.

In recent months there has been concern in Nigeria about the extent to which public officials participate in the private sector. The Nigerian Chamber of Indigenous Contractors formally complained about this practice. Last year, the East Central State's Association of Indigenous Businessmen charged that high public officials were competing with its members in business ventures. The State Government responded immediately with a strong warning to civil servants to refrain from such participation or to continue "at the risk of severe disciplinary action." The problem raised deserves serious consideration at the highest level of government, and the purpose of this article is to identify the issues involved and to evaluate their implications for government efficiency and integrity.

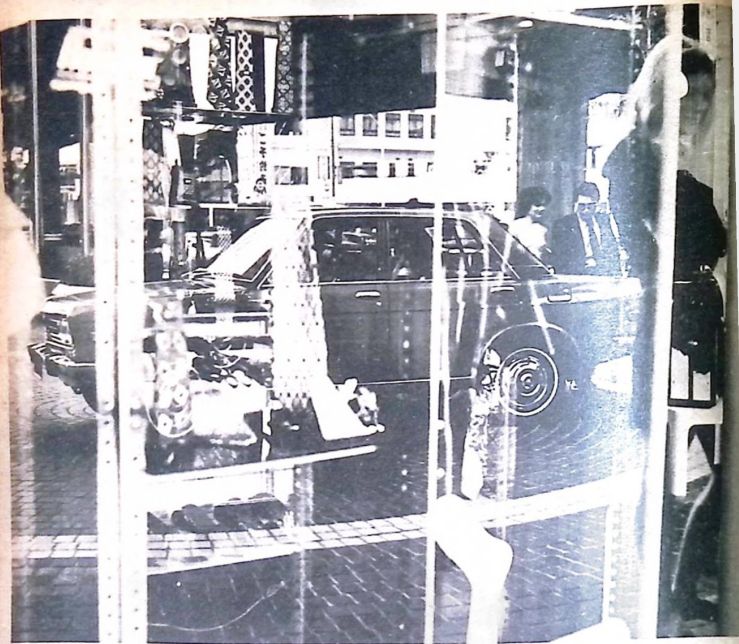
The major issue is that of conflict of interests, a much more serious matter than a mere threat of competition.

Conflict of interests refers to the possible clash between the duties of a public official and his economic interests. The fundamental principle of good government is that public officials be impartial and independent, and that public office be not used for personal gain. A discussion of conflict of interests raises very important questions. Should a public official continue his private practice in a field in which he makes official policy decisions? Should he maintain his previous relationship with a contracting firm, for instance, if such a firm bids for government contracts? What limits should be put on appointment of relatives, and in a tribal society, what constitutes a relative? In conflict of interests, should civil servants be treated differently from politicians? These are only a few of the questions that come to mind when discussing conflict of interests. An apparent conflict of interests usually

creates the appearance of impropriety and is often open to public criticism and outcry which can lead to a loss of confidence in the government.

Historically, conflict of interests is not a new issue. There is an injunction in the *New Testament* against one person serving two masters. Plato in *The Republic* prohibited kings from holding personal economic interests. These warnings were aimed at avoiding the appearance of impropriety, and the issue is as important today as then.

The growing outcry in the private sector in Nigeria is evidence that there is an appearance of impropriety on the part of many officials. This situation is new in Nigeria, nor is it absent in other countries. To some extent, conflict of interests is a universal problem, but its incidence is more pronounced in a developing country like Nigeria. By any standard, morality in government



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Nigeria has always been low. Some officials are public servants only in name. It is well-known that in Nigeria self-aggrandizement is the rule not the exception. Bribery, corruption, and nepotism have, unfortunately, become deeply ingrained. During a state visit to the North-Central State last December, General Gowon regretted "the absence of ideals and the preponderance of materialistic and selfish tendencies." He challenged the Army to lead the crusade against corruption by striving "at the noblest of ideals and by maintaining the highest standard of morality in our public life . . . to rid the country of all forms of despicable practices which tend to retard our progress as a nation." In Nigeria, corruption is a generally recognised national problem, and its eradication is regarded as a national goal.

It is well-established that a corrupt government is an inefficient government. The recent Progress Report on Nigeria's Four-Year Development Plan emphasises the inefficiency of government agencies and departments. The emerging issue of conflict of interests is particularly important as Nigeria legitimately moves toward greater local participation in the ownership of enterprises previously wholly owned by foreigners.

To reduce inefficiency in government competent citizens must be attracted into the service. Equally important is the need to protect the government against venality and to preserve the integrity of its policy-making machinery. The Nigerian government, like all governments, is faced with a serious dilemma. The pressure of this dilemma is more serious for the Federal Military Government, because of its publicly declared determination to rid the country of corruption before returning it to civilian rule. Because of this, the Military Government has been watched more critically by the public than was the first civilian government.

Conflicting interests

Some members of the public have called for a decree to ban high-ranking officials from participating in any type of private business. This is clear evidence of public concern about conflict of interests. This concern may intensify as more Nigerians participate in every level of the private sector. It is inconceivable, however, that a decree with such drastic provisions would be enforceable, even if it were desirable. It may make it more difficult to attract competent people into public service. In future competent Nigerians are likely to refuse to accept government appointments as more become qualified to pursue lucrative private professions. But the need for qualified and dedicated people in public service will remain insatiable.

As the Nigerian economy develops, with increased Nigenianisation of the private sector, it will be difficult to find qualified and experienced Nigerians with no personal economic interest of any

kind. A decree with drastic provisions against conflict of interests would certainly exclude many people from public service. Experience and expertise are often acquired in other fields and public service can benefit when people bring their expertise into government service.

Nigeria already has a law against some conflicts of interests. Part 3, Chapter 12, Section 1516 (101), of the Criminal Code deals with public officers' interest in contracts. It states:

Any person who, being employed in the public service, knowingly acquires or holds, directly or indirectly, otherwise than as a member of a registered joint stock company consisting of more than twenty persons, a private interest in any contract or agreement which is made on account of the public service with respect to any matter concerning the department of the service in which he is employed, is guilty of a felony . . .

Section 1517 (102) of the same chapter of the Code deals with officers charged with administration of property of a special character or with special duties. It states:

Any person who, being employed in the public service, and being charged by virtue of his employment with any judicial or administrative duties respecting property of a special character, or respecting the carrying on of any manufacture, trade, or business of a special character, and having acquired or holding, directly or indirectly, a private interest in any such property, manufacture, trade, or business, discharges any such duties with respect to the property, manufacture, trade, or business in which he has such interest, or with respect to the conduct of any person in relation thereto, if guilty of a misdemeanor . . .

Generally speaking, various sections of the Criminal Code, specifically Chapters 11, 12, 13, deal with conflict of interests, though not specifically so called. These chapters respectively deal with Disclosure of Official Secrets and Abstracting Documents, Corruption and Abuse of Office, and Selling and Trafficking in Offices. Civil Service General Orders also prohibit high officials' participation in certain private business activities which may be construed as a conflict of interests.

If properly enforced, Section 1517 (102) of the Criminal Code is relatively adequate for tackling the emerging issues of conflict of interests. The same cannot be said about Section 1516 (101), because of an oversight which makes it meaningless. The wording of this section overlooks the fact that even in a joint stock company of more than twenty persons one member can have virtual control by owning the majority of shares. An official with more than the hon's share of ownership in a registered joint stock company of more than twenty persons, if interested in government contracts, is exempted from this section's

provisions. This is shortsighted and anachronistic in modern Nigeria, considering the increasing importance of joint stock company in business.

The existence of conflict of interest or the appearance of it, can militate against public confidence in the integrity of the government. In Nigeria, conflict of interests is so commonplace that the people regard it as a natural part of public life. It is necessary and very important that this attitude be changed as we seek to create a new Nigeria and preserve the integrity of its institutions.

Corruption decree

The long-expected decree on corruption will probably attack the problem of conflict of interests, at least in the short-run. A law or decree is useless unless it is enforceable and enforced. It is important to draft laws that can be enforced, and administrative rules that are workable. These laws and rules must be interpreted and applied without respect to personalities involved. Officials guilty of malfeasance should be prosecuted. Open complaints or widespread suspicions about public officials should be investigated to prevent scandals and demoralisation of the staff.

The long-term solution of the problem will be tackled when a new constitution is adopted. It will dictate the form of government and the allocation of powers and control of appointments. Methods of selecting those who control top-level appointments should be designed to reduce chances of favouritism and conflict of interests. Appointment of a high public official should be made only after a thorough check of his background.

Those under consideration for high positions in the government should be required to disclose their assets as a part of the check. People with clean records would gladly disclose their sources of income as a matter of honour.

High public officials, appointed or elected, should be required to disclose their financial holdings as a matter of public record. It should be required that such officials file a disclosure statement annually with an appropriate authority, describing the nature and extent of their financial holdings in excess of, say, £5,000. Such a statement should include investment in shares, stocks and real property.

This requirement is not an invasion of privacy, it is a means of assuring the public that the ethical standards of officials are above reproach.

Attention to this issue of conflict of interests is not a luxury; it will become increasingly serious as the country develops. The time is right, however, to recognise the need to attract more and more competent people into public service, while protecting the integrity of government policy-making institutions. Over 2,500 years ago, Confucius said: "the successful administration of Government depends entirely upon the selection of proper men". How true!

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MATCHET'S DIARY

Thousands of distillers of akpeteshie (local gin) throughout Ghana are out of a job because of a shortage of molasses - legally the only raw material which can now be used for distillation of the spirit. Supplies have been suspended from the Komenda Sugar Factory since June 17, and there is a similar situation at Asutsuare. In the Ashanti Region alone over 6,000 akpeteshie distillers are said to be out of a job and production has gone down accordingly, rendering another 8,000 retailers temporarily idle. The picture is the same in other parts - 1,200 distillers and retailers are said to be idle in the Central Region while a drum of molasses in the Eastern Region now costs 44 cedis instead of the controlled price of 18. Said a spokesman for the Co-operative Distillers Union in the Eastern Region "after all, when the factory was in need of harvesters, we all volunteered to help. It is strange that the management should now treat us in this way" But despite the suspension of sales by the factories some distillers have been able to

obtain molasses, which, it is alleged, they do not use themselves but hoard to sell at exorbitant prices to other distillers. Many distillers have threatened to go back to the use of other raw materials, such as pineapples and bananas to produce akpeteshie, and if the situation gets much worse one could see a return to the use of such lethal agents as brasso and boot polish. In a comment the *Daily Graphic* urged that the whole system of supplying molasses from the factories should be examined "because what is happening looks seriously like the kind of fraudulent racket which cannot go unpunished with all the severity contained in the anti-hoarding decree". A spokesman for the Komenda Sugar Factory earlier announced that 4,000 tons of molasses would be released for distribution through the Ghana Co-operative Distillers Association. The akpeteshie crisis is a sad comment on the commendable efforts of the Government to make Ghana independent of imports by encouraging local production.



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Theresa Luck Akinwale shows one of her charcoals of Gen. Gowon to Alhaji Magaji Dambatta, Information Attache at the London High Commission, who opened the exhibition

Six portraits of General Gowon are a main feature of the "one-man" exhibition being held at London's Africa Centre by Miss Theresa Luck Akinwale of Abeokuta. Of these charcoal portraits seem to be the most effective - remarkably effective considering that Miss Akinwale, who has spent most of the time since 1957, when she came to study nursing, in the United Kingdom and has had no opportunity of painting or drawing the General from sittings. Her other portraits include the Queen, Emperor Haile Selassie, Chief Awolowo, the late Brig Ogundepe, and Miss Margaret Feeny, of the African Centre itself. ("Here's to you, Margaret Feeny, M.B.E." is the title). Miss Akinwale's oil paintings are very colourful but they do not show the same professional touch as her pastel and charcoal drawings or the lino-prints. Her exhibits are for sale and she now calls herself an artist by

profession. She studied at Camberwell School and at the City of Guilds School and has worked as a teacher in a Hertfordshire secondary school. She has had earlier exhibitions and has been commissioned to illustrate books.

Legal argument can be expected following the decision of a Judge sitting at Aba, in Nigeria's East Central state, that a contract made in the secessionist area during the rebellion was not necessarily invalid because of the illegal nature of the secession and the lack of standing of the secessionist area, of which the present East Central state was a part. The Judge said that since the particular contract, one between a Nigerian businessman and an expatriate firm for the sale of a car, could not be said to have been intended to "aid and encourage" the illegal régime there was no reason why it should not now be enforced. The Federal

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Government, very soon after the end of the war, felt it necessary to validate marriages contracted during the secession, but I am not clear about the Federal Government's attitude to other contracts of a purely private nature made in a secessionist area.



My photograph shows the President of The Gambia, Sir Dauda Jawara, during his visit to the exhibition "Mandingo: A Civilization" at the newly named "Museum of Mankind" (this was formerly the Ethnography Section of the British Museum, but there has been no change of status.) Also in the photograph are Lord Trevelyan, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum; Mr. William F. Keener, Keeper of the Museum of Mankind; and Mr. B. O. Sesay, High Commissioner in the UK. Left is The Gambian High Commissioner in the UK, Mr. B. O. Sesay. Showing the President around the exhibition were Mr. William F. Keener, Keeper of the Museum of Mankind; Lord Trevelyan, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum; The Gambia, which is one of the West African countries with a Mandingo population (indeed the main one with a population that is actually called Mandingo), is an important contribution to the exhibition, and to the recent Mandingo Conference as a whole. The President has been on a private visit to London before going to the opening of the Olympic Games in Munich. He is also due to visit Taiwan in October, on his second official visit there; the Gambian Government supports the Formosan régime, which provides technical assistance in culture to The Gambia.

According to a Home Office statement, 18,496 visitors from Nigeria entered Britain between July 1, 1970 and May 31, 1972. The figure for Ghana is 8,434, for Sierra Leone, 2,417, and for The Gambia, 339. During the same period 398 visitors from Nigeria were re-entry, 215 from Ghana, 14 from Sierra Leone, and 40 from The Gambia. It did not conform to the regulations, a total of overseas visitors to Britain during the period was over 10 million; 2,700 were Americans.

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"African Realities" in Ivory Coast

For the first time since independence in 1960, there is open talk — and also apparent acceptance — of the need to reform the Ivory Coast's educational system to make it more reflective of and responsive to "African realities".

The latest move came from the country's trade union of secondary school-teachers (SYNECI — *Syndicat National des Enseignants du Second Degré de Côte d'Ivoire*) at its second national congress in early July. Mrs Angele Gironsoa, who was elected union President, repeated in her closing address the remarks of the Ivorian Education Minister, Mr. Paul Akoto Yao. "The reform will be neither against any given culture, nor against a given system, nor particularly against a given country". After asserting that the reform is not another expression of the *esprit contestataire* of the so-called progressive trade unions (a clear reference to the communist-dominated teachers unions in France), Mrs Gironsoa said, however, that the "effectiveness of our system resides in its integration in our culture".

At the end of three days of discussions, the union adopted a series of recommendations and papers defined as "primary work of national interest". In a paper called "Socio-cultural Aspects", the authors attempt a definition of the term "development", which, they say, is a global notion which cannot be deduced from any one of its individual aspects. Development, according to the SYNECI members, should be defined as the "integration of the infrastructure and of structural elements, all of which are engulfed in the same process of evolution and of constant integration".

Contradictions in education

In addition to this, and other somewhat theoretical definitions on relations between culture and development, on education and politico-economic development, etc., the SYNECI document makes a series of practical recommendations and calls on the government to accept them "at its earliest convenience".

The working paper explains the *malaise* of the present system and reveals its contradictions. The first contradiction is between the increase in the number of school children and the maintenance of the selective nature of the school system. This means a drop-out rate between the middle and higher stages of two-thirds to four-fifths. These drop-outs have no particular professional qualifications, remain unemployed, and are a total waste for the development process.

A second contradiction is between the need for a large Ivorian teaching corps

and a degree system based on foreign (French) traditions, which restricts the chances of graduation for nationals. The document states that in certain schools the percentage of national teachers varies from 0-10 per cent. "The foreign teachers, despite their good will and competence, constitute a great loss of capital for our meagre resources. In fact, in all countries, the national cadre is much cheaper..."

Conversation with an Anglophone

The third contradiction concerns the content of the national curriculum. "Our will is to form men fully conscious of the needs of this country". This target cannot be fulfilled with the present curriculum although SYNECI notes that in some areas certain improvement can be recorded (e.g., the teaching of African literature was increased to make up 50 per cent of the literature course in next year's programme).

The SYNECI document points out the deficiencies in the university, professional, secondary and primary systems. It also complains that even after a student completes ten years of English, he is "incapable of conducting a conversation with an Anglophone". Arabic is the most important foreign language on the continent, according to the document's authors, and should be introduced at least at the university. Vernacular languages are at present completely ignored, and should be introduced, mainly to allow education of the rural masses in modern methods of farming and hygiene.

In medicine, the document calls for the integration of *chérisseurs* (healers') therapy into the general study of medicine.

Much effort was put into appeasing foreign teachers, who dominate the present Ivorian educational system. But it is obvious that if the Ivorianisation of the system — at present completely equivalent to the French — is to take place the number of foreign teachers will have to be substantially reduced. A new problem may arise, however, as many of the foreign teachers are Francophone Africans, from Dahomey or Togo, rather than French expatriates. The document does not refer to these.

The contents of the document approved by the SYNECI is, undoubtedly, quite revolutionary and of far-reaching implications. Yet the teachers went out of their way to emphasize the mature, considered and constructive spirit of their deliberations. What they are trying to achieve, in fact, is a painless and gradual revolution through evolution.

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People

Fred Agbeyegbe is leaving his post as legal assistant/research officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London to undertake research at the Yale Law School into Africa's contribution to international law between 1960 and 1970. From next September until June 1973 he will work at Yale University in the United States and will then have a year's field work which will take him all over Africa, beginning in Addis Ababa. Born in Ekirode town, Warri, in 1942 Agbeyegbe was educated at the African School, Forcados, BNA Eybohigbae in Benin, Holborn College, London, and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University College, London. When he went to Nigeria last Easter it was his first trip home for 10 years. Will he ever go back for good? "Inevitably — it is just that my process of education is not yet complete. But I hope to be there in 1976 to contribute what little I know, if I am required."

In London he has been involved in student affairs at many levels: he was secretary of the Warri Society and he single-handedly drafted the constitution which brought the Midwestern Nigeria Students Organisation of Great Britain and Ireland into existence in 1965; he was secretary of the Organisation for Nigerian Unity, a body "dedicated to the Unity of Nigeria", formed in the early 1960s, which agitated for a unitary state. In the war years he was a founder member and treasurer of the Midwest Emergency Committee (formed to combat the powerful Biafran propaganda effort in Britain) and was a founder member and assistant secretary of the Nigerian Students Action Committee, formed in 1967 with similar aims. He was also a member of the planning committee of the World Youth Assembly in Geneva and has held various posts with the United Kingdom branch of the United Nations Student Association: this led him into a five-week stint as a student intern at the United Nations in New York, where he worked as though he was an employee of the world body, except that he received no pay. He arranged a forum on "Poverty, Race and Armaments" as a contribution to the 25th anniversary of the World Organisation and organised, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of African Affairs, a mock sitting of the International Court of Justice on whether UN member states would be acting unlawfully if they recognised the Smith regime in Rhodesia. Between these activities he has found time to write numerous newspaper and magazine articles. A recent contribution to this magazine (*Kwame Nkrumah: despot or martyr?*) led to his being attacked by another Nigerian at London's Africa Centre: his assailant objected to his views and Agbeyegbe suffered serious damage

to his right eye. He was off work for three weeks before the doctors were convinced that there would be no lasting ill-effects. It is typical of Agbeyegbe that he has expressed his feelings about this incident in a poem, *Where were you at Harvest*, which will form part of his contribution to a book of poems written by himself and two other Nigerians, Emmanuel Jegede and Richard Abeson. A number of his poems and short stories have been broadcast on the BBC and he is currently revising one chapter of his thesis, *The Legal Basis of the Commonwealth*, "to take account of Britain's entry into the Common Market, which is happening faster than I expected". Tom Kellock, the director of the legal division is also leaving soon. He and Agbeyegbe started the section, which has dealt with problems ranging from preparing a study of the border dispute between Zambia and South Africa to organising the Commonwealth Law Ministers Conference, to be held in London next January.

Planning a tour of Dahomey, Togo, Niger and Nigeria are Peter Brook, associate director of Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company, and a group of actors from the International Centre of Theatre Research, an experimental theatre group based in Paris. The tour, scheduled to begin in November, is different in concept from most tours of Africa by theatrical companies for a start explains Brook. "No one will be expecting us. We shall arrive unannounced, and our first job will be to establish human relationships. If and when we have been accepted I hope they'll be sufficiently interested in what we do to ask us to perform". The aim of the troupe, which consists of 11 actors and the writer, Ted Hughes, will be to explore the possibilities of direct communication without eliminating words altogether — "a form of theatre which acts like music, something which makes the same impression anywhere in the world without reference to language".

For his "unique contributions to the literature of the world", Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of letters by Dartmouth University, USA. The citation referred to Achebe's solution to the dilemma facing African writers of using their native language with little impact outside their country or of having native ideas distorted through a strange language. "You have modified English to suit its African surroundings. Your language is enriched by the use of the idioms and metaphors; you have created an instrument powerful enough to capture the spirit and vitality of your people and at the same time analyse experiences that are important to all of mankind". In addition, "your works have helped Africans to find a new pride in their history. At the same time you have helped the rest of us to understand the sensitivity of African culture and the serious damage inflicted by colonialism".

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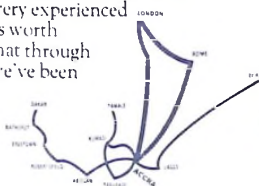
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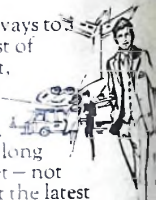
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Books and Publications

Crime and Punishment

The Nigerian Penal System by Alan Milner (Sweet and Maxwell, 14 50)

Everybody in Nigeria today talks of a "crime-wave". But apart from this very justifiable description very little is known about the pattern of crime, the characteristics of the offenders, the efficacy of legal machinery in dealing with crime, and above all about the details of present penal methods and the deterrent or reformatory nature of various kinds of punishment. Dr Milner spent some time at Zaria and his book is accordingly up-to-date to deal with the picture since the end of the civil war. This is a pioneer work about what he calls "the techniques used to deal with those who break the rules... in other words the sentencing and treatment of offenders". Because of the scarcity of information he says that no more than an introductory essay is possible now, but he still hopes that his study may have some value, and in particular that at a time when the country is being re-organised some of his suggestions might prevent the taking of worse decisions which, if taken now, may damage the penal system for many years.

On the whole Dr Milner is dissatisfied with Nigeria's penal system, and particularly with the "repressive and punitive" attitudes of the British-type criminal law and courts. He finds that the sanctions of "customary law" may have "more relevance to modern criminal problems than has usually been allowed".

Some of the book is of a technical nature — there is, for example, a long discussion on the questions of "binding over" and of forfeiture and disqualification; but most of it should interest anyone concerned with Nigeria's social situation. For example there is a discussion of the probation system, which Dr Milner concludes with these remarks: "Probation may work but how does it work? Supervision by a probation officer" is an expression which covers a wide variety of techniques and relationships. It may be convenient for the courts to remain unaware of the details of this variety and leave it to the probation service itself to devise appropriate methods for different cases. But the probation service cannot then escape the responsibility for a rigorous examination of its methods, so that it can be better able to see in advance the type of treatment which will be likely to succeed".

Dr Milner is not afraid to ask the simple question: in Nigeria's situation do

prison sentences "do any good"? On the whole he feels that prison staff do their work extraordinarily well under great difficulties, particularly in the smaller prisons, yet he points out that the staff are trained only to be "custodians". The system "offers little opportunity for the prisoner to gain experience of real responsibility in his relations with the community, which after all is the essence of personal social readjustment. Only in a system such as that operated for a very small number of prisoners in Kakuri can one discern the beginnings of genuine training for social responsibility.

"Without question, experience acquired during imprisonment does have an influence for the better upon many prisoners. Although prison labour, education and recreation are measures which help in prison adjustment, they are nevertheless steps away from simple policies of retributivism and deterrence

and in the direction of improving individual. A man who has achieved literacy, acquired trade skills, or reached a modest educational level, in many senses be 'better' than one who has not — but if he has not also acquired social skills to accompany these intellectual achievements, he will often be in a happier overall position in the 'out-community'. Altogether "the prospects for the social readjustment of the charged prisoner are not good."

Dr Milner goes on to declare: "If prisoners or warders gave any serious consideration to the belief that the threat of imprisonment had anything to do with preventing future crime it was seen a consequence which might follow arrest and conviction but not one which could or should be avoided: what had to be avoided was arrest, and then no possible consequences of any sort could follow."

"Whether imprisonment effectively prevented crime is dubious. With escape routes open to prisoners especially since so much work was done on outside work parties, and perimeter security was so often inadequate... frequently got the feeling that the other prisoners who stayed in prison were those who felt no pressures to leave..."

There is much more stimulating discussion; but in view of the present controversy about public executions Dr Milner's comments on this form of punishment are important: "The military influence is obvious and in the civil war circumstances of 1967 one can see that offences of a security nature might well

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be treated in a military fashion. The justifications which can be offered for providing military-type executions after the war is over are not convincing. A tribunal passing the sentence will be specially convened, subject to special procedures and of a quasi-military nature and some of the offenders will be former soldiers. In a sense, therefore, the Government sees itself as conducting a military operation in which military executions are appropriate. The discretion as to method will presumably allow the authorities to order the use of a 'civilian' method of execution where a convicted offender is engaged in 'ordinary' robbery activities.

"The finality of the death penalty is certain extent limits the scope of arguments about its efficacy. By its nature it cannot be a constructive force promoting the social readjustment of an offender; and equally, by its very nature it is the perfect preventive measure. The offender is effectively disabled by committing any further offence. An argument about the merits of capital punishment must therefore be confined to its retributive appropriateness and general deterrent efficacy".

No independent African country, Mr Milner notes, has considered the abolition of capital punishment and in consequence very little has been written about it.

"Yet the very uncertainty that a sentence will be imposed helps to give lie to the argument that the death penalty has a greater deterrent effect. Just robbers threatened by the 1970 legislation are seldom caught; so Indian burglars and offenders are not always prosecuted against, and murderers are convicted and hanged in only a small proportion of cases... if the chance of execution following murder is only one in ten, a positive deterrent effect of the possibility of execution cannot be called substantial. Those offenders who consider the consequences at all, must always believe that they will escape capture and become liable to suffer any penalty. Some, it is true, may well be deterred from a criminal course by the anticipation of serious punishment - and by many of such people there are none known - but the regularity with which capital crimes are committed suggests that the attractiveness of benefits paid by the criminals is only too often seen to be as out-weighting the risks in being caught.

"Nigerian research, too, is not advanced enough to provide the data needed to ground other arguments. Whether life or lengthy imprisonment is an adequate preventive measure, or a repressed murderer proving to be a most reliable prisoner and partial pardoned murderers not recidivating something that we simply cannot see in other countries, true though it may be in other countries. Nor can we detect errors in the administration of justice leading to the execution of the innocent though errors there may well be. Research begins to be undertaken with

more system and seriousness, these avenues will be explored and reasoned argument can then take the place of our present speculation."

A.M.

The Gambia's Attractions

Republic of The Gambia: Tourist and Trade Guide, 3rd and 4th edition (Published by African Advertising Agency, PO Box 574, Bathurst, The Gambia, price 2 Dalasis each)

This volume is really a kind of yearbook, with regular features such as diplomatic list, and names of ministers and heads of government departments. Each one has a potted history of The Gambia and a "Senegal Supplement". In the 3rd edition, this has a French section, which has disappeared from the 4th edition. Number 3 has a short Wolof-English glossary, which in twenty phrases spans what seems to be a complete tourist experience (from "I want to marry you" and "Let's have fun" to "Get off here"). It is a pity that this is missing from Volume 4, which otherwise contains more for the potential tourist to The Gambia, such as an article on the Abuko nature reserve (monkeys and antelopes), a piece about Banjul (the African name for Bathurst) particularly liked a "History of Hotels, Bars and Restaurants in The Gambia", going back to the foundation of the Hotel Metropole in Bathurst in 1926, and passing through the Villa Itoko, which accommodated soldiers in the Second World War, up to the present tourist era, and the rash of new hotels it has brought.

D.W.

Agriculture and Education

Education for Self-help by E. B. Castle (Oxford University Press, Boulds, £1.60, Paper, 85p net)

As two-thirds of the world's population live in Africa, Asia and Latin America at present by the end of the century, Professor Castle says, four-fifths of the world population will be found in the Third World. In this book the former Professor of Education, University of Hull, argues that for development programmes to be effective, there is need for political and social reforms, to curb excessive concentration of power in privileged and wealthy hands.

In the last part of the book, where the author discusses priorities for development and makes a strong case for intermediate technology, he says that reduction of the birth rate and more effective education are necessary for the basic needs of development.

In a book which deals largely with situations in East Africa, Pakistan, and India, which are special interests of Professor Castle, it is the author's case for agricultural education that West African readers will find most useful.

Readers' attention is directed to the

fate of a large proportion of the Third World population whose future depends on land. The author argues that there is need to create a more efficient agricultural labour force. He refers to Phelps-Stokes Commission reports on West and East Africa (1920-1925), which emphasised that the colonial governments had imported their own systems of education to Africa, without appreciating the environment of people whose lives were based on the land.

From this point the author considers that, particularly for neglected adolescents, agriculture is the essential subject. These youngsters, he points out, have passed through five or six years in primary schools. They failed to be admitted to secondary or grammar schools, and no jobs are available for them. The professor then suggests that the primary school leaving age should range from 7-14 years. Such children would be mature enough to perform work on the farms. Arguing from a philosophical point of view, the author submits that development must begin with the land, and so the school must have land, and since development requires manpower, the adolescent manpower of the school must be used.

As a headmaster of an English school for 19 years, and a visiting professor at Makerere University College for five years, Professor Castle declares that developing countries need a new type of teacher, particularly in the management of children. The best arrangement, he advises, for a would-be teacher-farmer would be two years basic training at a teacher's college after school certificate, combined with a year's practical course at an agricultural college.

Developing countries should consider the author's strategies carefully, bearing in mind that even now there are not enough jobs for all school leavers in the wage-earning economy. Consequently, education should enable youngsters to live better and more prosperous lives in agriculture. Readers of this book will discover that the author is not only a specialist in the theory of education, but also in its practice.

Adeyemo Adekeye

African Newsmen

Learn about Newspapers by Bankole Timothy. (Longmans, 12p)

Although this booklet was printed, and very well printed, in Singapore, it is directed chiefly to Africa. The author, now a business executive, was for many years a working journalist, and writing within a 1,600 word vocabulary, he explains very clearly how a newspaper is produced and what are the qualities of good journalism. He discusses the role of news agencies and of advertisements, and at the end has a short section on newsprint. The illustrations are mostly drawn from West Africa and include a very attractive one of the front page of the Sierra Leone Weekly News dated June 27, 1896.

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Letters to the Editor

Bringing Nigerians home

SIR In your issue of July 21, Mr. Igwe gave his reasons why qualified Nigerians abroad would not go home. The question should now be asked whether these reasons are sufficient to scare Nigerians away from their fatherland! After all, no matter what degrees or professional qualifications one has, if the skin is dark one is regarded as a second-class citizen, be it in Europe or in the US. If one is lucky to get a suitable job, promotion prospects are remote.

We must face facts and admit that there are lots of qualified Nigerians in foreign countries who choose to go to factories and do menial jobs as a last resort after all attempts to secure a suitable post had failed. If these qualified menial workers fail to return to Nigeria, they are failures to themselves and shame to the nation. I quite disagree with Mr. Lewis's call for free-for-all passages and duty-free luggage. I wonder how many millions of poor taxpayers' money would then be spent by the Federal Government on Nigerians in UK alone, not to mention other countries.

A loan scheme to pay passages would have been a better proposition. The Federal Government too must be sincere if it genuinely wants qualified Nigerians. Calling for a comeback home at a press conference or giving the goats of qualified Nigerians abroad will not help. What we want is a firm, immediate reply to applications for employment. Our recruitment attaches abroad should work harder and let us know more about vacancies in Public Services; appointment should be confirmed abroad and emoluments better than a subsistence allowance should be paid to attract these qualified Nigerians.

Foreign-owned firms should be compelled to stop advertising for those with long experience, when they are aware that no Nigerian or very few will have such experience. This is because some professional courses are very new to Nigerians and very few actually work in the field in which they specialised. It is common to see qualified Nigerian Accountants working as bus conductors, and qualified insurance men on the counter at the General Post Office. Where then will ten years experience come from? This is the time for Nigerians abroad to think again and answer the comeback-home to develop our nation. It is odd saying that there is no place like home but the Federal Government must realise that this saying is not so when one has to love around in the streets of Lagos begging for jobs in when one is paid a salary less than what one can get abroad even when on the dock.

OLAWOLE ADESEMOYE

London

Even development

SIR Since Mr. Obialo (Aug. 4) has noticed that only South Africa and Rhodesia control internal migration by legislation, he would understand why I was not surprised, but uneasy, over Governor Johnson's call we all are experts in reinforcing our attitudes from "facts". The present population of Lagos consists of Kwame Ninsin and Morgan (Nigeria Engineer, March 1971) of 75 per cent Yombas, the six northern states contribute only 24 per cent to the present population.

Lagos is the capital of Nigeria, but must it continue to be the largest seaport?

The plea for the Federal Government to assist Lagos to cope with diseconomies of industrial agglomeration assumes that central place theory is sacrosanct and fully evolved in Nigeria with Lagos at its hierarchical node. The point is that Nigeria is at its depositive stage of industrial sedimentation, the function of Federal Government planners should be to stimulate even development.

Such a multi-node stimulation should not present planners with any difficulty because we now know enough about regional economics and planning tools to apply, besides, market forces which now attract 60 per cent of the nation's industrial establishments to Lagos must be tamed.

The call of Mr. Obialo to Nigerian planners to think in terms of regional development (infrastructure, housing and services) is timely. Such planning if enforced by legislation will make more sense in my view, until then, to accept the location of 60 per cent of the nation's industry in a region and cry wail at the consequential diseconomies as like accepting the baby but refusing to wash the nappies.

A. E. IROM

London

A new name for Nigeria?

SIR I congratulate the Federal Military Government for the bold step it took in changing our currency to a decimal system. Although the change has long been overdue, it is indeed commendable.

A bolder step in our revolution would be for the Government to change the name of our country. Outside Nigeria, its name is too often confused with Algeria, Liberia, and Niger, and it is hardly distinguished from these countries when mentioned in radio reports. I suggest our historians get down to work to find a suitable and a meaningful name for our

country. This will eliminate the confusion and clearly identify us to the world. Besides, we ourselves will now be awake in a new country, charged with new spirit and dedicated to our country.

How long did it take the Republic of Zaire to be known abroad? Within a very short period the name Zaire is being perfectly written and pronounced. The Gold Coast is a forgotten name for Ghana.

I well remember Dr. Kallu Ezeza once suggested in the old parliament a change of the name of Nigeria to the Republic of Songhai. Dr. Ezeza gave a very convincing historical reason for this. Isn't this name not more meaningful than Nigeria, which has no historical significance?

May I appeal to the Federal Military Government seriously to start looking into this matter.

ADELEKF OGUNLEYA

Luxett, USA

Manding Studies

SIR I should like to take an opportunity, on behalf of the Centre for African Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, to thank you for your excellent coverage of the Conference in Manding Studies which was held here last month, and of our current Exhibition of Manding Art and Civilisation in London.

In your issue dated July 21, you were kind enough to list the names of the many organisations which had contributed to the success of this international cultural event. I should like to take this opportunity of mentioning also the British Academy and the Societe de Petrole BP, who also kindly contributed to its finances.

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Commercial News

International Agreement at stake

CRUCIAL COFFEE TALKS OPEN

The existence of the International Coffee Agreement — which has only a year to run before it is due for renewal — is at stake in the annual meeting of the Coffee Council which began in London last Thursday. A few days before the opening of the meeting, scheduled to last two weeks, a commodity review by Bache and Co. warned that over the years a degree of complacency had developed within the trade which felt however wide differences between rival interests appeared to be, a compromise would always be found — but that this year developments might have got out of hand.

Both consumers and producers have held pre-conference meetings in an attempt to co-ordinate their respective policies. In Geneva, the 13-nation producers co-ordinating committee agreed that the initial world quota for 1972-73, which is to be discussed at the London conference, should be 49m

60-kilo bags. Of this, 46.5m bags would be distributed pro-rata among the producer members of the Coffee Agreement (ICA). Of the remainder, 1.5m would be allocated to the robusta producers, 0.5m to the producers of "other milds" and 0.5m would be shared between Brazil, Colombia and Ethiopia.

The 13-member "Geneva Group" further recommended that when it was necessary to adjust quotas to maintain price stability, adjustments should be made only on a selective basis. They suggested that provision should be made for three increases of 2.5 per cent, when the price of Colombian milds reached 61 US cents a lb, other milds 60 cents, unwashed Arabicas 58 cents and robustas 52 cents. Selective quotas were apparently agreed, but no details have been disclosed. It is understood, however, that there would be no quota cuts for six months.

Discussions have also been held by

producers on the trading company which they propose to establish in a bid to regulate world trade in coffee and thereby increase their foreign exchange earnings. It is envisaged that the company would buy coffee which it considered was being sold too cheaply and sell where prices had risen to a more satisfactory level (the plan to set up such a company is one of the main sources of contention between the producers and consumers).

On the strategy to be adopted for the remainder of the current coffee year, the Geneva Group agreed that members could export that portion of the ICA quota which they have been withholding from the market, on condition that prices were maintained. This decision could allow about 4m bags (the difference between the ICA quota of more than 56m bags and the 50.2m bags pegged by producers minus about 1.8m accounted for by the producers who are not members of the coffee pact).

The members of the producers co-ordinating committee are Ivory Coast, Zaire, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Brazil, Colombia, Portugal, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Peru.

At an unofficial meeting in London, representatives of the major consuming nations agreed that there was little point in discussing quotas and prices for the forthcoming season (which begins in October) if the producers intended to by-pass the Agreement and fix their own quotas and levels. Although there is



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powerful lobby in the United States which is in favour of quitting the Coffee Agreement, other consumers may press for a "no quota" arrangement next year instead of going as far as pulling out altogether. A number of producers, too, might depart from their agreed stand if they felt that threatened actions seriously endangered the coffee agreement. Another possible cause of a breaking of ranks among producers is that some African members of the group feel that their quotas do not reflect the increased output they have achieved in recent years: their priority is to be allocated a bigger share of the market, even if it is at the expense of certain South American countries, such as Brazil.

In Rio de Janeiro, Sr. Alberto de Andrade Pinto, president of the Instituto Brasileiro do Cafe, has stated that the London meeting would be of "paramount importance". "We are embarking on a veritable war, a struggle without quarter. Today the eyes of the world are on the Brazilian panorama to see what we are going to do about coffee. In a scant market, especially as far as Brazilian coffee is concerned, we cannot help but to exercise a certain amount of control". The producers would define their position at the London meeting and "there might be some important changes in the Brazilian coffee policy".

Meanwhile, prices are still high, although they have fallen in the last week in expectation that the producing countries are likely to meet with powerful opposition to their plan for lower quotas and higher prices. The rise began in February when a group of producers decided to hold supplies to the world market at a steady level and to renounce all pro rata and selective gains triggered by the ICA's quota adjustment mechanism. They took this action after the consumer members of the Agreement had refused to sanction price increases to compensate the producers for the loss in real earnings caused by the devaluation of the US dollar. Since this move, the composite indicator for all groups of coffee has risen from 46.08 cents to 57.76 cents, and prices are now 35 per cent higher than at the start of the coffee year last October.

- A new type of tobacco - blue-cured and air-cured - can now be produced in commercial quantities in Nigeria's East Central State. An investigation into its possibilities was conducted last year by the Nigerian Tobacco Company district lead manager, Mr. Jasper Swandu. Coal is being used in treating the tobacco.

- Arrangements have been completed and £4m. released by the Federal Government for the proposed Nigerian Agricultural Credit Bank. The Government has approved the memorandum and articles of association for the bank which will soon be incorporated, with Kaduna as its headquarters.

Ghana takes over Agip

The Ghana Government is to acquire the assets and organisation of AGIP Ghana Ltd. The announcement said the company would be the marketing sector of GHAIP (Ghanaian-Italian Petroleum Company), in which the Government is a shareholder, and it described the acquisition as an extension of an existing collaboration between the Government and the Italian Government Corporation for the Petroleum Industry (ENI) in the distribution and marketing sector of Ghana's petroleum industry. The announcement recalled that when ENI entered into an agreement with the Government to build a petroleum refinery, after several unsuccessful approaches had been made to other companies, there was an understanding on both sides that ENI should develop a supporting distribution company geared to national needs in which the Ghana Government could participate when it so decided. In so doing, the announcement said, it was felt that petroleum policy in Ghana would no longer be influenced by existing privately-owned distribution companies.

- Talks with representatives of mining and timber companies in Ghana on Government participation in their activities have begun in Accra, following a government announcement that participation was part of its "declared policy to

capture the commanding heights of the economy".

- The state-owned *Daily Graphic* has urged the National Redemption Council not to waver in its decision to participate in certain mining and timber companies. An editorial comment said that "as with the earlier economic measures taken by the NRC Revolutionary Government, the money power will certainly oppose the negotiations, because it is from its share in the foreign exploitation of Ghana's resources that it upholds its own power".

- A Decree published last week requires all insurance companies operating in Ghana to sell at least 40 per cent of their shares to Ghanaians by the end of the year. All insurance companies will have to be incorporated in Ghana.

- A dividend of 20 pesewas a share is to be made by the Standard Bank (Ghana) instead of the original proposal for 18 pesewas because of the Bank's improved performance, the chairman, Mr. Herbert Maltus, told the first meeting of Ghanaian shareholders (the Bank has allotted 500,000 shares and there are altogether 3,033 shareholders). A net profit of 922,044 cedis (about £307,000) was made during the year ended last March and the profit available for distribution is 645,186 cedis.

Nigerian Peugeot plant contract signed

The contract for construction of a car assembly plant in Kaduna has been signed in Paris by Peugeot and the Federal Nigerian Government. The factory will initially produce 10,000 vehicles a year.

The agreement was also signed in Lagos by the Federal Commissioner for Industry, Dr. J. F. Adetoro, and Mr. Gerard de Pons for Messrs Automobiles Peugeot. Initial equity capital is put at £1m. with the Nigerian Government holding 35 per cent and the French Company 40 per cent. Fifteen per cent will go to private Nigerian investors and the remaining 10 per cent to distributors. Dr. Adetoro said the venture would serve as a model not only in Nigeria but throughout the developing world. The agreement provided for the training of Nigerians in specialised skills. Dr. Adetoro noted that it was interesting "that Nigeria should be entering into close business 'wedlock' with a French Government-sponsored company soon after the strained Franco-Nigerian relationship of our civil war". In reply, M. Pons said there would be no lowering of standards. "We are aware of the dynamism of this country and with co-operation we hope to make the venture successful". Africa's first Peugeot factory was built in Madagascar.

- Negotiations with foreign oil companies for full government participation in oil exploration are continuing, the chairman of the Nigerian National Oil

Corporation, Mr. Philip Asiodu, announced. Mr. Asiodu emphasised the need for Nigerians to have a majority participation in the industry in order to create an atmosphere of confidence between the oil companies and the Government.

- Occidental's second well in its Nigerian off-shore concession has tested a total of 18,600 barrels a day - the highest flow rate yet for any discovery in Nigeria. The well is situated about 30 miles from Bonny. Petroleum Press Service has commented "A discovery of this size would presumably be welcome to any company, but must be particularly good news for Occidental, currently plagued with a variety of difficulties elsewhere - notably in Libya, where the government recently cut the company's maximum production allowance to well under half its 1970 peak rate".

- Guinness are to build a second brewery in Nigeria, at Benin. The project will cost approximately £N5m. and initially production will be confined to lager. In Cameroon, Guinness already produces and markets Gold Harp Lager alongside stout.

- The Nigerian Ports Authority has promoted three employees to port manager. They are Mr. E. B. Akom, Delta ports, Mr. J. E. Nkpang, Calabar, and Capt. F. O. Egho, Port Harcourt.



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EEC study urged

A conference of African associates of the EEC has recommended that studies of economic problems affecting members should be financed by ECA. The five-day conference was attended by representatives of 15 countries belonging to the African, Malagasy and Mauritian Common Organisation (OCAM). The conference said that the OCAM states should sponsor similar conferences, aimed at integrating development plans, every three years and that members should co-ordinate investment rules. It urged member states to seek aid from FAO for agricultural development, and called for more foreign aid for institutions specialising in the training of African administrators.

● Gabon has been granted a \$756,000 loan for a shortwave telephone beam and telecommunications link between Moulou and the mining region of Loanda and Franceville by the European Investment Bank. A \$2m loan to the Congo has also been approved by the Fund for increasing stocking and handling capacities in Brazzaville port and for the purchase of a deep-sea tug for the port of Pointe Noire. The loan is repayable over 17 years at an interest rate of 1 per cent a year. The Gabonese loan is for a period of 15 years, with a three-year grace period, with interest at three per cent.

Timber chief retires

After six years as Chairman of United Africa Company (Timber) London, Mr. Eric Thorpe retires in September. During this period he was a member of the Council of the Timber Research & Development Association and the Council of the Commonwealth Forestry Association. Before 1966 he served with UAC's associate timber companies in Nigeria and Ghana for fourteen years. Originally joining Lever Brothers in 1945, he came to African Timber & Plywood (Nigeria) Sapele, as Chief Engineer in 1952. Appointed General Manager at

Sapele in 1954, he later became General Manager of the sister Timber & Plywood (Ghana) company at Samtsehoi in 1961. He returned to Nigeria, Mr. Thorpe was awarded the O.B.E. in June 1965 for services to industry in Nigeria, where he was for several years President of the Nigeria Timber Association.

Mr. Richard Davis, succeeds Mr. Thorpe as Chairman of UAC (Timber). For the past six years he has been Managing Director of United Africa Motors, which supervises units in four African countries. Mr. Davis was previously a director of G. B. Oliviant.

United Africa Company (Timber) is co-ordinating centre not only for UAC's timber interests in Ghana and Nigeria, but also for Lever's Pacific Timbers in the Solomon Islands, and Holmes (Wrangby), in Lincolnshire. It has a Timber Research Unit.

● Mr. Emmanuel Ighodaro, manager of the Lagos Sales branch of African Timber & Plywood (Nigeria), has been in the UK attending a Unilever Market Development Course at Oxford. He has also visited the Timber Research & Development Association headquarters to learn about the sponsored research being carried out by them for United Africa Co. (Timber) on the structural use of West African hardwoods. A member of A.I.P. since 1946, earlier this he visited Hungary and Romania as a delegate to a UNCTAD meeting on prefabrication of buildings in Africa and the Middle East.

● France is to grant a loan of 100m CFA francs for forestry development in West Cameroon. Another agreement covers a loan of 220m CFA francs for rice farming in Cameroon. France is also to lend Dahomey a loan of 307,600,000 CFA francs for development, and contribute 1,000m CFA francs to Nigerian investment fund. Under another loan agreement, France will lend Eya Volta 103m CFA francs, and will grant 145m CFA francs for completion of various projects.

● The USSR has loaned Mali 450m CFA francs to exploit a gold mine at Kalak, not far from the Guinea frontier.

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President Jawara of the Gambia is greeted by the chairman of the Crown Agents, C. J. Hayes, during his visit to Britain. Looking on are Lady N'Jatmeh Jawara and High Commissioner, Mr. B. O. Semegannah. The Gambia's relations with the Crown Agents go back to 1833. It was one of the original 13 principals and today continues to use all their services.

Changes at the World Bank

Phase one of the administrative reorganisation of the World Bank has been announced by the President, Mr Robert McNamara. The existing Area and Projects departments, with effect from October, will be replaced by five regional offices which will plan and execute lending and technical assistance programmes. It is hoped that this will lead to better co-ordination within the Bank. M. Pierre Chadenet, head of the Projects department, has been appointed vice-president of the Projects staff, which will consist of policy experts and staff from the Population, Tourism, Urbanisation and Industrial Projects departments.

In a meeting between Sir Manuel Perez-Guerrero, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and senior officials of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, actions taken by UNCTAD III in Santiago last May were reviewed and "outstanding matters" discussed. Among the matters which are of special concern to the African region are the international monetary situation, multi-lateral trade negotiations with a view to agreements on equitable terms of international trade, and more assistance from the developed to the developing countries with more attention being paid to the 16 least developed of the developing countries of Africa.

During his visit to Addis Ababa, Sir Perez-Guerrero addressed the city's Foreign Press Association and said that developing countries must in future play a full part in solving the financial and trade problems facing the world.

The closure of the Lome regional office of the UN High Commission for Refugees reflects "an improvement in the refugee situation in the countries along the Gulf of Guinea coast as well as an economy measure" according to the ENHR magazine. The countries covered by the Lome office will be split up between its branch offices in Dakar and Bangui, which become respectively, Regional Offices for West Africa and Central Africa, as follows:

Dakar: Dahomey, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Upper Volta, Togo.

Bangui: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Nigeria.

The Francophone Council of Understanding's economic community for cattle and meat has decided on the establishment of abattoirs for meat export and agreed to arrange a technical conference on co-ordinating meat and cattle customs regulations. The council is a loose economic and administrative link between Dahomey, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Niger and Upper Volta.

WEST AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS

ELDER Dempster Lines

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From London: FALABA s/d London Aug 24. FU'ANI due Apapa Aug 22.

From Southampton: AURIGOL due Freetown Aug 18.

From N. Continent: DARU s/d Rotterdam Aug 18. JORCADOS due Hamburg Aug 18. PATANI due Lome Aug 22.

NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool: FOURAIL BAY s/d Apapa Aug 20.

To London: BHAMO due Abidjan Aug 23.
To Le Havre: MANO due San Pedro Aug 18.
To Dunkirk: MACHAON due Monrovia Aug 18.

To N. Continent: FREETOWN due Abidjan Aug 18. KABALA due Sherbro Aug 23.

WESTBOUND - To USA/Canada: AKOSOMHO due Toronto Aug 20. DEMURRA due Freetown Aug 19.

EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada: DIGEMA s/d Lome Aug 18. LIAN s/d Mbuakes Aug 18.

Eastern Service to West Africa: IAYBANK s/d Abidjan Aug 18. WAVEBANK due Luanda Aug 28.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS - FERNLAND s/d New York Aug 18 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Calabar, Douala. FRNGATE s/g New York Sept 8 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS - FRNGATE s/d Abidjan/Monrovia mid/3rd week Aug. FERNLAND s/d Lagos S. Bound Sept 1, Calabar Sept 7, Ghana Sept 9. Abidjan/Monrovia 2nd week Sept.

'K' LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lohito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan, Pointe Noire. DOMINICA MARI s/d Japan Aug 5 due Lagos Sept 11.

EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: EL SALVADOR MARU s/g Lagos Aug 29. Abidjan Sept 9. Freetown Sept 14 due Japan Oct 11.

WOERMANN LINE

LOHA s/g Le Havre Sept 2 due Dakar Sept 10. Abidjan Sept 14. Tema Sept 17. ROLAND RESS s/d Rotterdam Sept 1 due Libreville Sept 16. Port Genl/Sept 18. Matadi Sept 20.

DAFRA LINE

EASTBOUND - NIGERIA s/g Houston Sept 8 due New Orleans Sept 10. Monrovia Sept 26.

WESTBOUND - FRANKRIG s/g Angola Sept 2 due Douala Sept 7. Calabar Sept 9.

GOLD STAR LINE

WESTBOUND - GIDIRA Lohito Sept 10, Luanda Sept 12, Matadi Sept 18.

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SOUTHBOUND - LAKE BOSOMTIW Bremen s/d Hamburg Sept 1, Antwerp Sept 4, Rotterdam Sept 6, Dunkirk Sept 8.

NORTHBOUND - KORI LAGOON London Aug 21.

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PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND - HELMINA PALM due Bathurst Aug 20.

NORTHBOUND - ANDONI PALM s/d Freetown Aug 24 due Liverpool Sept 1. FNUGU PALM due Takoradi Aug 26.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND - SHIMANI MARU Lagos/Apapa Aug 29/Sept 2. Abidjan Sept 9/10. Takoradi Sept 11/12. Tema Sept 12/13.

EASTBOUND - SHIMANI MARU Lagos/Apapa Aug 29/Sept 2. Abidjan Sept 9/10. Takoradi Sept 11/12. Tema Sept 12/13. Japan first Port Oct 16.

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MAERSK LINE

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan. JOHANNIS MAIRSK s/g Kobe Sept 5 due Luanda Oct 2.

OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, Takoradi. JIPSER MAERSK s/g Tema Aug 20 due Monrovia Aug 27.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS - AFRICAN CRESCENT s/g Luanda Sept 2 for Lohito, Matadi, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports. AFRICAN STAR s/g Lagos/Apapa Sept 14 for Port Harcourt, Douala Sept 18, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports.

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN STAR due Dakar Aug 25 for Freetown, Monrovia Aug 31, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Sept 8. Lagos/Apapa Sept 10. Port Harcourt Sept 15, Douala, AFRICAN MOON due Monrovia Sept 6 for Abidjan, Tema Sept 12, Matadi, Luanda, Lohito.

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TORONTO CITY s/g Bordeaux Sept 1 due Bona/Matadi Sept 16, Pointe Noire Sept 18, Luanda Sept 21, BATA s/g Hamburg Sept 18, Antwerp Sept 12, Rotterdam Sept 13, Rouen Sept 15.

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SOUTHBOUND - LIVANTIS due Lagos/Apapa Sept 14, Port Harcourt Sept 21.

NORTHBOUND - EL KANI MI due Liverpool Aug 28.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE

SOUTHBOUND - VIKAREN s/g WA mid Sept/early Oct for discharge Scan. 2nd half Oct/early Nov. CUMULUS s/g WA end Sept/Oct for discharge Scan end Oct/early Nov.

HOEGH LINES

HOEGH BLAVER due Port Harcourt Aug 24, Douala Aug 27. HOEGH BREITZE due Tema Sept 5, Apapa Sept 7.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINE

INWARDS - STRAAT ITRAZER from Japan, s/d Jul 22, due Port Harcourt Aug 29, Lagos/Apapa Sept 1, Takoradi Sept 6, Abidjan Sept 9. STRAAT TOWA from Hong Kong, s/d Jul 4 due Monrovia Aug 26. Freetown Aug 28, Dakar Aug 30, Conakry Sept 2, Takoradi Sept 7.

OUTWARDS - STRAAT ITRAZER from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, opt., Hong Kong, Japan end Aug/early Sept. STRAAT TOWA from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, opt., Hong Kong, Japan, Shanghai end Aug/early Sept. EAL EUROPE - AFRIKA LINE GmbH NIGERIA due Abidjan Sept 1, Lome Sept 4, Cotonou Sept 6, Lagos/Apapa Sept 7. THIRUSA due Abidjan Sept 8, Lome Sept 11, Douala Sept 14.

NOFAL LINES

WESTBOUND - NOPAL THUSS s/d Luanda Sept 4 due Douala Sept 7. Takoradi Sept 9. Cotonou Sept 10. NOPAL LUNA s/d Luanda Sept 26 due Douala Sept 29, Takoradi Oct 1, Cotonou Oct 10, Abidjan Oct 3.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

NORTHWIND s/g Tema Sept 18, Lagos Sept 21, Freetown Sept 29. WISWIND s/d New Orleans Sept 4. Houston Sept 7 for Tema Sept 24, Lagos Sept 24.

THE E.A.C. LINES

SOUTHBOUND - PANAMA s/d Dakar Aug 19 due Monrovia Aug 22, Abidjan Aug 24, Cotonou Aug 27, Lagos/Apapa Aug 28, Douala Sept 4, SANALGA s/d Rotterdam Aug 24. Rouen Aug 27, the Dakar Sept 24. Freetown Sept 7, Monrovia Sept 8, Abidjan Sept 10.

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MEETINGS

NIGERIAN INSURANCE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION of GREAT BRITAIN

The Annual General Meeting of the above association will take place at the residence of Mr S. O. Shokoye, 3 Coleridge Road, London N4 on Sunday 27th August, 1972 at 2.00 p.m.

There will be an election of officers. New members welcomed

Ihodon Thomas
Sec. & Publicity Secretary

MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

(London Branch)

General Meeting on 27th August 1972
Time: 3 o'clock prompt
Place: Islamic Cultural Centre, 146 Park Road, London, NW8

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and addressed as Isaac Babatunde Ayinde
Adebayo. All documents bearing my
former name(s) remain valid.

Dateline Africa

GHANA Subversion trial opens

Four civilians and five soldiers have appeared before a seven-man military tribunal under Col. C. R. Tachie-Menson at Burmah Camp, accused of plotting to overthrow the NRC. The nine accused — Mr. Emil Wilson Kofi Adzima, former Press secretary to Dr. Busia, Mr. George Ofosu-Amaah, Director of the Special Branch under Dr. Busia, Mr. Daniel Owusu Darkwa Attakora, who works for a fishing company, Mr. David Aful Bimpong, Sgts. Kwaku Nimako, Wilberforce Agyare, and Sandys Johnson Oponyantakyi, and Ptes. Charles Adu-Boateng and Kwaku Oduro — pleaded not guilty on all three counts.

Each of the accused is charged on the three counts — conspiracy to commit subversion, subversion, and concealment of subversion. Particulars of the first offence were said to be that the accused with Dr. Busia, ("now at large"), Mr. Owusu Sekyere, former head of Special Branch under Dr. Nkrumah and a relative of Gen. Afrifa, (also at large), Mr. Joseph Vernal Agyemim-Boateng, businessman (at large), K. Ampadu, unemployed (at large) and others ("unknown and at large"), between April and July this year in Accra and Kumasi and other places outside Ghana conspired unlawfully to overthrow the government. Particulars of the second offence were that in Accra and Kumasi between April and July the accused prepared to overthrow the government. And details of the third count, as given by the Attorney-General, are that the accused, knowing of the preparations, did not report them to anyone specified in the subversion decree.

Putting the prosecution's case, the Attorney-General and Justice Commissioner, Mr. E. N. Moore, told the tribunal that the accused planned to overthrow the Government at dawn on July 14 and at a meeting held on July 12 they decided, among other things, on the arrest, detention and assassination of the Chairman and members of the NRC and Commissioners. They also decided on the arrest and murder of all officers of the armed forces above the rank of captain and the wholesale promotion of other ranks.

The desirability of promoting Mr. P. A. Mantey, Deputy Inspector General of Police, to the rank of Inspector General was also expressed. The soldiers, who attended the meeting, were assured by one of the accused, Mr. George Ofosu-Amaah, of the readiness of Ivory

Coast troops to come to their assistance in case there was resistance from the Ghana forces. Another accused, Staff-Sgt. Oponyantakyi, was to broadcast to the nation about the overthrow of the NRC and the setting up of a military junta to be known as the National Constitutional Committee. Mr. Moore claimed the accused persons had played a dangerous game and had lost in accordance with the laws of Ghana their lives should be forfeited. Evidence would be led, he said, to show that since January 13 Dr. Busia had persistently indulged in acts of subversion to restore himself and his government to power. Evidence would be led to show, he continued, that between May and July this year Dr. Busia managed to send two letters to Ghana, one from the Ivory Coast and one from Britain. The one from Britain was delivered by Dr. Yaw Twumasi, a lecturer in Political Science at Legon, to Mr. Adzima. The letter made two requests: first Mr. Adzima was to send to Dr. Busia a comprehensive analysis of the economic situation of Ghana since the coup. This was to be transmitted either through the French Ambassador to Ghana or through Dr. Twumasi himself. The second request was to make contacts with officers and civilians favourably disposed to the overthrow of the NRC. Special mention was alleged to have been made of Lt. Col. Bruce Konuah, battalion commander in Tamale. The Attorney General said that to carry out the wishes of Dr. Busia, Mr. Adzima sought the assistance of two persons, one a former colleague and the other Corporal Beryl Ophelia Mensah, a friend of Adzima. Mr. Adzima sent the report on the economy to Dr. Twumasi for transmission to Dr. Busia, and sent Corporal Mensah to Tamale to solicit the co-operation of Lt. Col. Bruce Konuah, who declined to help. The colonel immediately reported the matter to the Director of Military Intelligence. Corporal Mensah then tried to recruit a lieutenant of the Third Battalion, Sunyani.

The hearing was adjourned until August 17 to enable the alleged plotters to seek legal aid.

Provisional estimates

The Government has voted £97,193,833, to cover expenditure on public services until the 1972-73 Annual Estimates are approved by the NRC under the newly published provisional estimates. The sum is made up of

£87,077,093 for consolidated non-statutory expenditure, £2,886,360 for Posts and Telecommunications and £7,230,380 for Railway and Ports Authority.

Under the estimates, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has been allocated £6,368,971 for recurrent expenditure and £18,110,997 for development expenditure while the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports will spend £16,012,787 under current expenditure. The Ministry of Agriculture has been given £6,121,591 for recurrent expenditure and Ministry of Works and Housing £4,541,799, also for recurrent expenditure.

Allocations for the recurrent expenditure of other Ministries are: Health £8,045,439, Lands and Mineral Resources £1,070,358, Trade, Industries and Tourism £302,788, Transport and Communications £559,407, Labour Social Welfare and Co-operatives £1,073,023, Internal Affairs £4,092,573, Local Government £715,154, General Administration £8,898,150, Justice £768,048, Foreign Affairs £1,738,848, Defence £7,590,644 and Statutory Departments £561,264.

In a memorandum on the Estimates, the Government ordered that with the exception of the priority areas of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Roads, Water and Low-Cost Housing, no new projects should be undertaken without prior approval of the Government.

On expenditure it said the amount stated in each case represented the sum required for the continuance of the services concerned. In no case did it exceed 25 per cent of the provision expected in the Annual Estimates.

In the Regional Provisional Estimates, a total of £31,331,259 has been approved for expenditure on public services in each region, in respect of the decentralised Ministries and Departments.

This is broken down into: Central Administration £4,584,087, Greater Accra £3,248,030, Volta Region £3,082,975, Eastern Region £4,583,205, Central Region £2,909,151, Western Region £2,724,457, Ashanti £4,602,920, Brong-Ahafo £2,202,962, Northern Region £1,764,687 and Upper Region £1,628,785.

A total of £14,366,510 of the Regional Estimates will be used on Education, Culture and Sports, £6,439,216 on health, £4,623,177 on Agriculture and £3,811,117 on construction. Internal Affairs will take £159,349; Local Government £666,438; General Administration £683,743; Labour Social Welfare and Co-operatives £550,035 and Finance and Economic Planning £31,674.

The NRC has drawn up a two-year economic policy as a short term measure to help arrest Ghana's serious economic constraints — the foreign exchange situation and the budgetary deficit. This policy, says Mr. P. H. Nelson, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance, will help remove bottlenecks and other barriers to economic growth in various sectors. Mr.

Nelson told a labour seminar in Accra that for the past seven months there had been signs that the nation was wide awake and determined to face its problems more realistically than ever before. Based on self-reliance, the two-year economic policy was aimed at first cutting down on foreign spending, diversifying dependence on cocoa by increasing exports, and also by growing enough food to feed the people. Mr. Nelson added that the NRC was committed to a policy of trading partnerships in the most important sectors of the economy because Ghana could not afford to keep paying heavy dividends to foreign investors. It would also help avoid serious social problems when investors suddenly decide to withdraw.

Col Acheampong has urged the Ghanaian press not to act in any way which would create difficulties for themselves or embarrass the government. "It is therefore desirable that our mass information media approach their tasks with a high degree of responsibility, propriety and a scrupulous observance of their professional ethics", he said in a speech read for him to the boards of directors of six corporations of the information Secretariat by Maj Kwame Baah. The corporations are the Ghana News Agency, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, the Ghana Publishing Corporation, the Ghana Film Corporation, the Daily Graphic and the New Times Corporation. Col Acheampong said that press freedom called for reciprocation by way of a responsible press. The state-owned mass media should, of necessity, "inspire confidence and enthusiasm in our people in order to achieve the objective of the revolution".

Any policeman who maltreats or uses unnecessary force on anyone in his custody will be guilty of misconduct and unsatisfactory service under a new decree. Lack of civility to the public also constitutes an offence. Other acts of misconduct listed in the decree include neglecting to assist anyone injured or taken ill in a public place and withholding or failing to report promptly any complaint against a police officer.

Police who show special skills or perform acts of bravery can qualify for awards from a newly established police fund.

The government has told the Norwegian fishing firm of Akers that the 1967 agreement under which they managed and operated vessels for the State Fishing Corporation, would not be renewed in its present form when it expires on October 28.

Col Acheampong has inaugurated the second Assets committee to speed up the profiling of assets of officials of the former Progress Party. It is headed by Mr. E. S. Aido, a private legal practitioner and former judicial secretary. The other two members are Lt. Cdr. J. A. Adiku and Mr. C. J. Otoo, of the Auditor General's Department. Secretary to the Committee is Mr. B. K. Osum, senior assistant secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SIERRA LEONE Relations with France

Receiving the new French Ambassador the President said that close relations between Sierra Leone and France had been established long before independence, chiefly through the work of the former French Consulate. He recalled that the French Government was now awarding many scholarships to Sierra Leoneans and offered free courses in French in Sierra Leone itself. He said that French Government was outstanding in its support for international economic arrangements which would be just to the poorer countries. The Ambassador said that his Embassy was making available in Sierra Leone seven teachers of French as well as books, magazines and films.

Three expatriate officials of the National Diamond Mining Co., in which the Government and the former Sierra Leone Selection Trust are partners, have been deported. Their names and the reason for the deportation have not been given. Mr. Giovanni Marcaroni, the Italian contractor who has been in Sierra Leone for eleven years, is also reported to have been expelled, but no reason is given.

"Mass Media and National Development" was the theme of a Seminar Workshop held at Fourah Bay College. Welcoming the overseas lecturers and local participants, Canon Harry Sawyer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone, provoked much discussion and press comment by referring to "the cold-blooded murders of English words perpetrated week after week" in Sierra Leone. Canon Sawyer added that radio and television newscasters should be given training in a language laboratory. Canon Sawyer declared that the university itself was interested in the mass media and suggested that the Professor of English, Dr. Eldred Jones, should be approached to arrange language training.

In his opening speech, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Alimamy Kharali, thanked the governments of Britain, West Germany, the USA, Yugoslavia and Switzerland for making it possible for experts from their broadcasting organisations and universities to take part in the seminar.

Mr. Bankole Timothy, now of the Diamond Trading Company in London, but formerly a journalist and Sierra Leone's senior information officer, opened the working session with a Paper on "The African Press and National Development". This was followed by discussion. Mr. Miroslav Jevtic of the Yugoslav Radio-Television read a Paper on "The Theory of Social Responsibility - a pre-requisite for journalistic practices in developing countries". Dr. Franz Dulk, Head of Television Training, Senders Fries Berlin, (S.F.B.) Training Institute, West Berlin, spoke on "Training in Europe of Radio and Television specialists from developing countries", while Mr. S. R. Dixon-Fyle, Senior Lecturer,

Department of Economics at Fourah Bay addressed the seminar on "Mass-Media and Economic Planning in Developing Countries".

Sierra Leone's Director of Broadcasting, Mr. Joseph Findlay, who initiated the seminar, read a Paper on "Radio Broadcasting in the Service of Development".

Overseas lecturers and participants included Mr. Geoffrey Syemour, Head of Overseas Training (BBC) and Mr. Charles Bell of the Voice of America.

Fourah Bay is thinking seriously of establishing a school for journalists. Professor Sawyer told the seminar.



Aboard the Nigeria.

President Stevens said he hoped an African High Command would be set up, when he met the commander of the naval vessel *Nigeria*, Captain Hussain Abdulal and four of his officers. The ship berthed in Freetown en route from Guinea for a four-day visit. Mr. Stevens said he was happy that the ship was manned by Africans and that he looked forward to the day when there would not only be a West African High Command but also an African High Command.

A Trade Inspector, Mrs. Louisa Turner, told the Barthes-Wilson Commission of Inquiry that Indian traders were mainly responsible for the increased prices of goods. She alleged that some Indian traders in Freetown kept large stocks of controlled goods in their stores until the demand rose so that they could increase prices. The commission is examining the causes of recent big price increases. Mrs. Turner said that the prices of milk, sugar, Ovaltine, corned beef and baby food had been increased in all supermarkets in Freetown.

During talks with a visiting Senegalese delegation led by Foreign Minister N'Doffene Diouf President Stevens said that although he believed strongly in the UN and the OAU, he felt the best way for African states to serve in international bodies was by first consolidating their positions with their neighbours. "We in Sierra Leone have been trying in our little way to co-operate with our neighbours, Guinea and Liberia, particularly in the economic field", he said.

A three-man Chinese mission is carrying out a study of medical facilities in Sierra Leone to prepare for Chinese technical assistance.

CHAD Former ministers arrested

Interior Minister Douba Alifa has confirmed the arrest of two former ministers, Antoine Bangui and Marc Douma. The arrests, said the minister, were in connection with the attempt by rebels in June to sabotage Fort Lamy airport, petrol storage tanks and the radio. The interception of the commando was first announced by the President, who said it had been sent by the rebel organisation, Frolinat. There has been no confirmation of reports of the arrest of the former Foreign Minister, Baba Hassane (all three were dropped in a reshuffle two months ago).

Chad Radio (now called the Voice of Unity and Progress as part of the new "cultural revolution") has broadcast large numbers of telegrams calling for the "severest sentences", "exemplary punishment" or "no forgiveness" for the two former ministers. MPS from M. Bangui's home region of Fort Archambault sent a collective telegram calling for the death penalty and accusing the former minister of "selling the country to foreigners". M. Bangui was formerly one of President Tombalbaye's most trusted collaborators, and is a long-standing member of the Political Bureau of the ruling PPT.

• Three tribal chiefs have been installed in Am Timan (Salamat), and Fort Archambault, now renamed Sahr, as part of the government's administrative reforms. Interior Minister Douba Alifa declared at the installation that chiefs had a key role to play in the new structure.

The inaugural flight of a new air link between Fort Lamy and Khartoum has been held.

IVORY COAST

In a speech at Odienne, on the 12th anniversary of the independence of Ivory Coast, President Houphouët-Boigny welcomed the presence of delegations from Mali and Guinea, saying he was greatly strengthened by "our regional solidarity". The President said that he hoped "dialogue" would become a rule in the world, so that the spirit of conciliation may replace blind hatred, fanaticism and violence. In the past few months many events confirming the importance of dialogue had taken place in Africa and other continents. He mentioned the OAU summit in Rabat as one of the most remarkable manifestations of this new spirit. "The verbal jousting which was the rule in the past was replaced by serious discussions and resolutions, which demonstrated a keen awareness of the true problems of our continent". He also referred to the end of the war in Sudan, the "achievement of more peaceful and confident relations" between our brothers in Senegal and Guinea on the one hand, and those on the two banks of the Congo River on the other, and the visit of the UN Secretary-General to Namibia and Pretoria.

CONGO-B

Speaking at the end of a nine-day conference of the ruling Labour Party, President Nguabi has blamed French colonial policy up to 1960 for the fact that independent Congo is "eternally in debt". France had forced the Congo to develop primary products, while providing all the colony's manufactured goods. Colonial rule had "depersonalised" the Congolese people, but since independence there had been no "total break" with France. The conference would go down in the history of Marxist parties and in "universal history" as making the party a force for national unity in the struggle against imperialism and under-development.

A resolution at the conference called for an end to economic dependence on foreign countries, especially France. The conference also called for the setting up of a new avant-garde party based on Marxist-Leninist principles and the creation of a national assembly elected by regional representatives. Other resolutions called for greater development in the industrial and agricultural fields, and wider mineral exploitation. All the resolutions will be submitted to a national congress in December at which a new party and government will be formed.

During the conference, too, there were several calls for nationalisation of banks and insurance companies, with the aim of breaking foreign monopolies. The delegate from Pointe Noire, M. Jean-Pierre Nonault, said "these nationalisations should be followed by the setting up of a viable economy by the creation of an independent national currency".

In a broadcast speech after the conference, the President repeated his complaints against France. "The Congo has chronic and permanent deficits in its public finances and balance of payments which increasingly tap the economic surplus. This tapping is transferred to France. Hence the lack of development within the Congo itself. The burden of colonisation is so heavy that the neo-colonised states find themselves eternally indebted - this is the new form of colonial reconquest".

• During the conference the President had warned that a "reactionary movement" was being formed in a foreign country with the intention of "sowing confusion". Subversive elements in the pay of this movement should be barred from the conference, said the President.

The Central Committee of the Congolese Labour Party ("the nation's supreme political body") has decided on the expulsion of the Vice-President, Aloïse Moudileno-Massengo from the party, and his dismissal from office for "desertion and refusal to participate in the revolutionary struggle against capitalism, neo-colonialism and imperialism". His recent behaviour "had given rise both at home and abroad to the most misleading speculation". The former Vice-President had travelled to Lomé for the OCAM meeting in April, and then to Conakry for

the funeral of Dr. Nkrumah, and had subsequently gone to East Berlin for medical treatment, and not returned home. He was now believed to be in Bordeaux with his French wife.

He is replaced as Vice-President by the Finance Minister, Ange Pougui. The post of Justice Minister, which Massengo also held, goes to Alexandre Denguet, who retains his post as Minister of Labour.

• The North Korean government has made a gift of ten tractors to the Peoples Congo. They will be used at the Kombe state farm just outside Brazzaville.

• The new Soviet Ambassador, Yevgen Afanassko, has presented his credentials to President Jgoubi.

• The Office of Mines, which co-ordinated mining studies and activities, has been dissolved, and its functions incorporated in the Ministry of Mines.

DAHOMÉY "To be a Dahomeyan"

In a speech on the 12th anniversary of independence, President Ahomadegbé said: "We demanded and obtained our independence without fully understanding all its implications. Perhaps more than any other African country, Dahomey can now estimate the price of independence because in our country national independence did not go hand in hand with peace, harmony and prosperity. We have had a number of deplorable political convulsions, which have shaken our country to its foundations. Their consequences have not been fully appreciated. Our destruction was caused mainly by our stupid differences of opinion, our fanaticism and our selfishness. Although we were building our country, in fact we were destroying it".

The President announced the holding of a seminar on economic and financial problems which was not meant to "enable some people to engage in mere chit-chat and adopt resolutions", but was for the re-examination of various problems. "To be a Dahomeyan means to love Dahomey passionately. To be a Dahomeyan entails a behaviour which honours the country. It also entails recognition of the fact that the national interest must always prevail."

At the closing of the seminar two commissions were created, on Finance and Economic Affairs. Among recommendations put forward were the creation of a National Chamber of Agriculture and a National Society for Fisheries. At the opening of the meeting the President had said he believed it was necessary to set up a national savings organisation to supplement foreign aid. Although there had been some progress in agricultural production, in other sectors it had been "derisory". Foreign aid in the industrial sector was useful, but should not replace national thrift, he said, adding that imports and exports had increased, and foreign exchange had reached a high level.

NIGERIA Confidence and Kwara

Following police searches on houses of civil servants, state commissioners and members of the state's public Service Commission, the Kwara State Governor, Col. David Bamigboye, has denied that there was any loss of confidence between himself, his commissioners and senior civil servants. There was no truth in speculations that he was planning a cabinet reshuffle. He stressed that he had facts and figures to disprove some of the allegations which had been made in the anonymous letters which were circulating in the State. The Government would never take action on "letters of blackmail" and the reasons for the searches were that some government documents and classified information had been quoted in the letters.

• After a two-day strike by dockers and railwaymen the Railway and Ports Transport and Clerical Staff Union said that it had called off the action as a mark of respect to Gen Gowon who had shown interest in the matter, and in appreciation of the efforts of the Federal Commissioner for Labour, Chief Enahoro, who had a six-hour meeting with union leaders. The stoppage was a protest against the alleged non-payment of pay arrears awarded by the Industrial Arbitration Tribunal in January.

• Long-winded procedures adopted by the Federal Ministry of Labour to settle industrial disputes had contributed to the current wave of industrial unrest, the Governor of the North Eastern State, Col. Musa Usman, said before attending the first meeting of the Interim Common Services Agency to be held outside Kaduna (it has been decided to rotate the venue among the capitals of the six northern states, beginning with Kano). "The circumstances in which we are now do not allow for any strike action in one form or the other and I think it is time to tighten up those provisions in the decree that may stand in the way of resolving industrial disputes", he suggested. Swift action should be taken by the Ministry when complaints were lodged with it even if it was necessary to "side-track some laid-down procedures". While not subscribing to any ideas which might curtail the right of the workers, he believed that elements using workers' problems to feather their own nests should be adequately dealt with.

• New voluntary agency schools will not be allowed in Kato State, the Governor Alhaji Audu Bako, announced. Wealthy individuals and voluntary organisations would instead be encouraged to award scholarships. He has also condemned as "stupid and inimical to national unity" the practice of offering contract appointments to Nigerians by State Governments. He did not believe in the practice "because every citizen of this country is entitled to employment in any

part of the country". If the purpose was to reserve vacancies for the indigenes of a state, it had to be realised that development was a continuing process and that more vacancies would continue to be created to absorb emerging manpower. He had already directed his ministries not to employ Nigerians on a contract basis.

• The Federal authorities stopped 50 Nigerian students from boarding a Moscow-bound flight to take up scholarships in the Soviet Union. Their passports were said to have been seized pending an investigation of their qualifications and the scholarships offered them. The students, including eight girls, had completed customs and immigration formalities when an Education Ministry official accompanied by police ordered the surrender of their documents. The scholarships had apparently been organised through Nigerian trade unions. Nine other students whose scholarships have been arranged through the Government were allowed to leave. Education authorities are clamping down on the distribution of Soviet scholarships, awarded through various left-wing movements in Nigeria. Many are thought to have gone to unqualified students who were relatives or friends of certain left-wing leaders.

• Less than 100 students of northern states origin have been produced by the two Federally-owned universities, Lagos and Ibadan, in the past five years. Making this accusation, the North Central State Governor, Col. Abba Kyari, said that the two universities had deliberately rejected students from the north on the grounds that they did not possess the proper qualifications for admission - but there was "concrete evidence" that these were not the real grounds for rejection. His government had been forced to send some students overseas, where they were being readily accepted. He maintained his stand that admission to Lagos and Ibadan universities should be on a quota basis.

• A "revolutionary approach" will soon be introduced into the structure of the police force, which might involve the complete overhaul of the Criminal Investigation Department, the acting Inspector General of Police, Mr. Theophilus Igbola, told a police conference. A new approach was urgently needed because of the challenge of corruption now plaguing the police force and the nation which had led to "a crisis of confidence" between the public and the force. "Until this is done, investigations will be corrupted and the findings of such investigation will produce injustice".

• Nigeria and Guinea have called on African states to co-operate through bilateral and regional arrangements to achieve economic self reliance. A communiqué issued at the end of ministerial talks between the two countries said that such arrangements should provide for a joint development of resources. Acquisition of interests in basic and secondary industrial projects of other states, trade and exchanges of goods should be encouraged. The communiqué was signed in Lagos by the Federal Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, and Guinea's Minister for Economic Development, Mr. Ismael Touré. A Nigerian economic delegation is to visit Guinea soon to continue economic contacts.

• Before leaving at the head of the first Nigerian economic delegation to China, the Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, said that the implementation of the Four Year Plan would be jeopardised unless workers found ways of seeking redress for their problems other than strikes. "We are running an economic race against time", he noted. "And for that reason Nigerian workers, though entitled to their rights, should seek redress within the scope of the prevailing laws of the land". He described the trip as "expiratory".



Officer Cadet M. C. Osahor (from Egbudu) is congratulated by his two aunts, Mrs. Elizabeth Obieke (left) and Mrs. Maria Obiamwe, both from Egbudu, who went from Liverpool to Sandhurst to see their nephew pass out. Looking on is Officer Cadet A. A. Maidodo (from Fadankagoma) who passed out with him.

- The total money in circulation in December last year stood at nearly £315m. — about 2 per cent higher than the level at the end of the previous month. Nigena, says the Central Bank report, had an external trade surplus of £10m during that month. The cumulative trade balance showed a surplus of £110m.
- About 100 Nigerian labourers just returned from Equatorial Guinea marched on the Equatorial Guinea employment office in Calabar to protest at non-payment for work done since 1966. The two countries recently concluded a new labour agreement for better conditions for Nigerian workers in Equatorial Guinea. The protesting labourers said that they had not been paid before being repatriated.
- In a progress report for the year ended last March, the manager of Port Harcourt port, Captain F. Egbo, noted that 715,621 tons of imports passed over the quays compared with 374,371 tons the previous year; exports amounted to only 108,336 tons, which he attributed to the poor market conditions for Nigerian produce abroad. He announced that work would soon begin on the port's £1m slipway to be used for ship repairs.
- The Nigerian Ports Authority is to establish a dockyard in Port Harcourt for the repair and overhaul of ships. The project, which is the second in the country (the other is in Lagos) will cost about £1m. Captain Egbo also said that in March this year a total of 502 ships visited Port Harcourt.
- Mr. S. O. Wey, Commissioner for Special Duties in the Cabinet Office, Lagos, has been appointed by the Rivers State Government to inquire into administrative re-organisation of the state. Mr. Wey was secretary to the former Federal civilian Government.
- Two men in Ibadan and one in Lagos appeared in court charged with kidnapping. Another person, a woman has been stoned to death in Lagos as a suspected child-kidnapper. (See last week's issue).
- Two men detained by customs officials in a border village in July were found to be carrying a sack of ten fresh human skulls.
- Smuggling from Niger into the North Western State has caused a big decline in the sales of Nigerian-made cigarettes, Mr. H. T. McDonald, chairman of the Nigerian Tobacco Company, has told the Governor. Police Superintendent Usman Faruk. In the current buying season the company has bought tobacco worth £870,000 from farmers in the State.
- A number of Mid-West government officials have been suspended for incompetence. They had supervised certain contract jobs involving building projects which a Commissioner found to be below standard. Names of the contractors were struck off the government list for one year, and payment is not expected to be made to them until the buildings are up to standard.
- Ofeke' Okezi, a self-proclaimed 'ujuman, has been sentenced to death by Abakaliki for shooting dead a client while testing a bullet-proof charm. He admitted in court that his charm had "misfired".
- Mr. Ukpabi Asika, Administrator of the East Central State, told reporters that much more positive ground now exists for a satisfactory solution to the Port Harcourt abandoned property problem.
- Lagos State Government is to establish a £100,000 printing press and considering the setting up of a radio station. The press is expected to come into operation before the end of the present financial year.
- Armed men sacked a village near Benin and made away with four villagers according to the *Morning Post*.
- A Nigerian enterprises promotion committee has been established in the Western State in accordance with the indigenisation decree.
- North Western State Information Commissioner, Issi Abubakar, has urged governments of the six northern states to encourage Koranic teachers to translate the Koran into English.
- Health Commissioner, Aminu Kano has called for a ban on foreign films and dresses, urging Nigerians to show pride in their own traditions.
- Because of the sharp fall in groundnut production, about 320 Maiduguri Oil Mills employees are to be laid off at the end of the month, the general manager, Mr. R. Brooker, announced.
- A group of 75 Canadian teachers, agriculturalists and medical personnel have arrived in Nigeria. All are on two-year contracts under the auspices of a semi-private organisation, Canadian University Service Overseas.
- £200,000 has been earmarked for the establishment of farms in different parts of Nigeria to enable the Prisons to assist in food production, the new Federal Director of Prisons, Mr. J. I. Adepoju, who succeeds Mr. Omo-Bare, said during a visit to Port Harcourt.
- The North Eastern State Public Service Commission has offered appointments to 104 expatriates following a recent recruitment tour by its chairman, Alhaji Abdullahi Jada.
- Thirteen women have qualified as car drivers for the Mid-West State government in Benin. Over 50 women had applied to become government drivers.
- An appeal to the UN specialised agencies and other agencies to expand their assistance to Nsukka University has been made by the acting vice-chancellor, Prof. Achufusi. More funds and staff were needed, not only to bring the university to its pre-war level but also to meet the growing needs of the institution.



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