

WEST AFRICA

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SOLDIERS AND SMUGGLERS

One main plank in the programme of Ghana's military government was the granting of subsidies for certain essential consumer goods, mostly imported. They included sugar, tinned meat and fish, and matchets for farmers. The NRC has now decided to abolish the subsidies except for milk, and to grant it to baby food. Announcing the change Major Roger Felh, Commissioner of Trade, (reported on page 249) said that the subsidies cost some £80m. per year. But it was not the expense that had led to the suspension of most of them. Because they made the goods affected so cheap, traders had been

buying them up to sell at a super-profit in Ghana or, from Ghana's point of view much worse, to smuggle them into "countries around us". This has in most cases meant loss of foreign exchange and, in the case of matchets, is said even to have inconvenienced farmers, now the country's key men.

The smuggling of these commodities has been widely reported for a long time, and there have frequently been suggestions that the subsidies should be abolished. And as Major Felh said, it is not in Ghana's interest that all the items should be regarded as indispensable. But

now it is clear that, even though the government never intended that the subsidy should be permanent, it has been forced by smugglers to abandon prematurely an important part of its policy.

It is no secret that smuggling over their common frontier has damaged relations between Ghana and Togo. Because this is one of the most artificial of Africa's frontiers it enjoys no respect among people living on either side, and on the Togo side there are large communities for whom smuggling is the main livelihood. Nor is the traffic confined to goods



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Nigeria's pilgrims: cause for concern?

subsidised by the Ghana government. Other consumer goods are smuggled into Ghana from Togo, and cocoa from Ghana into Togo. One fifth of Togo's imports are said to go on to Ghana. It has even been alleged that Ghana-produced textiles are smuggled into Togo, there to be stamped as of French origin and to be smuggled back into Ghana to enjoy the higher prices commanded by French goods.

Nigeria and Dahomey

Today this is the outstanding example of the damage done to West African economies by smuggling. The former outstanding case of the Gambia-Senegal frontier is now less serious, because both duties and prices have grown closer together. Sierra Leone's frontier with Liberia is not only a paradise for diamond smugglers; Sierra Leone produce has recently been smuggled into Liberia and consumer goods in the opposite direction. But at present the frontier which most nearly resembles that between Togo and Ghana is that between Nigeria and Dahomey.

The main item smuggled out of Nigeria into Dahomey is cocoa. The chief motive is to acquire foreign exchange, which is then used to buy goods freely obtainable in Dahomey (or even in Togo, perhaps coming from Ghana), which are also heavily taxed in Nigeria, and to smuggle

them into Nigeria.

Brigadier Rotimi, Military Governor of Nigeria's Western State, has delivered repeated warnings on the subject, and has now started detaining cocoa smugglers without trial. Marketing Board checkpoints are a familiar sight on the roads out of Nigeria, and travellers from Dahomey into Nigeria are often rigorously searched. In his news conference at the end of last year, Brigadier Rotimi said that available statistics show the tonnages of cocoa smuggled range from 10,000 to 30,000 tons annually (at the present world price this could mean a loss to Nigeria of £2m. or more a year in foreign exchange), depending on the size of Nigeria's production.

"The effect of their activities is probably not fully realised by most Nigerians", said Brig. Rotimi. "In the first place valuable foreign exchange is lost to this country. Secondly the phenomenon of smuggling makes statistics of Nigerian production entirely meaningless. For example, when the International Cocoa Agreement is ratified, Nigeria will be given a smaller basic quota than she is otherwise entitled to because of the sizeable proportion of our production that is exported to other countries, and therefore recorded for such countries". The Governor also said that what was most painful was the fact that some licenced buying agents appointed by the State Marketing Board have been using

their licences as "vehicle for promoting smuggling". Every community to be on report smugglers, he said, is inconceivable that natural and influential community can claim to know the true identity of all the people with cocoa smuggling".

In fact there is some evidence that the smuggling is on perhaps because of Benin deterrents, but also perhaps because Nigeria has relaxed some of its cocoa "production" for the 1971-72 season showing 8,000 as against 16,000 tons season*. As Dahomey produces no cocoa, it can be safely assumed that this amount was smuggled into Nigeria. Figures for exports through the Port of Cotonou, cocoa before 1969, in which 10,000 tons were loaded, rising to 19,000 in 1970 and 19,300 tons in 1971.

The case of textiles

It is generally accepted that the improvement in Dahomey's financial situation in the last few years has been helped by the smuggling from Nigeria which arose when duties were imposed during the 1960s. Textiles from Togo also form part of the smuggling which may now be coming to a halt. *(Article on Dahomey on page 223)* present financial situation. from Dahomey's Planning Commission 1970 spoke of an "over-consumption" of Dahomey's imports of 100,000 francs, which could only be met by "an important fraudulent trade heading the list is textiles". Dahomey imported over £1.2m. in 1971, or one-quarter of total that year. Textiles are among the most heavily smuggled into Nigeria.

There is little purpose in traders for acting as traders. It is distasteful you may find that. Certainly the problem of smuggling can never be solved by shooting at it. It can only be solved by sound economic policies, tariffs, etc. Everything points to the need for the African Economic Community at least make a start on common

* Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Economic Indicators, 1972.

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BRITAIN AND NIGERIA

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Tolbert's first full year

From a correspondent.

Last week, Liberia was host for the first time in its 115 years of independence, which Britain was the first country to recognise, to a British Foreign Secretary. Sir Alec Douglas Home's visit was very brief, and took place on his way from Senegal to Nigeria. But even on a visit as brief as this it would be possible to sense a political calm such as few African countries enjoy. President Tolbert, in his second annual message to the Legislature, covering 1972, noted that the voting age had now been reduced to 18. He was also asking that the age for Members of the House of Representatives should be reduced to 25, and that the number of seats should be increased by nine, which seats should, in a manner unspecified, be reserved for the under-25s. Evidently, the President and his True Whig Party are not afraid of their young people.

1972, however, was not entirely a happy year from an economic point of view. Demand for iron ore, now Liberia's most important export, stagnated, and the price of the other important export, rubber, remained low. But in spite of a small increase in the value of imports to \$4,699m, there was a trade surplus of some \$74m, because of a 9 per cent rise in the value of exports. The budgetary position also improved, the deficit of some \$2.3m in 1971 being turned into a surplus of the same amount. This year's budget of \$5.3m, exceeds 1972 expenditure by only 6 per cent. Last year's revenue increase of some \$8m was accounted for largely by more effective tax enforcement. In 1972 Liberia did not call on the IMF standby credits or alter taxes in any way.

The most disturbing aspect of the budget, however, is the proportion that goes on debt servicing. This is some \$22m, or 28 per cent. The next item, "general government", costs \$9m, education accounts for \$8.4m, defence and security for some \$7m, a decrease on the previous year while external affairs and diplomatic activities account for \$3.6m. This latter seems a very high figure, higher than the amount that goes to agriculture and natural resources. The President said that every effort was being made to increase the proportion of the budget going to development. He particularly noted a fall of \$800,000 in the costs of his own office. He was recommending certain small tax changes such as increases in vehicle and liquor licences. The government was also negotiating revision of the agreements under which the big mining and plantation concessionaires operate, to reflect "partnership in development".

The President noted the close relations Liberia had with the World Bank, The International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank which, among other projects, was assisting expansion of Monrovia's water supply. Establishment of an Agriculture



Presidents Tolbert and Stevens.

Credit Bank was being considered. Mr. Tolbert said that Liberia wanted to participate in the negotiations between African countries and the EEC due to begin later this year, particularly since the balance of the country's exports was shifting from the United States to the EEC. This, no doubt, was a subject discussed with Sir Alec.

Commenting on the economy as a whole the President said that Gross Domestic Product rose from \$438m. in 1971 to \$456m. in 1972, a fall in the annual growth rate of some 5 per cent achieved in the previous three years. The fall in iron ore exports and the price of rubber were responsible. The government had high expectations of international assistance. The President did not mention one of the most interesting rules his government had introduced — the legal requirement that restaurants should serve local fruit and vegetables in season.

Crime rise

The President expressed concern about the incidence of crime and promised a reform of the prison system, particularly special training for staff to replace soldiers and policemen. He also announced creation of a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Two weeks intensive military training would also be given to high school boys each year.

The department of Internal Affairs is now called the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Urban Reconstruction. The change of name reflects the change in the whole nature of Liberian administration, in which "the Interior" was once simply an area to be policed and pacified instead of, as it now is, an area to be developed. The President gave as an example of the government's intentions the distribution of high yielding oil palms and citrus trees to rural schools. It is proposed that every township with a population of over 5,000 should be a local government unit.

In spite of the low proportion of the budget allotted to education compared with many other African countries, the President was able to report considerable

progress in Mr. George Sherman Ministry. The scholarship programme was now carefully related to national need and the cost of a university education had been reduced by 50 per cent while secondary education was virtually free. Enrolment in government schools was now some 128,000, an increase of 30 per cent over 1971. It was proposed that there should be one elementary school in every town of 600 people or over and a junior high school in every clan and a senior high school in every chiefdom. 1,800 new schools were under consideration. Considerable improvement in the standard of teachers and curriculum had also been made and he proposed considerable improvement in teachers' pay.

At the centre of the government's agricultural policy is determination to make the country self-sufficient in its staple food, rice, and to change the subsistence economy to a commercial one. Improved rice seed was being widely distributed and in a nation-wide competition the President would offer prizes of as much as \$10,000 to producers with the highest yield. There was a minimum price of 5c per pound.

Efforts were also being made to improve output of coffee, cocoa, and palm produce. One million seedlings, 57 per cent of the cost of which was borne by the government, were being distributed by the Liberian Produce Market Corporation. Small rubber producers were being assisted to establish co-operatives to assist them, particularly in marketing. The total value of timber produced by 17 concessions in 1972 was over \$1m, mostly in logs. An autonomous government-owned agricultural company, AGRIMECO, had been established to assist small farmers, particularly in swamp rice.

Discussing health services the President said that malaria continued to be a serious menace. Epidemic disease, however, had been effectively controlled and advance had been made in the treatment of leprosy. They had introduced free medical treatment for infants up to the age of two as well as free



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education in all government schools. But the health services "regrettably remain relatively sub-standard". Efforts were being made to improve standards at the University's College of Medicine and it was hoped that the John F. Kennedy Medical Center would be extended to make a national impact in preventive medicine. The Center now has 42 physicians and dentists, 22 Liberian.

The new Ministry of Land and Mines, the President noted, had issued almost 800 prospecting licences for diamonds. Production in 1972 was worth \$8m., over half being gem-stones.

The President noted that some recent industrial unrest was attributed by the Ministry of Labour to irresponsible union leadership. The Ministry was doing everything to instruct both management and unions in their responsibilities. An Industrial Code was being drawn up. The President recommended revision of the Labour Code to protect workers.

Economies had been made through the central purchase of government supplies under competitive tenders. Over \$1m. had been saved in 1972 by renegotiating tenders for government premises.

During 1972 an "Action for Development and Progress Agency" had been established to take emergency measures such as the transformation of the West point area of Monrovia and the building of feeder roads in rural areas. The "mats to mattresses" project, aimed at raising rural living standards, was also proceeding satisfactorily. It was estimated that at least 12,000 cheap houses were needed in the Monrovia area alone. The National Housing Authority and the National Housing and Savings Bank had an ambitious programme.

President Tolbert told the Legislature that the "free zone" concept for the Port of Monrovia had not been fully realised. They proposed to transfer the ore port at Buchanan to government control. The President reported "limited results" from the Liberian Development Corporation, which would have to be reorganised.

Since he took office President Tolbert has made determined efforts to correct slackness and incompetence in the public services. He reported on his visits to ministries and agencies and noted the establishment of an Institute of Public Administration. The President said he was concerned at the lack of interest taken in local affairs by urban residents, particularly in Monrovia. To encourage civil participation "the Commonwealth Districts" in the coastal areas would all become City Corporations.

In April last year the President proposed a National Fund Raising Rally to raise \$10m. of which 25 per cent would go to the university and the rest to improvements in agriculture, education, transport, health services, government offices and recreation centres in rural areas. The President spoke at length about the spirit which he hoped would be aroused by "Rally Time" representing, as it did, self-help and commitment to development on the part of everybody.

UPPER VOLTA

The worries of Ouédraogo

Mr Edouard Yaméogo's resignation from the post of Minister of Planning, Industry and Mines, may have far-reaching implications for Upper Volta's politics and economy. True to Voltaic traditions, the resignation took place in a quiet and friendly manner and Mr. Yaméogo continued to perform his duties for nearly a year before his resignation became effective. He wanted the purely negative results of his departure to be reduced to a minimum; this is why he remained in his post until after the annual conference in Algiers of the African Development Bank (of which he is a Governor), past the IMF meeting in Washington (where his country was selected as a member of the Committee of Twenty), and finally until the official visit of President Pompidou to Upper Volta was over. Above all, Mr. Yaméogo insisted on himself presenting the new Five-Year Development Plan (1972-76).

His Minister of Planning's resignation did not please the Prime Minister, Mr Gérard Kanga Ouédraogo. Mr. Yaméogo is a member of the RDA Party and had



Ouedraogo: displeased.

served under the previous régime of ex-President Maurice Yaméogo (the two are not related). His competence and personal integrity have been an asset to the Party, sorely in need of younger leaders. The more capable members of the young élite of Upper Volta have, on the whole, shunned the establishment RDA Party in favour of the "socialist-nationalist" MLN or the "liberal-heterogeneous" PRA. But it is not only the loss of a talented Minister which worried the Prime Minister. His departure may disrupt the delicate political balance which at present exists and force Gérard Ouédraogo to introduce changes in his Cabinet.

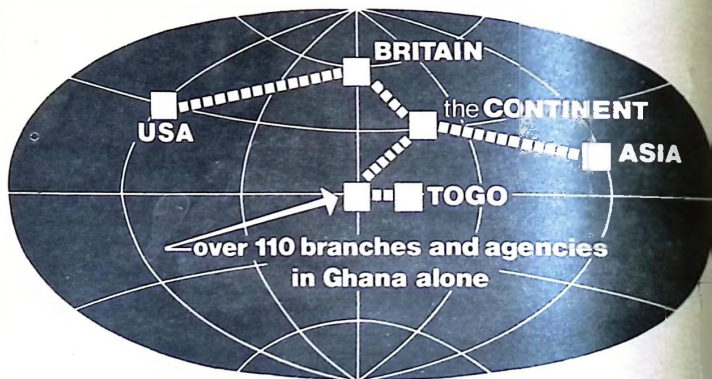
The Prime Minister may, of course, entrust the Planning portfolio to another member of his team, Capt. Antoine Dakouré, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Tourism, has always assumed the ministerial responsibilities of Mr. Yaméogo whenever the latter has been temporarily absent from the country; but to do this after Mr. Yaméogo's irrevocable departure is a completely different matter. First, it will

place an almost unbearable burden on Capt. Dakouré. Although he is generally regarded as a hard-working and capable Minister, his own responsibilities are more than enough in a country where nearly 98 per cent of the population lives off land as subsistence farmers or cattlemen. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is perhaps the most important post in the Government. In addition, Capt. Dakouré is also in charge of tourism. This branch of the economy has not been developed at all, but the Voltaiques are convinced that the vast, wild savannah could present a great attraction to tourists interested in hunting a wild-life. Most important, Capt. Dakouré is a military man and the Prime Minister can hardly be pleased at the concentration of power in the hands of the soldiers. Already the important portfolios of Interior and Finance are held by army officers (the other two officers in the Government are the Ministers of Youth & Sports and Information). If Capt. Dakouré becomes *de facto* Minister of Planning, Industry and Mines, the military will be holding all key positions in the Government except for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister Ouédraogo is well aware of this problem. He also knows that his rivals, in particular those within the RDA, will try to force him into making changes in the Cabinet. The Upper Volta Government was formed in January 1971 and has not been reshuffled since. It was the first Government to be sworn in under the new Constitution, following the first general elections since the army take-over in January 1966. RDA hold an absolute majority within it (8 members are from RDA, 2 from PRA and 5 are army men) but the departure of the Minister of Planning is a severe blow. Moreover, some Ministers are encountering problems in running their Ministries and others have not fulfilled hopes which the party machine had placed in them. One cannot ignore, as another element, the more personal relationships between the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, and within the Cabinet itself. Although there have been no open conflicts or splits, it is only natural that certain Ministers have won the confidence of the Prime Minister at the expense of others.

His critics hasten to claim that the fact that Gérard Ouédraogo has not reshuffled his Government is in itself a sign of weakness. Although it is true that the Prime Minister is a politician who prefers negotiations and behind-the-scenes appeasement to abrupt and direct confrontations, this is not only a matter of style. He is afraid of opening a Pandora's box by introducing Cabinet changes. As it is composed at present, the Government is a carefully balanced structure of regional and tribal interests and divisions. For example, the Foreign Minister, Dr. Joseph Conombo, represents the import-

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ant capital city area. He is a former Mayor of Ouagadougou and a close ally of the President of the National Assembly, Joseph Ouedraogo, also a former Mayor. The young Malick Zorome, Minister of Justice (Minister of Foreign Affairs under the military régime), comes from the same remote home town, Ouagouya, as the PM himself. Since the abysmal failure of his candidature for the post of OAU Secretary-General at the last Algiers summit meeting, there have been many voices demanding his resignation.

There is a further predicament with regard to the five army men in the Government. The Constitution stipulates that one third of the members of the Cabinet should be representatives of the armed forces. This means that they are appointed by the army and that the Prime Minister cannot replace them as he chooses. Although there is common agreement that the army representatives are among the most effective members of the Cabinet, it would greatly facilitate the work of the Prime Minister if he could show the public that he was in a position to reconstitute all members of his Cabinet.

Eduard Yaméogo himself is well aware of the political complications and implications of his departure. Yet he says that his only worry before making the decision to go, concerned difficulties which might arise in the economic sphere. As for priorities, he says the problems will find their own solutions, no man is infallible. Some observers suggest that Eduard Yaméogo hopes that Maurice Yaméogo, the deposed President under whom he once served, will make a comeback in that event he would like to be free to serve under him again. But all agree that even if there is a grain of truth in this suggestion, it is not the principal reason for his resignation. Eduard Yaméogo plans to stay in Upper Volta and expand his already substantial business interests. He feels that the country lacks an indigenous business class of the kind long established in neighbouring Ghana and recently created in the Ivory Coast. All the same, one cannot escape the impression that behind it all there is a sense of disillusionment with what the Government is able to do.

Reading through the Upper Volta Five-Year Development Plan (1972-76), Eduard Yaméogo's last major undertaking, one is struck by its brutal sense of realism. Mr Yaméogo has tried, with a few exceptions, to present a faithful picture of the hard facts of economic life. The GDP of Upper Volta, says the Plan, was estimated (the text throughout emphasises the lack of accurate statistics) at CFA 50,140m. or CFA 15,380 (around £28) per head. Even if one allows for inaccuracies in the population statistics, the *per capita* figure remains pitifully low. The most unrealistic estimates cited in the Plan, as far as population is concerned, is that of the number of workers migrating from Upper Volta. According to the Plan, the number of "genuine migrants" was 250,000 in

1960 and 378,000 in 1972. "Temporary migrants" are alleged to have numbered 152,000 in 1960 and 189,000 in 1972. These figures are quite inadequate. There were more than half a million Voltaiques working in Ghana when that country introduced its Alien Expulsion Order, and the number in the Ivory Coast is even higher. In the city of Abidjan alone where a more accurate count is possible more than half of the 450,000 inhabitants are foreign, mostly Voltaiques.

Referring to production, the Plan states "The Voltaique economy is essentially traditional, rural, and inward-looking. There is also an urban and administrative economy largely directed towards the exterior in the commercial and financial sphere". The Plan goes on to draw a gloomy picture of the economy in which the rural sector in 1970 represented 81 per cent of the national added value. Sorghum and millet are the basic foods and represent around 54 per cent of agricultural resources. "The proportion of the total GDP devoted to transforming industries is 3.7 per cent".

Referring to foreign reserves, the Plan indicates that although the situation greatly improved during the period of the preceding Plan (1967-70, the first Plan carried out under the military régime), exports have been growing at a slower rate than imports. "In view of the commercial deficit, Upper Volta has been transferring to the exterior large sums which, luckily from the statistical point of view, are compensated by surpluses of financial transfers". In other words, the planners do not feel that a statistically favourable balance has solved basic problems, nor does it represent more than book-keeping to please foreign lenders.

Realistic plan aims

The objectives of the Plan are as realistic as its picture of the actual economic situation of Upper Volta. As far as agriculture is concerned, the planners do not speak of large-scale exports to enrich the government's coffers, but state that "the development of agricultural production should ensure sufficient foodstuffs for the population and also give some monetary rewards to the farmers".

These are but a few examples which indicate the nature of the Plan. The French President, during his visit to Upper Volta last year, promised to increase French aid in accordance with the UNCTAD recommendations of special assistance to the "poorest twenty". Mr Yaméogo has produced a Development Plan which clearly shows where the priorities lie and which emphasises the basic needs of the population. It is now left to the politicians to implement these priorities, not in response to short-term political pressures, but according to genuine economic requirements. It is possible that Mr Yaméogo, like numerous young technicians, is not entirely confident that this will be done.

Tamar Golan



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Matchet's Diary

The visit of Sir Alec Douglas-Home to Dakar, although it lasted only two days, is a demonstration of the present cordial relations between Britain and Senegal. These are on a fairly low plane commercially. UK exports to Senegal amounted to 1,026m. CFA francs (£1,800,000) in 1971, (much the most important items was Land-Rovers), while Senegalese exports to UK (phosphates, cotton and groundnut products) were only slightly more, being 1,068m. CFA in the same year. On other planes, relations are more developed. President Senghor was on an official visit to UK in 1962, and last year paid a highly successful private visit to London to take the chair at the International Conference on Manding Studies organised by the School of Oriental and African Studies. Queen Elizabeth has also been on two very brief visits to Senegal, once after her West African tour in 1961, and more recently in 1968, when, returning from a visit to Brazil, she took tea with the President at the *Plaine des Mamelles*, and opened the British Institute in Dakar, the crowning glory of Anglo-Senegalese relations. This now has 400 students (including cabinet ministers and army officers) learning English from four specialist teachers provided by the British, and a very long waiting list of hopefuls. It also provides important support in training Senegalese teachers of English from institutions such as the *École Normale Supérieure*. One of the subjects Sir Alec discussed was an increase in an already well-based educational co-operation. But the obvious problems for discussion is the forthcoming negotiations on the relationships of African states with the enlarged European Common Market. President Senghor, as current chairman of OCAE, has an important role to play here.

Sir Alec will have found his host in good form, having had at the end of last month a spectacular (some would say almost too spectacular) victory in the renewing his mandate for another five years. The first results of the election which gave M. Senghor 99.97 per cent have now been modified. In an interview with *Le Soleil*, Minister of the Interior Jean Collin said that there had been 5,177 spoiled papers, and not 303 as had initially been announced, and the votes for the President had been 1,346,019 and not 1,357,056 which is a percentage of 99.6. The interview is interesting, not only because it reveals on the part of the journalists (who included Bara Diouf, the Editor of *Le Soleil*) a healthy scepticism about election results of this nature, but also because of a hint of embarrassment on the part of the Minister, or at least an awareness that this overwhelming majority is not an indication that no opposition exists. M. Collin suggests that one way round this is to make the ballot

compulsory, to compel the opposition to vote, even if they only submit blank papers, which count as spoiled. The journalists remark that the potential electorate in Senegal is 2.5m., which suggests that a great deal more registration of voters could be carried out. That statistic, at least, puts the election result in some kind of realistic perspective. It is worth remembering that President Senghor himself told a visiting correspondent just before the election that he would not be surprised if some 15 per cent of the electorate voted against the governing party, and he now acknowledges the existence of opposition.

M. Collin, a Frenchman who has become a naturalised Senegalese, explains the phenomenon of the 99 per cent, saying it is normal in Africa. "You see, for example, the 28 January, people vote to vote simply, in gladness. It was a *jour de fête*. In Africa an election does not have the same meaning as in Europe. It is a show of confidence. Thus you have the systematic search, with the help of palaver, for unanimity, for consensus. The heavy percentages translate this unanimity."

The dollar and you

Immediately the dollar was devalued the Central Selling Organisation in London, which includes most of Sierra

Leone's diamonds among the 80 per cent of world production it handles, raised the dollar price of diamonds by 11 per cent. The CSO can do this, as it has before, but Ghana cannot do it with cocoa, for which the US is the biggest customer. So cocoa with iron ore, may be one sufferer, but otherwise much of West Africa's exports are helped by the devaluation. But it is far too soon to be certain. All that is certain is that American goods will be cheaper and Japanese more expensive abroad. West Africa, however, buys few American consumer goods. Past American loans may be cheaper to service but American aid could in some cases lose some of its value. Gold will both gain and lose. No African currency except perhaps that of Zaïre need follow the dollar. But there is the case of Liberia, which has no separate currency and automatically devalues. The operations of bodies like the European Development Fund and the African Development Bank, which use the dollar as a "unit of account", need not be affected, but World Bank funds could be. Devaluation will also help African students in the US. Next week, perhaps, I can be more informative.

Ghana in the lead

Six African countries have only one newspaper, but 44 countries still have none at all, according to the *Unesco Statistical Yearbook, 1971*. In contrast, Sweden has 534 copies of newspapers per thousand, the Japanese 511 and the Icelanders 448. Best supplied in Africa are the Ghanatians (46 per thousand).

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OUA prepares for its 10th birthday

By a correspondent

The 20th session of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity was held in Addis Ababa from February 4 to 9, and produced a declaration which is to serve as the basis of what is described as a "keynote policy declaration" to be produced by the OAU summit in Addis Ababa in May, on the occasion of the organisation's 10th anniversary. A spokesman said that ministers had agreed that the summit should produce some kind of charter dealing with the OAU's next decade of existence.

The declaration, prepared by a committee consisting of Algeria, Angola, Somalia and Zaire, touches on all the main African and international problems, but lays particular emphasis on decolonisation in southern Africa. On Zaire's confrontation with the Smith regime in Rhodesia, the document says "the Council vituperously condemns the criminal act of intimidation perpetrated by the minority and racist regime of Smith against the country and people of Zambia", and condemned the "collusion of Britain with the white minority regimes in South Africa and Portugal for their deliberate support of the Salisbury government" (this tied in with charges made by OAU Secretary-General Nzo Ekangaki in his report as his first as Secretary-General that Britain was "collaborating" with Rhodesia in an attempt to reverse opposition to the 1971 Anglo-Rhodesian settlement proposals, through the use of bribery and corruption).

Other sections of the nine-page declaration deal with apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa, the situation in Namibia, and denounce Portugal for the assassination last month of Amílcar Cabral. Portugal is called on to start immediate negotiations with the "authentic representatives" of the people under its rule. Britain, France and Spain are also criticised for maintaining colonies in the Seychelles, Djibouti, the Comores and Spanish Sahara. The declaration also notes the growing tendency of great powers to settle issues among themselves, insisting that Third World countries deserve a bigger say, and suggests that links between African countries and their former colonial masters should be revised (an indirect allusion to France's co-operation agreements which are currently under fire).

There is also an expression of approval at the peace settlement in Vietnam and an important section on the Middle East. This calls on the 41 member states of the OAU to concentrate

their efforts on reinforced solidarity with Egypt in its struggle with Israel, who was condemned for its "obstinate refusal to withdraw from occupied Arab territories" and for its expansionist policy. In the preamble to the declaration the Council expresses appreciation of those states which had shown solidarity with Egypt; this was thought to be a reference to those states which had broken diplomatic relations with Israel recently (Chad, Uganda, Mali, Niger and Congo).

Somalia, which prepared this part of the draft, had reportedly originally inserted a paragraph calling on member states to take every measure to "isolate" Israel, but some delegates objected that this was too strong. There is no doubt that the Arab states are putting on pressure for more African countries to break ties with Israel, and in the wake of the failure of the OAU Middle East Peace Mission, resistance is currently low. A number of speeches at the session were angled in this direction, such as that of the Algerian Foreign Minister, M. Bouteflika, who accused Israel of seeking to impose a colonial system in Africa through aggression and occupation; the decision to break relations on the part of African states was a "legitimate reaction", he said. It will be recalled that at the Liberation Committee meeting in Accra a Middle East resolution was approved for the first time although a move to have El Fatah included as a liberation movement was reportedly not accepted.

The Council also approved the Secretary-General's budget for 1973-74, which amounted to about £1,875,000, (£4.5m. pre-devaluation) an increase of 15 per cent over last year's budget of £1,600,000. The OAU Liberation Committee budget was also approved at £1,400,000, about the same as that of last year, which was doubled at the heads of state meeting in Rabat. The increase in the general budget was described as being partly to finance the forthcoming anniversary celebrations in May. Sources also indicated that arrears to the Liberation Committee totalled \$5m.

Arrangements for the OAU's 10th anniversary celebrations so far disclosed include a film festival, a football tournament, "and workers' demonstrations. A special "multinational anthem" for Africa will be introduced for the occasion. The words, in French and English, have already been written by a Senegalese, Ousmane Sow, but the anthem awaits its music.

Chairman of the 20th session was Chad Foreign Minister Baba Hassane, and the Vice-Chairmen were the Foreign Ministers of Somalia, Libya and Ghana (Major Kwame Baah).

Following the session a meeting of a 14-nation Defence Committee took place. The agenda included co-ordination of regional defence, standardisation of equipment and training, establishment of a clear policy with regard to dependent countries, and the role of the military adviser envisaged by the OAU.

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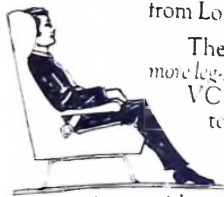
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Books and Publications

A picture of Ghana

The Ghanaian Factory Worker: Industrial Man in Africa by Margaret Peil (Cambridge, £5.20)

Factory workers are a very small proportion of Ghana's total population. But as Dr. Peil says at the beginning of her book they are important to the country's future development. Her study also throws light on the adaptation to industrial employment of workers in similar countries. The book is to some extent technical, but is full of interest for the layman. It does give what Dr. Peil calls a "well rounded view" of the lives of Ghanaian workers on and off their jobs. Indeed, from its particular view-point, it throws a great deal of light on Ghana as a whole.

Dr. Peil, now at the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham, taught at the University of Ghana for five years and the research on which her book is based was prolonged, detailed and meticulous. How detailed can be seen from the following examples, taken at random.

"The frequency of sending money home is directly related to the frequency of visits home. Those who send money monthly are two or three times as likely as those who send money less often to visit home at least bimonthly and five or six times as likely to visit frequently as those who never send money. Or, to put it another way, those who often visit their homes tend to be the most regular senders of remittances. In addition, those who go home often usually take food or provisions or a small amount of money with them."

Or again, in a section on the time spent on jobs: "Skilled specialists who had clerical jobs did not work at them for as long, on the average, as did clerical specialists in clerical jobs, but clerical specialists spent as long on semi-skilled, teaching and trading jobs as they did on clerical ones."

"Semi-skilled and skilled specialists, on the other hand, spent longer on jobs in their own fields than they did on jobs in other fields (except for skilled workers who farmed). These jobs are intrinsically more satisfying and better paying than unskilled and lower-level clerical work and this encourages workers to stay on the job longer."

Of more general interest we could take, for example, attitudes to clerical work, which outsiders might suppose to be particularly favoured. Dr. Peil shows

clearly that workers offered a change of job themselves or a choice of jobs for their children put clerical work low on their scale. Preferences vary between unskilled and skilled workers but skilled work is the most popular choice of workers of every educational level except secondary. Even for their children the workers questioned by Dr. Peil and her assistants much preferred skilled, and even unskilled or semi-skilled, factory work to clerical work.

Another common belief is that educated people who have gone to work in the towns to some extent cut themselves off from their villages. Dr. Peil finds no evidence for this view.

"It might be expected that education would be directly related to a desire to stay in town on retirement. The more educated the man, the better chance he has of earning a good wage and being able to partake more fully of the amenities of

urban life and the more likely that attitudes and values are different from those of most people in his rural home. However, it was the workers who had attended middle school who most often said they planned to stay. Those who had continued their education beyond middle school were as likely as those who had education or only primary schooling plan to return home. It may be that to whom the family has supported secondary or commercial school are tied to their families through the process of repaying the debt and the increased prestige which their advanced education has given them at home than are middle school leavers, for whom extra sacrifice have not been made. Also, since high education leads to better-paying jobs those who have gone beyond middle school are more able to build houses home than are middle-school leavers."

Although most of the book is concerned with discussion of the occupational background of the worker, job stability, wage levels, and similar details of the work in the factories and life in the towns. But a final chapter examines the degree to which Ghanaian factory workers are "modern" as a result of the nature of their work and the extent to which an "industrial man" is emerging in Ghana. Typical of Dr. Peil's findings is one on the attitude of workers to job prestige.

"Recent arrivals mentioned unskilled work more than those who had been in town at least sixteen months, whereas those who had settled down but had no

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yet spent five years in the city was likely to suggest farming that recent arrivals or long-term residents was not just a question of age. A proportion of men of all ages and educated men should become skilled or factory workers, but twenty-five were less likely than the uneducated; they were divided as to whether these should do unskilled work. This is due to the high proportion of leavers among the young men and great competition for apprentices.

In the end, Dr. Peil concludes Ghanaian factory worker, even becoming "modern", still maintains aspects of his traditional culture country like Ghana the ordinary "is faced by many situations of control and which his government, employers and other seemingly cannot control either suddenly he laid off because it breaks down and cannot be retrained because had planning on the management puts the firm in business. His wife or child may die of disease for which treatment is unknown, too late, or too expensive they may be healed by a traditional religious healer when modern has failed or is not available, or for cash from his extended family leave him in debt to the moneylender. The government talks about modern technology (such as electricity supplies) frequently down. In none of these cases has been of much use to him. Thus more rational to maintain his past and live in the present, but future take care of itself."

A new variety of "industrial" may be developing in Africa, particularly in locally owned managed enterprises, can have able satisfaction in his work, unopposed Ghanaian — at a Sarawak of Nigerian

Report of Apapa Road Project Assets Tribunal, Federal Government, Lagos, Feb. 24

Judging by the public mood preceded the Adebiyi Tribunal into the assets of officers connected the multi-million naira Apapa project in Lagos the outcome protest itself represents nothing but an anti-climax.

The Adebiyi Tribunal was the assets of civil servants who were or indirectly linked with the their official capacities and to see what extent such officers had enriched themselves.

The Tribunal held its first session June 29, 1971. It sat for 61 days and held sittings in London, Bradford, England, between New

and 22, 1971. In all, 660 exhibits were received in evidence. The tribunal was able to investigate assets of 26 of the 28 officers listed for the exercise. The remaining two — Mr. R. D. Dysico was said to be on leave and could not be communicated with, while Mr. K. K. Saha "was said to have fled the country".

For one thing, not many heads have rolled — as would be expected — as a result of the probe. Apart from Mr. Solomon Audifiteren and Mr. Adegboyega Sinaade, whose conduct came under biting strictures from the tribunal, the other officers were "cleared". Mr. Audifiteren was director of Federal Public Works at the time of execution of the contract for the project and had signed the contract as a witness. He was retired on April 19, 1971 "without benefits in the public interest".

Mr. Audifiteren will forfeit five plots of land to the government because the tribunal found that "the moneys with which they were purchased were part of Mr. S. R. Audifiteren's improper enrichment". He will also forfeit N8,140 "as part of his improper enrichment whilst a public officer". No retirement benefits were paid to him.

In respect of Mr. Sinaade, the tribunal found that he "is not a fit and proper person to continue in the Federal Public Service and should, therefore, be removed from the service". He will also forfeit the sum of N7,480. Mr. Titus Tomori will forfeit N250 received by him for professional services rendered to one Mr. Lashon in December 1969.

The conduct of Mr. Sylvanus Olatunde Williams, former permanent secretary to the Federal Ministry of Works, and Mr. Mohammed Lukur Usman, now director of Federal Public Works, was found by the tribunal to be above reproach.

Not another thing the pay-off from the whole exercise can only be said to be marginal. Considering the amount of money involved — N23,600m — the degree of impropriety by the guilty officers is small. The officers have operated on a modest scale if the politicians' yardstick were to be used. One would have thought that vast sums of money would be involved by way of corrupt enrichment.

But however modest the degree of guilt might have been, the outcome of the inquiry does demonstrate that it is not politicians alone who can be corrupted. Civil servants are no angels after all.

Even though the tribunal seems to have amounted to killing an ant with a big stick in terms of results, it is all the more significant in that it was the first of its type to be set up under the military regime to investigate the conduct of civil servants exclusively. All said, the standard of probity required of public servants is no less high than it is for the politicians.

Unless it had been established by the tribunal that substantial sums of money were still undisclosed, there would be no justification for another protracted probe into the bank judgements of any of the officers, as recommended by the tribunal.

The government accepted all the

recommendations of the tribunal; but that on the amendment of the Banking (Special Provisions) Decree, 1966, to empower the secretary to the federal government to inquire into the assets of any person and to ask banks for statements of accounts held with them by any person affected by such inquiry, requires further consideration.

F. A.

Fate of a Cockroach and other plays by Tewfik Al-Hakim (Heinemann African Writers Series, 60p., UK only 80p.)

This volume contains four plays by "the undisputed pioneer of dramatic writing in Arabic". Tewfik Al-Hakim has written some seventy plays, a number of which have been translated into various European languages. Before this volume appeared, only *The Tree Chamber* had appeared in English. This book contains two full length plays and two short plays which illustrate the author's varied themes.

Each deals with an aspect of freedom, and the introduction describes them thus: "In *The Sultan's Dilemma*, which takes place in the 'Thousand and One Nights' atmosphere of the rule of a Mameluke sultan, freedom and the choice faced by every absolute ruler are the themes. In *Fate of a Cockroach*, man's natural love of freedom, his refusal to despair in the face of adversity, are exemplified in the cockroach's strivings to climb out of the bath. In *The Song of Death*, the earliest of the four plays and the most local, has as its central theme the conflict between traditional vengeance and freedom through education from such deadening and destructive prejudice. *Not a thing out of Place* seems to suggest that while the ultimate in freedom, anarchy, can be fun, true freedom consists in pursuing a middle way."

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Preview, 1973

A grant of £10,000 towards the cost of two blocks of class-rooms to complete the first phase of a scheme at Njala University College Experimental School has been announced by the Lisbon based Gulbenkian Foundation. The school, at Sierra Leone's agricultural university, is undertaking experimental work in modern mathematics and science teaching. The Foundation, financed from the fortune of the late oil magnate, Calouste Gulbenkian, is concerned primarily with Britain and Commonwealth countries. Among other donations announced in its 1973 "Preview" are a further grant of £5,000 to enable the Africa Centre in London to continue its women's programme, particularly its Communities Studies course. The Foundation is also giving £4,000 to the London Centre for Educational Development Overseas to finance a seminar for senior staff. It is giving a final grant of £2,500 for a residential family centre established by the Commonwealth Students' Children Society in the West Midlands, £3,000 for the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and a grant of £9,500 to the UK Council for Overseas Student Affairs.

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Letters to the Editor

African mergers

SIR—The article entitled "Mergers, Unions and Life-Styles" (December 11, 1972) is very revealing. All lovers of "realities" should congratulate President Siaka Stevens on his analysis of the "deep-seated" differences that make any talk of a merger between two African countries unrealistic. For one thing, Africans are naturally averse to hearing more than one language spoken in any one political unit. Their gods and ancestral spirits have prescribed experiments. There is nothing "real" about the people of Cameroon within whose borders two "official languages" thrive in the midst of several indigenous languages and dialects. For another, it has been proved by great scientists (*psychosocianthropologists*) that Africans have never solved cultural problems, and can never resolve economic difficulties to make co-operation between one African state and another possible.

However, the President omitted one other problem which ought to be included in the list. If two or more African states come together, who will be the President of the Union? Who will forfeit their ministerial portfolios, etc? Who will no longer be a formidable MP? Until this problem is solved, all haters of "realities", who talk of mergers and unions of African states, should be sent to a madhouse.

CHIDI IKONNE

University of Chicago

SIR—The letter from Abass C. Bundu (January 15) presupposes several points which a serious economist would have taken greater pain to elucidate.

We are left with the impression that failing joint co-operation in the area of tourism, the prospects of a West African Economic Community are dismal.

I would like to differ on this point, and state that tourism is rated at varying levels as a national income generator in the countries most likely to benefit from such a Common Market.

While Ivory Coast aspires to creating a replica of the French Riviera on her coast to boost tourism, there is no indication that Cameroon, Ghana and Sierra Leone are thinking in those terms.

How do you establish a multi-national corporation dealing with tourism without a consideration of different tax laws and tariffs, both of these being pre-requisites for the formation of any viable Economic Union?

F. F. CHU ABUNAW

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia

Busia and Ghana

SIR—Mr. Akwasi Bretuo (January 15) failed to paint Dr. Busia politically darker than he was when in power. According to Mr. Bretuo "Dr. Busia tried to bring back the colonial method of 'divide and rule' to Africa". Fortunately Dr. Busia ruled Ghana not Africa. Again he claimed that Ghanaians have "drowned" Busia. But Busia was "saved" from power by a *coup d'état* and not toppled through popular election.

And curiously enough Akwasi at the end of his letter said "Mr. Joe Appiah had our mandate to attack Busia". What an irritating assertion this. Mr. Appiah lost his election

deposit in the 1969 election. Hence Mr. Bretuo and co's mandate to Joe is not mandated by all Ghanaians to attack Dr. Busia so frivolously.

And again Dr. Busia was flogged by Mr. Bretuo with the tribalist cane. Ghana is divided naturally into tribes. Dr. Busia's party found large following in Akan areas. Mr. Joe Appiah's party found a minority following among the Gas. Mr. Bretuo's (an Akan) passport was seized by the Busia government. What made Dr. Busia a tribalist and nobody else? One revelation that the Busia régime was intolerant of his (Bretuo's) press criticism was the only premise that supported his conclusion that Busia was dictatorial. This I agree with Mr. Bretuo did no credit to Busia who "claimed to be introducing Ghana to western-style democracy".

My aim of analysing Mr. Bretuo's premise and conclusions is to show how ludicrous it is to play on words in discrediting people. A malady in some works of Ghana journalism which has driven some of us to buy *West Africa* every week for a change. But, alas, Mr. Bretuo is allowed by you, Mr. Editor, to extend such name-calling to your readers' ears.

I accord Mr. Bretuo the right to rejoice in the fall of Dr. Busia. Why? Had Dr. Busia "not ordered" the seizure of his international passport he would have been in the US to learn how to reason out well his criticism of not only his enemies but his friends for a better world. For someone's enemy is somebody's friend.

B. K. DOGBE

Accra

The logic of trade

SIR—I see that the answer to Mr. Doyin Degun's loss of belief in what he calls the "economic Messiah of Ghana" (Jan 29) is on the opposite page of the same issue (*Commercial News*), where the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board reports the USSR as second to USA in tonnage of Ghana cocoa purchased '71-'72 crop season. The report does not

mention any of the countries that Mr. Doyin suggests Ghana should trade with in crude oil and I can see that Col. Acheampong and men could have been guided purely by logics of trade and economics and not the logics of politics; and perhaps Mr. Degun understand that what may lie in one's "backyard" is not necessarily going to be the best, to get, or cheap.

JOHN ELLIOTT

Maidenhead

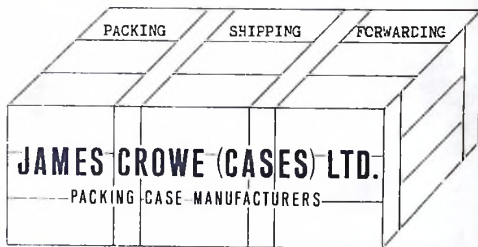
Amin's autobiography?

SIR—I suppose all political observers in Africa will agree with me that Gen. Amin has entered the world's stage as one of the most talked characters. As a result, friends and foe interested in reading about his background and temperament.

Some institutions appear to be interested writers who can express views on Amin's personality, his merits and defects and the best way to handle him. Because of this offer coupled with the fact that people who write this very General, will be riding a big wave, many writers, or should I call them hawkers, more than ever searching for materials to base their common sense. Furthermore, it is understood that some people are beginning to write about him, on mere assumptions in order to win the glory of the literary market.

As the confused situation stands, it would be wise for Gen. Amin to clear the air by publishing his autobiography as soon as practicable. I hope his public relations consultants realise that every complicated political problem in Africa is always an opportunity for people who set themselves up as judge and jury to exploit for their own advantage.

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Sekou Toure's iron mountains

Radio Conakry has announced the initialing of a convention on Conakry setting up two "mixed" companies to develop the iron ore deposits of Mount Nimba and Mount Simandou in eastern Guinea (both deposits are not far from Nzerekore, near the Liberian and Ivorian frontiers). The two companies are to be called Mifergui-Nimba and Mifergui-Simandou, and include capital from five African countries and three foreign firms. The African countries are Guinea herself, Liberia, Algeria, Nigeria and Zaire, and the foreign companies are from Japan, Yugoslavia and Spain. Production from the two mines is expected to be, in the first place, about 15m. tons a year, comparable to production at Liberia's great Lamco mine.

Speaking at the meeting at which the convention was signed M. Ismael Toure, Minister of "the domain of the Economy and Finance", said that "for the first time in Africa", the setting up of a great mining company of international standing enabled several developing countries in Africa to promote a venture committing them on a multinational base, "which is alone capable of assuring the peoples of Africa a rapid progress through the best combination of their material and human and natural resources".

The 17-article convention, says Radio Conakry, provides for the building of a

Trans-Guinean railway of 1,200 Km. linking Simandou and Conakry, a deepwater port in Conakry to handle minerals, and the creation of a steelworks in the region of Nzerekore-Macenta-Beyla-Kerouane. The railway is to be built in three stages over a period of eight years, with an expected traffic of 50m. tons - 15m. of iron ore, 30m. tons of bauxite from Tougué and Dabola, and 5m. tons of other traffic (the Tougué deposits estimated at 2,000m. tons are being exploited jointly by Guinea and the Swiss Aluisse, and the Dabola deposits of 400,000 tons by a Guinean-Yugoslav company). It is also hoped that the railway will encourage agricultural and timber development.

Commentators note, however, that Liberian participation is apparently through the Lamco company, in which the Liberian government has 50 per cent interest and which is to be a member of the Technical Committee of Mifergui which is to consider particularly transport problems. Lamco already mines ore on the other side of Mount Nimba, and the obvious way to evacuate Guinea's iron ore would be on the 250 km. iron-ore railway from Nimba to the new Buchanan Port. The project for development of Guinea's ore has been under discussion for some years, and in recent years there have been hard discussions with the

Liberians on this subject. No agreement however, has ever been reported. It is difficult to imagine Liberian participation, notwithstanding the notable friendly relations between Liberia and Guinea, without the possible use of Mifergui of the Liberian railway. The cost of a 1,200 km. railway, making a great loop behind Liberia and Sierra Leone down to Conakry, is certain to run in tens of millions of pounds, and there is no indication of immediate finance. The existing railway, from Conakry to Kankan is said still to be in bad repair.

The convention is to be definitively signed on April 5 in Tokyo, and it appears that Japanese interest in importing Guinean iron ore has been one of the main elements in producing this new consortium. Japan has been at the centre of previously announced groupings. In 1969 it was announced that a Japanese company, Okura Trading, had agreed to import 7.5m. tons of ore from Guinea annually. Certainly the high grade iron ore of Mount Nimba would be of considerable interest to steel-hungry Japanese industry. At various times Southland Mining, United States Steel and the British Steel Corporation have all expressed interest in Guinea iron ore. But the latest agreement looks definite, and the involvement of African governments is distinctly a new development.

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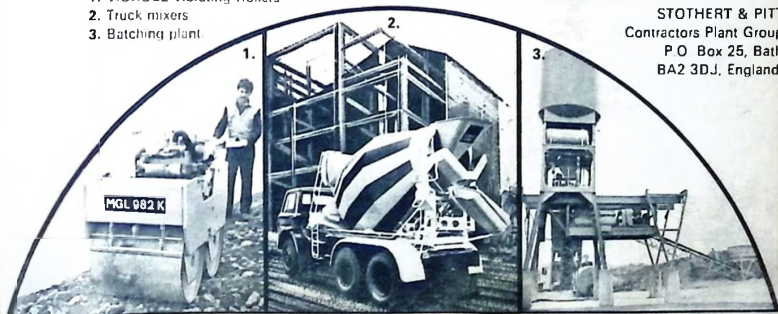
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KEREKOU'S DAHOMEY: 2

The revolutionary present

From a correspondent

Last week's article demonstrated the way in which the failings of the Presidential Council and the crisis of morale in the army combined to impel Dahomey's soldiers back into power on October 26. The move was bloodless, and total, and has given the army another chance to prove its competence and its attachment to the much-betrayed Dahomeyan revolution.

The Kerekou government's first actions were the setting up of a number of commissions (to inquire into the activities of the previous government, to make an economic inventory of the country, and to help the government draw up a programme), and the allocation of appointments. On the latter, two points merit attention — firstly that all the government portfolios were held by army and gendarmerie officers, with no civilian assistance, and secondly that all senior officers were shunted out of the army into relatively obscure posts in public corporations. Thus Colonel Alley went to the National Oil Company, Colonel de Souza to Agricultural Credit, Colonel Sinzogan to Forestry Products, and Major Hacheme to Ceramies, where he was later joined by M. Adjanooun, who had been Secretary-General to the government under the Presidential Council. Major Rodriguez went to Port Handling and Major Johnson to the National Lottery.

Thus the effective hierarchy now begins with four majors (Kerekou himself, Alafaye, the Foreign Minister, Ouhouen, Justice Minister, and Pierre Koifi, Information) and a large group of captains. Most of the government, and the Military Revolutionary Council they have created, are now men who have passed through some kind of military academy, as opposed to the old guard who had been veterans of the French Army in Indo-China and Algeria, and who had risen through the ranks. Although there may be men of the French army in the rank and file and especially among the NCOs, they are now very few in the officers corps. Some of the best known have retired, such as General Sogbo, who is currently in Rochefort, the home town of his French wife, or Colonel Aho, who can be occasionally seen eating ice cream at the *Gerie D'Or*, a pastry-shop in the middle of Cotonou. Major Chabi, who once emerged as "Commander of the Army of the North" in the 1970 election crisis is now, I am told, also retired, and Lt. Col. Chasme, who headed the tribunal which tried Colonel Kouandete last May, has disappeared. Colonel Kouandete himself, although still in the army, has not yet been re-assigned.

So, perhaps for the first time in Dahomey, you have in the government a fairly homogenous body of men, all within a certain age group (none are over

40 and Kerekou himself is only with a determination to stay and do the job they have themselves. In this there are analogies to be made. Acheampong's régime in Ghana, the attitude of the men in power, officers, and the kind of programme they have adopted is similar. In Dahomey the Commission to advise the government, after some dispute, asked Kerekou to bring forth what he called the *discours-programme* (programme) of November 30, in which he set out, within the framework of "policy of national independence", a programme which is not very different from Acheampong's. "Self-reliance" is nearly all the members of the government, including the students, are being detained in a camp in Parakou, while those being investigated.

Vital sectors

In his speech, Major Kerekou outlined the fundamental characteristics of the primary source of our basic foreign domination. The basic domination is that of political, economic exploitation, centralisation, and the exaggeration of regional and inter-tribal conflicts. He outlined thirteen major internal policy, including rural development, transformation of an autonomous organisation into various agricultural support organisations, control of the marketing of cotton, the taking over by vital sectors of the economy, sounds very similar to Col. Acheampong's "commanding heights", the Dahomey of headquarters and of all foreign companies in Dahomey, the revision of the code in a manner more favourable to Dahomeyans, state control of some imports, as well as the national transit company at Cotonou, the reinforcement of control and inspection, payment of the 25 per cent levy on wages in the private tax code, improved administration and new measures in education.

The section on the labour programme aroused considerable interest. It stated that until now a culture had been "in the foreign exploitation and and it was necessary to break the straitjacket confining national government aimed at a reform of teaching content demands of the new social structure would be set up, it

demands of economic development and national independence, designed to "give new value to national languages, rehabilitate our culture in adapting it to the needs of the toiling masses, and to open our university to all forms of knowledge and all contemporary currents of scientific thought. It must have an African as well as universal vocation, and reserve a privileged place to the mingling of experiences accumulated by sister universities".

All this was taken as a sophisticated way of getting at the French, who have been in the position of dominating Dahomey's education system, and are paying for 70 per cent of the cost of the university. The section on external affairs, again without mentioning the French, contained an even more direct statement that co-operation agreements with "certain friendly countries" would be revised, although no further step has been taken for the time being in this direction. Likewise, there is an implicit threat in the statement that relations with O.A.M., the Entente Council, Air Afrique and the West African Central Bank (W.A.C.B.) would be reviewed, although for the moment Dahomey is still co-operating in all these organisations. Moreover, the reference in the programme to taking over "vital sectors" could also be read principally on French interests.

The evolution of the Kerekou régime in this direction should be one of the most interesting aspects of Dahomey in the months to come. The recognition of Kérékou could be taken as a "move left", or it could simply be an act of realism. Close ties are developing with Guinea and Sierra. But what steps are the Dahomeyans really prepared to take against the French, who are still providing large sums of aid? Could the Dahomeyans really afford to call into question their relationship with the franc zone?

The financial position of the country seems as difficult as ever. In November when the new government adopted a revised budget, there were intimations of austerity, and the 1973 budget in January provided for a deficit of about 800m. CFA francs (£1.3m). The Finance Minister, Intendant Thomas Lahami, said that the deficit had been entirely due to a government decision to allow payment of 50 per cent of salary increases due for promotion, which had been blocked since 1966. This move was described as a "measure of encouragement for the servants of the state to increase their purchasing power" but the Minister warned traders not to use it as a pretext for increasing prices, which the government has now officially frozen. The budget this year provides for higher expenditure than last year (just over 13,000m CFA as against 11,800m. CFA), but the deficit foreseen is nevertheless smaller. Last year's deficit was forecast as 1,370m. CFA, but the then Finance Minister had explained that in Dahomey budgets were always pessimistic in their forecasts, and that for the two previous years they had balanced.

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Nigeria's pilgrims: a cause for concern?

From a Kano correspondent

The Kano Airport 707 disaster, in which 176 Nigerian pilgrims returning from Mecca lost their lives, was a tragic ending to what looked like being the most successful and trouble-free pilgrimage from Nigeria in living memory.

An estimated 48,000 Nigerians, 80 per cent of them from the six northern states, made this year's Hajj to Mecca. This puts Nigeria in second place to Yemen as to the number of pilgrims who make the Hajj to Saudi Arabia. Chad third place with nearly 5,000 pilgrims, followed by Niger with just over 3,000 and Senegal with 2,500.

Most Nigerian pilgrims travel by air and on this pilgrimage a total of 218 flights carried 37,000 pilgrims from Kano and 6,000 from Ikeja Airport in a massive and elaborate airlift which began on December 19. The return flights commenced from Jeddah on January 10. All of these special pilgrim flights were operated by Nigeria Airways using aircraft chartered mainly from Arab airlines. An additional 5,000 pilgrims made the journey to Jeddah on the eleven day sea voyage in three vessels chartered by the Nigerian Sea Travel Agency. The journey to Mecca, the birthplace of Islam, where pilgrims perform the Hajj rituals, assemble on the plains of Arafat and enter the Gate of Peace into Islam's

holiest shrine, the Great Mosque of Mecca, is an essential duty to all Muslims.

With a Muslim population of over 40 million, the annual pilgrimage is big business in Nigeria. Organising it is also a perennial headache for the Nigerian authorities.

State Governments and the Federal Military Government have been plagued in the past with drug trafficking, illegal possession of counterfeit bank drafts and currency smuggling by pilgrims. Last year several large-scale organised rackets involving the collection of fares by unscrupulous agents, who gave intending pilgrims forged airline tickets and receipts were uncovered. Nigeria's image in Saudi Arabia, has in fact, been severely tarnished with the high incidence of pilgrims found in possession of dangerous drugs and smuggled currency. In addition there has often been the embarrassment and inconvenience of pilgrims being allowed to travel who were not physically fit enough—the old, the sick and expectant mothers.

New transit camp

After last year's pilgrimage many complained of poor conditions in the special camps for pilgrims set up around the Holy City and alleged that inadequate measures had been taken to safeguard their welfare. However, for this year's pilgrimage elaborate arrangements were drawn up in advance by the Federal Pilgrimage Commission and State Governments. A new 500,000 naira pilgrims' transit camp near Kano Airport, built by Kano State Government, was in action and offered thousands of pilgrims temporary and free accommodation.

Each State appointed Pilgrims Agents and set up offices in the various administrative divisions. These officers registered all intending pilgrims and collected money for fares, foreign exchange allowances and passport fees as well as checking that pilgrims met the health requirements and received necessary vaccinations. Only Pilgrims Officers were authorised to collect money at the listed offices and this widely publicised ruling made it almost impossible for bogus agents to gain in on the unsuspecting. Strict checks were kept on the issuing of foreign exchange. In the past foreign exchange allocations could be purchased in dollars or sterling, but this year the 500 naira allocation for each adult pilgrim was issued on draft cheques to Saudi Arabian banks only.

A 100-man strong Federal Government welfare team, made up of 10 doctors, with nurses and welfare officers, accompanied the pilgrims. Several States also sent their own welfare teams and salaried pilgrim guides accompanied each

flight. A massive security operation was launched to crack down on. There was stringent screening of airports by customs officials helped out by members of forces, and Nigerian plain detectives mingled with pilgrims in Arabia.

Drug smuggling

Flights to Jeddah were suspended by the Saudi authorities in the early stages after a number of pilgrims with drugs hidden in their luggage carry large quantities with them to Mecca. In the days 18 Nigerians were arrested with smuggling the drugs. Warnings that had been made in the past included several apostate Muslims' spiritual leader in the State of Saudi Arabia, Sultan of Saudi Arabia, the tighter Government on this year's pilgrimage did a very successful effort in the absence of smuggling incidents.

There have however, been criticisms of operation which have disrupted many pilgrims' flights with more than the weight allowance. This, especially true for return when pilgrims were laden with families and relatives, and the possibility that some of the overloaded facilities at Kano were also stretched this year limit with 15 pilgrim flights of the scheduled internal movements.

Government more involved

It seems clear that the Federal Government is to increase its involvement in the organising annual pilgrimage. A new, expected soon to establish a Federal Pilgrims Welfare Board, an autonomous body will coordinate operation and individual State Welfare Boards will act in a capacity.

The Government is also seeking a permanent solution to the Hajj by pilgrims. The Supreme Council of Jama'atu Nasril Islam has asked the Government to impose a ban on pilgrim smugglers and to indefinitely from further Hajj to Jama'atu Nasril Islam is the to establish an Islamic radio in Ibadan and Kaduna. If successful these will be the broadcasting stations in black

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Commercial News

Groundnut ups and downs

Substantial increase in the area devoted to groundnuts in Nigeria is attributed by the US Agriculture Department's *Statistical Report* to the raising of producer prices from about \$102.75 per long ton in 1971 to \$122.50 in 1972. Total 1972 production, unshelled, was placed at 1.1m tons — 10 per cent or 255,000 tons above the depressed level of 1971. Commercial purchases for 1972-73 are forecast at about 600,000 tons, unshelled, compared to 438,000 tons a year earlier. Although yields in 1972 were probably reduced by dry weather in the north and early July, they are expected to have improved significantly over 1971.

World production in 1972 is now estimated at 16.22m metric tons, unshelled, compared to the revised 1971 total of 17.68m tons. This is a decline of 1.46m tons, or over 8 per cent, to the lowest level since 1968, primarily reflecting a severe shortfall in the 1972 Indian harvest. India's production is now estimated at 4.3m tons.

Senegal's 1972 crop, at 580,000 tons, is "sharply below" the 920,000 tons harvested in 1971. The decline reflects drought, reportedly lasting 60 days, which wiped out the first plantings and partially reduced the second. Area sown was about the same as a

year earlier. 430,000 tons are expected to be available for crushing in 1972-73 compared with 1973-72's 760,000.

For several countries in West Africa, particularly The Gambia, Niger and Mali, together accounting for about 10 per cent of combined world exports of nuts and oil, 1972 production is reportedly lower due to poor rainfall. Estimates are still unavailable.

Among major exporting countries — Nigeria, Senegal, Argentina, Brazil, the US, The Gambia, and South Africa — aggregate production in 1972, is tentatively estimated at 4.82m tons, down by about 100,000 tons. If this year's 130,000 ton gain in the US crop is excluded, the 1972 decline among major producer-exporter countries is about 230,000 tons. Sharply lower output from 1972 harvested crops in Senegal, Argentina, and The Gambia were only partly offset by gains in Nigeria, the US and, to a lesser extent, Brazil. However, southern Hemisphere crops to be harvested in the spring of 1973, are expected to show a sizeable increase in amounts available for export, and may permit exports to be maintained at near the previous year's level.

The US 1972 crop was estimated at 1,491m metric, over 9 per cent up

• The Nigerian Ports Authority has sent out new orders to shipping companies, importers and clearing agents in an effort to tackle renewed congestions at Lagos' port.

Newspaper notices directed shipping companies to work their vessels round the clock from time of arrival while importers and clearing agents were requested to take immediate delivery or be penalised.

At least 38 merchant vessels were reported tied up outside Lagos quays for lack of berthing space when the announcement was made. The new build-up is thought to have been worsened by a two-day strike of dockers late in January in protest against delay in the payment of wages.

Lagos Ports Manager, Alhaji Bamanga M. Tukur, said "we are taking appropriate steps to bring the situation to normal and will deal firmly with some unscrupulous importers who will not come forward to clear their goods."

New ports Chief

Mr. M. A. Tokunboh, a retired Permanent Secretary, has been appointed General Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority, on contract for three years. He began his career in the traffic department of the Nigerian Railway, where he worked from 1936 to 1945. He served as a Labour Officer in the Ministry of Labour from 1945 to 1955, and was seconded to the Nigerian Ports Authority, where he served until 1958. He became Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Labour in 1962. He was Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Establishments from 1966 until 1972 when he retired.

• Outlook for the Ivory Coast's intermediate coffee and cocoa crop is affected by the drought in the north and centre. Official sources in Abidjan said that if the drought persists, the main coffee and cocoa campaigns now in progress could also be affected.

Rice crop rising

Rice production in Africa in 1972 is estimated at 7,210,000 metric tons by the US Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of some 200,000 tons on the previous year when production was some 350,000 tons up on the average of 1966-70. The increase is due more to improvement in yield than to extension in area of cultivation. Egypt, producing over a third of the total is Africa's major rice producer, followed by Malagasy with almost 2m. tons last year. Nigerian production is estimated at 494,000 tons compared with the 1966-70 average of 389,000. Sierra Leone's production is estimated at 259,000, a heavy fall on the 1966-70 average of 411,000, due chiefly to a big drop in yield per acre. Ghana's production is put at 72,000 tons compared with the 1966-70 average of 54,000, an increase due, entirely to extension of the area under cultivation. The Gambia's production is put at 55,000, compared with the 1966-7 average of 41,000, an increase due to a substantial rise in yields. Guinea's production is given as 375,000, an increase. The Ivory Coast's is 395,000, a very substantial increase over previous years, chiefly due to a rise in yields. Senegal's production is up to 120,000, although yields per acre have fallen.

• Sales by The Gambia to Britain again increased last year. They totalled £4,598,000 compared with £4,564,000 in 1971, £4,139,000 in 1970 and are more than double the 1969 figure. Fixed vegetable oils and fats worth £3,057,000 and animal feeding stuff valued at over £1m. were the main items.

The Gambia's imports from the UK also rose, totalling £3,197,000 against £2,707,000 in 1971. Major Gambian purchases were machinery and transport equipment, £1,109,000; manufactured goods £699,000; chemicals, £567,000; and beverages and tobacco, £201,000.

• Due to the continuing shortage of labour in Liverpool, UK West Africa Lines Joint Services (UKWAL) announce that it cannot have *Kano Palm* loaded at the port. The ship was due to sail on February 22 on a voyage ending at Sapele.

UKWAL has obtained a berth and workers at Middlesbrough and has transferred the *Kano Palm* sailing to *Horin Palm*.

• During a visit to Algiers the President of the African Development Bank said that the conference of African Finance and Development Ministers due to take place in the city in May would establish a "common front" in economic affairs. Mr. Labidi said that disunity in Africa was a contrast to the harmony between all the under-developed nations shown at the last UNCTAD.

• A warning that the EEC should not seek to use aid policy and trade policy towards developing countries, to try to purchase discriminatory commercial privileges and a special sphere in a section of the third world, has been given by Mr. Arnold Smith, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. Such a policy, said Mr. Smith, could stimulate industrial powers such as the US and Japan to do likewise. "It could jeopardise the concept of non-alignment, make nonsense of the concept of aid without strings, and tend to encourage not merely protectionism, but trade war and aid war between powerful industrialised sections of our world". But for Britain the question was not one of having to choose between Europe and the Commonwealth but of how to secure, for itself and its friends within the EEC and the Commonwealth, the greatest benefits from association with both.

• The Federal Government has acquired 40 per cent equity in the United Bank for Africa operating in Nigeria

Stockfish men complain

The Nigerian government has been urged to restore the Open General Licence for importation of stockfish. Alternatively, the government should abolish the 180 days stipulated for clearance of imports by indigenous importers.

Addressing a press conference the chairman of the Aba Stockfish Traders' Association, said that restrictions made import of stockfish by Nigerian stockfish importers almost impossible. Confirming houses overseas were exploiting Nigerian importers who had been forced to use them as middlemen.

• Among contracts recorded in *British Export Business*, published by the British Overseas Trade Board, is one for Allen West of Brighton for supply of the 415V motor control gear for a new flour mill in Nigeria, placed by Thomas Robinson & Son, flour milling engineers of Rochdale, which is supplying the machinery to the Niger Mill Co of Lagos.

• The EEC Commission has finalised proposals for temporarily suspending import duties charged by EEC states on some fruit and vegetables from African associated states. There has been a dispute over the duties between the Africans and the Common Market some of whose members, like Italy, were opposed to duty-free entry. The proposals also affect Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania linked with the EEC under a separate convention.

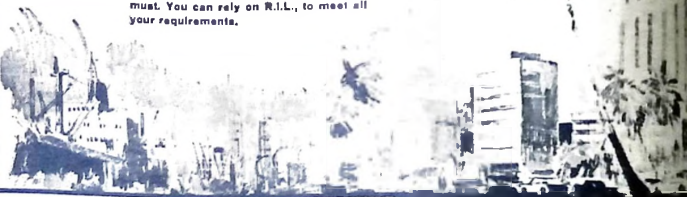
• The US Government has set up a rubber plant near Benin in partnership with Nigeria. The State government is to hold a 40 per cent interest in the plant, expected to begin later this year with a force of about 100 workers.
• Gold and Rubber Nigeria report for 1972 as to the Columbite 24 tons, 587 tons, columbite



Mr. D. A. Okwufaiwe (second from right) managing director (UK), with some of the guests at UKWAL cockle party and forwarders in Liverpool. The guests are from left J. D. Becker, Export Manager, CFAO; Mr. A. J. Shaw, Exports and Mr. T. C. Catherall, Liverpool Manager Transport.

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Cocoa pact prospect

If no objections are received by March 1, the quota provisions for putting the International Cocoa Agreement into force will be regarded as fulfilled, despite the "fractional" deficiency in support for it. The UN had to consult the countries concerned with the Agreement because one condition for putting it into force is that it be ratified, accepted or approved by exporting countries accounting for at least 70 per cent of total exports. The agreement was in fact signed by countries representing 69.83 per cent.

The UN's Legal Counsel, Mr. Constantine Stavropoulos, has written to the 41 states, plus the IEC, which signed the agreement by the January 15 deadline, to announce the coming into force of the agreement.

Another condition for putting the treaty into force is that it should be signed by at least five exporting countries having at least 80 per cent of the basic quotas. It was signed by six countries representing 92.9 per cent.

The treaty will provisionally enter into force on April 30. It however, any state which signed the Agreement or participated in the conference objects to "rounding off" the import figure, or if the requisite percentage of signatory states do not make the necessary ratification. "It will not be possible to announce the entry into force of the Agreement," the letter adds. It would then be necessary, after June 30, to convene the special meeting provided for in the agreement.

A deficit of 58,000 tons of supply in relation to demand is forecast in the latest *Cocoa Market Report* of Gill & Duffus. The report calls this a "substantial figure" but notes that it could be changed. "While the major West African crops are nearly completed, there are still areas of uncertainty, notably the Brazilian Tempurao Crop."

"There has been little change in the forecast for overall world production for the 1972-73 season (October 1972-September 1973) which

is put at 1,494,000 long tons, 3.5 per cent or 54,000 tons down on the 1971-72 estimated production of 1,548,000 tons. There have been some changes in individual forecasts in Africa, with the Ghana crop in particular looking rather better than originally forecast."

After "making an allowance for cocoa which it is thought has moved over the border into Dahomey", overall production in Nigeria during the 1972-73 season is now estimated at 255,000 long tons, which includes estimated production for the summer crop.

Other forecasts for 1972-73 are: Cameroon, 102,000 tons; Ghana, 435,000; Equatorial Guinea, 15,000; Ivory Coast, 185,000; San Thome and Principe, 10,000; Sierra Leone, 6,000; Togo, 18,000. Total African production is forecast at 1,062,000 tons, compared with 1,145,000 estimated for 1971-72 and 1,084,000 recorded for 1970-71.

The US Agricultural Department estimate for 1972-73 is somewhat different. Reflecting "less favourable growing conditions in the major West African producing countries" world cocoa bean production in 1972-73 is now forecast at 1.51m metric tons, down nearly 3 per cent from the record 1971-72 crop of 1.55m tons.

African production is expected to fall 6 per cent from the previous year's big harvest of 1.15m tons to 1.08m because of dry weather in major producing areas.

"Initial estimates of Nigerian production called for a 10 per cent increase over the 1971-72 harvest, but later reports now indicate that the rains have continued to be sparse and that the post-Christmas pickings will be lower than earlier anticipated. However, production is still expected to be larger than the 1971-72 crop of 263,000 tons."

World cocoa supply and demand were in balance in 1972, following 2 consecutive years of stock increases, says the US report.

Shipping News

ELDER DEMPSTER LINES

SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool: DEIDO s/d. Feb. 16; DEGEMA s/d. Lohito Feb. 17.

From London: FALABA due Appa Feb. 19; SYLVIA CORD s/d. Feb. 21; DALLA due Lobito Feb. 18; EBOJ s/d. Feb. 19; From Glasgow: FIAN s/g. Feb. 19; EGORII s/g. Feb. 19.

From Manchester: DUNKWA s/g. Feb. 23; From Middlesbrough: DUMBAIA s/g. Mar. 2.

From N. Continent: IDOMENIUS due Antwerp Feb. 16; From Poole: CLARWAY due Lagos Feb. 27.

From Southampton: AUREOL due Freetown Feb. 16; **NORTHBOUND** - To Liverpool: FOURAH HAY due Feb. 18.

To London: ULANI due Feb. 25; MANO due Feb. 18; FEGU s/d. Sapele Feb. 18.

To Glasgow: KOHIMA s/g. Sapele Feb. 19; To Avonmouth: BHAMO due Feb. 19.

To N. Continent: FREETOWN due Amsterdam Feb. 19; FALABA due Rotterdam Feb. 25; KADUNA due Rotterdam Feb. 22.

EASTBOUND - To USA/Canada: DONGA due New York Feb. 14.

WESTBOUND - From USA/Canada: DARU due Matadi Feb. 17; DUMURRA due Halifax Feb. 18.

Eastern Service to West Africa: BEECHBAK due Takoradi Feb. 16; PINEBANK s/d. Dakar Feb. 16.

BARBER LINES

OUTWARDS - BARBERGATE due Monrovia Feb. 24, thence Abidjan, Tema, Cotonou, Lagos/ Appa, Douala; FERNLAND s/g. New York Mar. 9 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/ Appa, Douala.

HOMEWARDS - FERNLAND s/g. Warri/Sapele 3rd week Feb.; Abidjan/Monrovia 4th week Feb.; BARBERGATE s/g. Lagos S. Bound Mar. 8; Sapele Mar. 10; Douala Mar. 12; Ghana Mar. 14; Abidjan/Monrovia 3rd week Mar.

K' LINE

WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lobito, Luanda, Matadi, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown Abidjan; MISSISSIPPI MARU s/d. Japan Feb. 5 due Lagos Mar. 22.

LASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc.: OISHIMA MARU s/g. Freetown Feb. 23; Abidjan Mar. 3; Japan Apr. 9.

BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/ WEST AFRICA

WESTWIND - OTI RIVER Ghana Feb. 13; Philadelphia Feb. 26.

BLACK STAR LINE/UK/ COMBENT/WEST AFRICA

SOUTHBOUND - BIRIM RIVER Hamburg Feb. 23; Bremen Feb. 25; Antwerp Feb. 27; Rotterdam Mar. 1.

NORTHBOUND - BIRIM RIVER Rotterdam Feb. 14; Antwerp Feb. 21; KIDRLE LAGOON - Middlesbrough Feb. 14.

DAFRA LINES

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

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

PALM LINE

SOUTHBOUND - LAGOS PALM s/d. Dakar Feb. 18.

NORTHBOUND - ANDONI

PALM due Takoradi Feb. 18; FNUGU PALM s/g. Warri Feb. 18.

N.Y.K. LINE

WESTBOUND - SAIKYU MARU Douala Feb. 13/14; Abidjan Feb. 27/28.

EASTBOUND - SAIKYU MARU Cotonou Feb. 21/22; Tema Feb. 23/24; Takoradi Feb. 25/26; Abidjan Feb. 27/28; Lobito Mar. 3/5; Japan first port Mar. 30.

MITSUI OSK LINE

NORFOLK MARU s/d. Kobe Feb. 4; due Lagos Mar. 10; KINKASAN MARU s/g. Kobe Feb. 19; due Lagos Mar. 22.

KASUGASAN MARU s/g. Kobe Mar. 4; due Lagos Apr. 8.

MAERSK LINE

INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Abidjan; JESPER MAERSK s/g. Kotonou Feb. 14; due Luanda Apr. 10.

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

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Batu s/g. Rouen Mar. 2; Bourdeaux Mar. 5; due Boma/Matadi Mar. 18; Luanda Mar. 20; HOEGH AUGVALD s/g. Hamburg Mar. 9; Antwerp Mar. 12; Rotterdam Mar. 14; Rouen Mar. 16.

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA

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

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

INWARDS - STRAAT FREEMANTLE s/d. Japan Jan. 18; due Monrovia Feb. 21; Freetown Feb. 23; Port Harcourt Feb. 28; Lagos/Appa Mar. 3; Takoradi Mar. 9; Abidjan Mar. 12.

STRAAT MAGELAEN s/d. Hong Kong Jan. 5; due Tema Feb. 19; Abidjan Feb. 21; Monrovia Feb. 24; Freetown Feb. 26; Dakar Mar. 2; Conakry Mar. 7; Takoradi Mar. 11; Luanda Mar. 23 opt.

OUTWARDS - STRAAT FREEMANTLE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Japan etc. Mar. 1; STRAAT MAGELAEN from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore opt., Hong Kong, Shanghai opt., Japan mid Feb.

FARRELL LINES

HOMEWARDS - AFRICAN SUN s/d. Matadi Feb. 10; for Sao Thome Feb. 12; Lagos/Appa Feb. 16; Abidjan, Monrovia, U. Paris, AFRICAN MERCURY s/g. Lagos/Appa Feb. 21; Port Harcourt, Abidjan, Monrovia, U. Paris.

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN STAR due Monrovia Feb. 27; for Buchanan, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Mar. 8; Matadi, Luanda, Lobito; AFRICAN PLANET due Dakar Mar. 12; for Abidjan, Monrovia Mar. 16; Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Mar. 23; Lagos/ Appa Mar. 25; Douala.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE

NORTHWIND s/g. New Orleans Feb. 27; Houston Mar. 4; for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire; Sapele, W.A. Mar. 15; Tema Mar. 15.

THE E.A.C. LINES

SOUTHBOUND - BOGOTA s/g. Hamburg Feb. 23; Antwerp Feb. 26; Rotterdam Feb. 28; Rouen Mar. 1; due Dakar Mar. 9; Freetown Mar. 12; Monrovia Mar. 13; Abidjan Mar. 15; Tema Mar. 17; Cotonou Mar. 19; Lagos/ Appa Mar. 20; Douala Mar. 27; Lome Mar. 29.

NORTHBOUND - Boma s/g. Lagos/Appa Feb. 22; Cotonou Feb. 24; Abidjan Mar. 2; due Amsterdam Mar. 12; Hamburg Mar. 14.

Food prices soar

Mr Adeke Boerma, Director-General of FAO has attributed the shortage of food in many parts of the world to unusually bad harvests brought about by drought. He told a news conference that while there was no immediate danger of famine gripping vast areas, several countries were finding it difficult to feed themselves. World reserves of wheat would drop to 30m. tons in the middle of next year, the lowest level since 1952, although population would have increased by half. Drops in production of cereals and rice had sent prices soaring.

The rise placed an added strain on the finances of developing countries which has to buy cereals abroad. Stocks were so low that they could have no security in the event of further setbacks to this year's harvest. Mr Boerma said he envisaged the possibility of a world cereals shortage either this year or next year. "Can our world, in the 1970s, with all its scientific capacity and its growing sense of a community spirit, endure for much longer a situation in which decent food for millions of human beings simply depends on the rain and the weather. Is this a tolerable human situation?" he asked.

More attention should be paid to food production in developing countries. Mr Boerma also called on the US, Canada and the EC to build up reserves. It was also time for other countries, besides the US, to play a role as "guardians" against world famine.

• Zaire has ordered two McDonnell Douglas Intercontinental-range DC-10 tri-jetliners for Air Zaire. The cost is about \$40m, plus spare parts and other equipment. Delivery of the first aircraft is scheduled for June and the second a year later. Air Zaire, formerly Air Congo, plans to use the aircraft between Kinshasa and principal European cities. The version purchased by Air Zaire has a range of more than 6,000 miles. Air Zaire operates two DC-8 Super 63s, two standard DC-8s, two Caravelles and seven F-27s.

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IN MEMORIAM

I AM SOLELY in the affectionate memory of my dear father, David (Obituary) Fawcett on the Lord on 23rd Sweet is the memory of the righteous. You are in my thoughts.
D. F. Fawcett (The Lord)

SITUATIONS VACANT

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Application together with completed prescribed form (attached on request) accompanied by copies of testimonial and certificates should be addressed to the Director-General, GHANA BROADCASTING CORPORATION, Box 1633, Accra to reach him not later than 28th February, 1973. Applicants in the Civil Service and other statutory Bodies, should submit their applications through their Head of Departments

NOTE:

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SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

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Vacancy

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QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must possess the final certificate of at least one of the following bodies:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants
- Institute of Cost and Works Accountants
- Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors
- Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, or equivalent qualification.

In addition, candidates should have had at least 10 years post-qualification experience in a Senior accounting position in Institution of Higher Learning, Industry or Government. A University degree relevant to the post would be an advantage.

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METHOD OF APPLICATION:

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REGISTRAR

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Publicist

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organisation of

Report, Election

committees.

M. A. (Publicist)

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GHANA

Food subsidy lifted

The Government has withdrawn its 30m. cedi subsidy for foreign food and commodity imports. Milk and baby foods will still be subsidised. Announcing the withdrawal, Major Felli, Commissioner for Trade, said that as a result of the greed and illicit deals of some traders, consumers were not benefiting from the subsidy.

The subsidy, on sugar, canned beef, sardines and pilchards, soap and matches, had been introduced to alleviate hardships following Dr. Busia's devaluation of the cedi, explained Maj. Felli. "With the subsidy we expected that the commodities would be sold at pre-devaluation prices". However, ordinary Ghanaians were not benefiting from the subsidy "as a result of the greed and unscrupulous trade practices of some of our countrymen. As a result of the artificial shortages created through hoarding, smuggling and other trade malpractices, we are now paying more for the subsidised goods than we would have paid if there were no subsidy on them". The subsidy was thus finding its way "into the pockets of selfish individuals and middlemen". Apart from this, said Maj. Felli, the subsidy was, in a way "a consumption promotion" which should not be sustained indefinitely. He added that the government had never intended that the subsidy should become permanent.

Announcing the new prices, Maj. Felli said "compared with prices in neighbouring territories, these new prices in Ghana are still cheaper".

- Cable links between Ghana and the outside world were cut for about 12 hours following the theft of 135 ft of underground cables. Commenting on the incident

the state-owned *Daily Graphic* said that the extent of cable stealing demanded serious preventive measures. It thought that the Posts and Telecommunications department had not been serious enough in checking thefts. "We refer to the case recently in which bundles of cables delivered at Tema Port remained in the open space until they were stolen".

Call for detainees' release

The *Daily Graphic* has urged the Taylor Assets Committee and the Aidoo Assets Committee to speed up their probes into the assets of members of the Busia regime. Recalling that it is now almost a year since the Taylor Committee was set up, the newspaper called on the two committees to "do all possible to accelerate their work so that those against whom nothing adverse is found and are not considered security risks may be released without further delay".

- Brigadier E. A. Erskine has been appointed Commander of the Ghana Army. He recently returned from a year's course at Britain's Institute of Strategic Studies. He replaces Brig. Asare, who has retired from the service.

Captain C. K. Dzang has been appointed Commander of the Ghana Navy in place of Cdr. Amedume who has become Central Region Commissioner.

Col. L. A. Oka has been appointed Commissioner for NRC Affairs. Lt. Col. Benni held this post until his appointment as Commissioner for Information.

- Colonel Acheampong has opened the first wholly owned Ghanaian brewery,

Tata, in Accra. He said he hoped the perennial shortages of beer in the country which have caused the people much anxiety would end. The 12m. cedis brewery, which will also produce Maltex and soft drinks, is the largest and most modern Ghanaian-owned factory. Col. Acheampong said the government had decided that there should be 50 per cent Ghanaian equity participation in the beer brewing industries in the country in view of their importance.

Colonel Acheampong expressed the hope that the factory would export to neighbouring countries and even to Europe after satisfying local demand.

Col. Acheampong congratulated the company on its policy of Africanisation.

It is estimated that in 1973 some 10.5m. cedis in excise duties will accrue to the exchequer from beer.

- Ghana's Timber Marketing Board earned Q57m in foreign currency from export of 606,507 tons of logs and 112,233 tons of sawn timber in the first 10 months of 1972, according to Barclays Bank International. This is almost double the amount earned during the whole of 1971.

- The reconstituted Ghana Timber Association is to establish technical schools for the timber industry. The schools will offer courses in saw-doctoring, saw-engineering, saw-shopping, and other technical branches of the trade. They will be attached to leading timber firms.

- The Steelworks division of GHHOC has reactivated its oxygen plant which has been idle since 1965.

- The assets and bank accounts of Fynhout (Ghana) Ltd. have been frozen following allegations of malpractices.

- 883,000 cedis is to be spent on reactivating the low cost housing project in Accra abandoned after the February 1966 coup.

- Ghana earned 7m. cedis in foreign exchange last year from tourism, Maj. Roger Felli, Commissioner for Trade and Tourism, has announced. He hoped the amount would increase to 10m. cedis this year if plans to improve the

country's tourist industry succeeded. Maj. Felli, who was addressing members of the Ghana Manufacturer Association, advised trader to set aside a greater percentage of their product for export.

- Foreign foods and commodities are to be airlifted to areas where they are in short supply to avert shortages, the Commissioner for Trade has announced. Cartons of soap have already been airlifted to the Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions. The Commissioner denied that the shortage of soap was due to a cut in production by the manufacturers, Lever Bros., and attributed it to continued smuggling and hoarding.

- Ghana's visible trade surplus was 21.1m. cedis in November. This brings to Q158.8m. the surplus from January to November. Imports for the period were Q366.7m. and exports Q525.5m. Comparative figures for 1971 were imports, Q416m. and exports, Q343.9m.

- The second phase of Operation Feed Yourself, which is soon to be launched, will not only aim at achieving self-sufficiency but will also aim at export production to bring in foreign exchange, Greater Accra Regional Commissioner, Col. Acquaye-Nortey, has said. Greater Accra had exceeded all targets in food and fish production.

More commodities distributed

The Logistics Committee intends to flood the market with 60,000 cartons of sugar, 40,000 cases each of sardines and pilchards and other foods each month to make hoarding ineffective, Maj. Weir, chairman of the Committee, has announced. The 60,000 cartons of sugar would be in addition to the normal production of the two factories, he said. Over 120,000 cartons of milk will also be distributed each month.

- Lt. Col. Iddisa, Northern Region Commissioner, has threatened to ban the distillation of akpeteshie, as has been done in the Upper Region, if the distillers continue to use "much-needed sugar" in the process.

• The Ivory Coast has released 15 fishing nets seized last October from Ghanaian fishermen who were alleged to have been fishing Ivory Coast reaches of the Black Volta. Ghana would soon release goods seized from Ivory Coast nationals at the same time, said Col. Iddisa, Northern Region Commissioner. He said that the NRC was doing everything in its power to restore the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries.

• The manager of a Takoradi shipping and clearing company, Sealandair Ltd., has been placed in military custody for allegedly operating a customs evasion syndicate at the harbour.

• Charges of dishonestly receiving gaming chips have been dropped against Mr. F. E. Techie-Menson, Minister of Housing under Dr. Nkrumah, and two others.

SIERRA LEONE

"No party" state plea

In an editorial, the government-owned *Daily Mail* urges Sierra Leone to adopt a "no-party" system for five years to allow experts to examine the country's problems peacefully. The editorial suggests that people are tired of "brothers fighting brothers". The President has recently been urging the people to avoid conflict in the forthcoming general election and to choose their representatives without contests.

• Six Swedish journalists have arrived to study social,

economic and political conditions in Sierra Leone. They are from Sweden's largest morning newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*.

The leader, Mr. Karl Ahlennus, told President Stevens that they had chosen Sierra Leone among African countries to present to their countrymen as it was a developing country about which little was known in Sweden. The President told him the government would do whatever it could to help their project. It is expected that the journalists will produce a series of articles for their newspaper rather than a single supplement or special issue.

• Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Sweden, the Rev. J. A. Davies, who is resident High Commissioner in Sweden, has presented his letters of credence to King Gustav Adolf IV. Mr. Davies, has also presented his letters to Queen Margrethe of Denmark.

• A report on "phase one" of the Bumbuna Falls hydro-electric scheme has been presented to the President by the Italian-Canadian consortium responsible. The phase is concerned with feasibility studies for a dam, in the Northern Province, which would create a lake some 50 miles long. Negotiations for a contract are expected to begin within a few months.

• At a meeting at Baiya town, formerly an important railway centre, the President has explained that the railway is no longer economic and has to be "phased out". One of the major roads now being constructed connects Baiya with other provincial centres.

• President Stevens has inspected agricultural machinery and equipment presented by China and North Korea. The Korean equipment includes tractors. Tractors are also part of a second consignment of agricultural machinery donated by China.

• Salami Coker, the Sierra Leonean actor, who appeared in *Black Magic* in London, has been holding auditions for people to take part in a play he has written about the famous Paramount chief Bai Bureh, who opposed the extension of British rule.

LIBERIA

Sir Alec's visit

During his brief visit to Monrovia, on his way from Dakar to Lagos, Sir Alec Douglas-Home held discussions with President Tolbert and other Liberian leaders. At a dinner in his honour he said that Liberia could count on British support for any development contributing to the removal of artificial barriers in Africa. He welcomed Liberian interest in a relationship with the EEC. Rhodesia is believed to have been a main subject of the discussions and at a news conference Sir Alec said that the main task there now is to get Europeans and Africans talking. Britain wanted the elimination of discrimination and a majority of Africans in the Rhodesian parliament.

In an editorial the *Liberian Post*, organ of the True Whig Party, while welcoming Sir Alec's visit said that the Foreign Secretary could be assured "that we too eschew violence and bloodshed as a means of achieving political ends. Nevertheless, no one should expect the people of Zimbabwe to be down like sheep and permit Ian Smith to lead them to the slaughter".

"Thus, whatever action they pursue in their struggle for self-determination we shall support the people of Zimbabwe in their efforts until that elusive 'independent' is set on foot until out of their own struggle they can emerge victorious."

An agreement on British technical assistance for Liberia was signed. No statement was made about the cancellation of President Tolbert's proposed visit to Britain next month.

CAMEROON

BEAC approved

President Ahmadou Ahidjo and the Finance Minister attended an emergency session in Yaounde to approve the BEAC (Central African States Bank) agreement. The communiqué Secretary-General (the Central African States Bank) Pierre Tchanda, said the BEAC would be the first President of the Bank. A French Christian Imbault, Secretary-General of the bank, and Edouard Sathouat, Deputy. In the work of the bank a new approach the Bank is to be the management and financing of the Bank's operations provisionally also decided.

The bank affirmed that it would conserve the character of the area, but help primary co-operation themselves and could be a step towards economic recovery.

• At a news conference President Ahmadou Ahidjo notified of a request for a 1960 co-operation agreements. He said they would be prepared in Paris in the near future. He said the moment when agreements would be signed and it was a matter of temperament to try to carry on in public. He said negotiations would be without tension and adapted to operation between Cameroon and

Cameroon. The ambassador to China, Languet, had presented his views on Peking.



The first Cuban Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Mr. Conrado Crably, Menendez has presented his credentials to President Siaka Stevens in Freetown. Sierra Leone's External Affairs Minister, Mr. S. A. Pratt (centre) introduces the Cuban envoy to President Stevens.

DAHOMEY Foreign smugglers?

President Kerekou, at a meeting with 350 Indian, Lebanese and Syrian traders in the Presidential Palace, accused them of large-scale smuggling and threatened them with deportation. He asserted that Arabs and Indians had monopolised small businesses and that they "held the record" for illegal transfers of currency. After warning that Dahomey was ready to send smugglers back to their countries of origin, Major Kerekou urged the traders to put their affairs in order by paying outstanding state duties and taxes. They were also asked to "come up with ideas for investment" before the end of the month.

It is reported from Beirut that the Lebanese government is to make representations to Dahomey after the meeting.

The President has warned that "imperialists" were engaged in a campaign to "alienate the people of Dahomey and discredit the government." "Not satisfied with their ignoble articles in the press against our revolution, they are sowing doubts by claiming there is something wrong within the government." The President's statement declared that "because the head of state has no interest in a political career, he will denounce at any time the imperialists and their supporters on all sides."

Captain Badjougne, Minister of Education has stated that rumours circulating among technical assistance programme instructors that there had been an anti-European demonstration on January 25 in the course of which several whites had been "lynched" were false. As regards the alleged dismissal of these instructors, he declared that the terms of employment were determined by bilateral agreements. Dahomey would continue to observe these scrupulously. The student demonstration of January 25 was in protest at Cabral's assassination.

A statute has been passed ordering all companies in Dahomey to keep their head offices and accounts in the country. The decision will take effect on November 30.

The Council of Ministers also accepted a submission by the Transport and Mines Minister for the creation of a state-owned electricity and water company (SDEE), following an agreement to buy the private electricity and water firm.

Taiwan's Ambassador has left, following the break in diplomatic relations after Dahomey's recognition of Peking.

ZAIRE

Mobilising for work

In the wake of President Mobutu's visit to China in January, the Political Bureau of the ruling Popular Movement of the Revolution have decided on a number of important measures, including mobilising the population making it obligatory for "everyone to work for the common good." All able-bodied citizens are to work eight hours a day for a five day week Saturdays will be used for collective work in the general interest organised by the army in which the whole population will have to participate every citizen being by definition an MPR militant.

Prisoners, unemployed, and party militants are to be resettled in agricultural development zones around the capital. President Mobutu, the Commissioner for Agriculture and the new Chinese Ambassador Mr Kung Tai Fei, with eight of his experts are to make a helicopter tour of the capital's surroundings to enable the Chinese experts to demarcate "green zones" for a future "granary of Kinshasa." This project has been named "Self-sufficiency programme for the capital." The authorities hope this will solve Kinshasa's food problem which at the moment is causing concern.

The Bureau has also said that only local products are to be served at state receptions (ie no more champagne or imported beer). Imports of food-stuffs, drinks and jewellery are to be heavily reduced. All liquor stores and bars are forbidden to open before six o'clock in the evening. Foreign traders long established in the country are

assured that they can continue their trade in serenity. There is no question of nationalisation or state control of economic activity. Another announcement by the Bureau says that the "abacos" (named after the phrase *à bas la costume!*) the bush-jacket outfit worn by the President and his colleagues for some years, is now obligatory for everybody. "This is not to say that Zaire is becoming Communist", said the Bureau. "We will continue to be neither right nor left, but authentically Zairois. Bantu individualism should give way to a general feeling of solidarity by which every Zaire citizen will feel concerned about the development of the country."

President Mobutu summoned the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Cardinal Malula, to the presidential palace to discuss a report produced by Zaire bishops described by Zaire radio as an "anthology of satanic meditations". The report had subjected the régime to trial, said a government spokesman, and encouraged subversion. The government newspaper subsequently accused the Vatican of "subsidising attempts at subversion", and the authorities forbade all religious publications until further notice.

President Mobutu has cancelled proposed visits to Algeria and Mauritania because of the present Zambia-Rhodesia crisis. He was present at the summit between Presidents Kaunda and Nyerere at Arusha in Tanzania, at which ways of helping Zambia in her present predicament were discussed.

UPPER VOLTA

Teachers on strike

Education Minister Charles Tamini has announced the closure of several establishments, including colleges and secondary schools in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, until further notice, following a strike by the union of secondary school and higher education teachers. They are calling for improved benefits in promotion and grading, the Voltatisation of all responsible posts in the education service before the next academic year, and free lodging. An

appeal for conciliation by Prime Minister Gerard Kangue Quedraogo was ignored by the union. The strike was due to last only a week.

President Lamizana speaking on a four-day visit to Senegal, said that economic links between Upper Volta and Senegal were still very weak, but this was due to communications difficulties.

SENEGAL

Students on strike

Following a 48-hour strike in the University of Dakar and Secondary Schools in Dakar, Information Minister Ousmane Camara has warned the students who went on strike that they would be punished and have their scholarships withdrawn. The strike had only been partially successful, he said. The strike was to protest against the expulsion of 55 students from the university. M Camara said the government would ensure free access to classrooms. Classes would be given and examinations would take place on schedule.

To coincide with the visit of Sir Alec Douglas Home to Senegal, the British government has given 100 tons of wheat flour and £2,500 sterling to help relieve distress caused by serious drought.

During his visit Sir Alec had meetings with President Senghor, Premier Abdou Diouf, and Foreign Minister Coumba Ndoffene Diouf, to discuss African problems, and questions related to enlargement of the EEC. He also visited the museum of Ifan, and the British Institute (See also Metchet's Diary, page 229).

Senegal has signed an agreement with the Commercial Credit Bank of France and the International Bank for West Africa, for a 6m. franc CFA loan (about £10,000), to take over further installations of the Water and Electricity Company of West Africa (CEEAO).

The Finance Minister, Babacar Ba, said that the loan did not reflect dissatisfaction with CEEAO but Senegal's desire to "feel independent in the superintendence of electrical energy".

• The future of the weekly magazine *Afrique Nouvelle*, which ceased publication last summer for financial reasons, is to be discussed at the next conference of West African Catholic bishops. A report on whether production can be resumed has been prepared by the Archbishop of Dakar, Mgr. Thiandoum.

GUINEA

"Radical shake-up"

President Sekou Touré has called for a radical shake-up in the Guinean economy, with the closing of enterprises that are not making good, and the "stabilising" of others. At the opening of the National Economic Conference, he called on the managers of 77 commercial and industrial enterprises to have the courage to surpass themselves and redress their backlog, and at the same time denounce the reasons for their own failure to make their enterprises profitable. The conference, which is charged with working out Guinea's next five-year plan, should carry out vigorous measures in all sectors, said the President. The systematic closure of frontiers would be continued, and the weekly markets, usually held close to the frontiers would be moved further away from them. The President also said the Guinea economy would benefit greatly from the formation of the new consortium to exploit iron ore, Mifergui (see page 239).

• Guinea has extended its territorial waters to 130 nautical miles. Conakry radio denounced the "byzantine system fixing territorial water limits at 3 miles".

GABON

Elections next week

President Bongo has announced the dissolution of the National Assembly in preparation for presidential and legislative elections on February 25. The number of deputies in the Assembly would be increased from 49 to 70, the President said.

• Proposed members of the newly-created Central Committee of the Gabon Democratic Party will have to take

an oath of loyalty to the party secretary-general, President Bongo. The Central Committee, set up at the party's extraordinary congress last month, will have 73 members proposed by the President.

IN BRIEF

• M. Nguvulu Lubunda has been named as Zaire's first Ambassador to Peking.

• Hungary and Niger have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

• El Fatah, the Palestinian liberation movement, has opened an office in Dakar.

• President Tombalbaye is visiting Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

NIGERIA

Commonwealth and EEC

Eleven African Commonwealth countries have attended a ministerial meeting in Lagos to discuss issues arising from enlargement of the European Economic Community.

The countries are Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

• Mr. Robert Ouko, East African Minister for Common Market and Economic Affairs, said agreement had been reached to hold the meeting after consultations with eight of the countries and a delegation which represents Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

The latter delegation (from the East African Economic Community) had previously visited Sierra Leone and Ghana.

In Sierra Leone President Stevens assured the delegation of Sierra Leone's full co-operation and said the EEC would be left in no doubt about the African stand after the meeting in Nigeria. He reiterated that African countries must consult each other in their own best interests, just as colonial masters had kept territories under effective domination for a long time because from a central point, "whether in Whitehall or Brussels, they exchanged information which they gathered in various places and used it to their advantage.

• A talk by Lagos Radio on the consequences of Britain's entry into the EEC said that perhaps it was better for African states to adopt a common policy towards the expanded market rather than a piecemeal approach. "The European nations, including Britain, have pursued their own goals regardless of the adverse effects of such policies on African interests. Secondly, the Europeans have not allowed political, cultural, historical or other obstacles to stand in the way of creating an economic union which they consider to be in the supreme interests of their people. Finally the alleged concessions to the developing nations as evidenced in the associate membership are at best discriminatory and at worst ruthless. For example, EEC tariff policy encourages primary production but seriously discourages processing or manufacturing industry in Africa.

"African nations must re-examine and define their interests in the world community. They must, like the Europeans, set aside historical and other prejudices and put the accent on inter-African trade, joint industrial projects, and eventual economic integration".

• Sir Alec Douglas Home, the British Foreign Secretary, has visited Nigeria after several days in Senegal (see *Matchet's Diary*) and Liberia (p. 251). He was met at Ikeja airport by External Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Okoi Ariko, and the British High Commissioner, Sir Cyril Pickard. Sir Alec held talks with Dr. Ariko and with General Gowon, and visited the oil refinery at Port Harcourt. (Details in next week's issue).

Sir Alec said on arrival that he was delighted to be back in Nigeria. "I was last here nearly nine years ago and I have long wanted to make another visit. Much has happened in that time. Among other things Nigeria has successfully come through a difficult period in its history".

Nigeria had a growing role to play in Africa and in world affairs and could also play an important part in the Commonwealth. "Nigeria has always had a special place in British eyes and there are

strong problems and contacts between our two countries".

• The Commission announced that Government will decide on whether Nigeria's natural gas prospects for one iron and steel industry. An NBC spokesman said that one iron and steel industry would be a major source of products and bulk of the country's resources. "The Christmas shortage of products is Nigeria's gas. A similar problem Nigeria relies on imported gas which burns at 17,000m calories associated with it. There is a shortage of natural gas. Development reserves, such as any, would be more than is, however, establish a pipeline to exploit it. Nigeria would then have more than 1,000m cubic feet of the gas, to transport to consumers".

Football riot mob

Brigadier of the Nigerian Commission on "vandalism" by rioters during football matches between Nigeria and Ghana. The game was five minutes long by bottle-throwing protesting against Ghana was in Ghanaian sports blaze by the several people. The police spoke bombs.

Brigadier Commission condemned the and added "provocations by officials, officials. Nigeria Football should have taken appropriate the international federation manner".

The Brigadier apology was for Ghana football

• A World Bank loan of N50m. for Nigeria's National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), to improve and expand supplies throughout the country, is announced. The Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power, Shettima Ali Monguno, said that part of the money would be spent on implementing the electrification scheme. He repeated a plea that it was too early to criticise the newly-formed NEPA, an amalgamation of ECN and the Niger Dams Authority.

The Commissioner said the Federal Government was concerned about distribution of power; that was why it decided to set up NEPA with a view to co-ordinating, developing and maintaining services. He assured customers that they would be able to enjoy improved power supplies in a year's time. Ali Monguno promised to look into complaints about discrimination in the distribution of supplies to certain areas.

Minimum wage?

A decree to give better protection to Nigerian workers in wages and conditions has been enacted. The Wages Boards and Industrial Council Decree 1973 empowers the Federal Commissioner for Labour, or his counterparts in the States, to order establishment of an industrial wages board where wages are unreasonably low or where there is no adequate machinery for regulation of conditions. The boards would recommend wages to be paid by employers. The boards may also recommend specific conditions of service. Where any statutory minimum wages have become effective under the decree employers are bound by law to pay them. Where an employer refuses to pay the wages, he would be liable to a fine of not more than 200 naira. The new law repeals the Wages Boards Act.

• French Minister Delegate at the Foreign Ministry, André Bettencourt, told the French cabinet in Paris that he had found a "very positive" resumption of relations between Paris and Lagos during his recent visit to Nigeria. The French government spokesman said that M. Bettencourt's aim had

been to strengthen French relations with "the great anglophone country of West Africa". Nigeria was a "real human power, in the process of becoming an economic power". M. Bettencourt had discussed with General Gowon firstly French economic activity in the region, secondly the French language problem, which interested Nigeria and a number of French-speaking neighbours, and finally Nigeria's relations with the EEC.

Japan in oil

Japan's Nigerian Oil Development Company has acquired drilling rights on two undersea oil fields off Nigeria for 1,000m. yen (\$3m.) from Monsanto Chemical of the US. A formal agreement will be signed this month between the American and Japanese firms and the Nigerian Government.

The Nigerian Oil Development Co already has the drilling rights on four fields off Nigeria. The company struck oil in one of these four fields in January. The well turns out 3,500 barrels of oil a day. The Japanese oil firm will take 49 per cent of the crude oil and the Nigerian Government 51 per cent.

• Nigeria has accorded diplomatic recognition to the German Democratic Republic. A statement said that the two countries have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

• An eight-man Nigerian economic mission led by the Federal Commissioner for

Economic Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Adedeji, has arrived in Guinea to explore co-operation between the two countries. The mission, which is a follow-up to a Guinean one to Nigeria last year, will, among other things, examine the terms on which the trade agreement between Nigeria and Guinea may be renewed, negotiate possible import of bauxite and iron ore from Guinea and finalise discussions on the export of crude oil from Nigeria to Guinea.

• Chinese agricultural experts have arrived in Lagos to conduct a feasibility survey on Nigeria's potential for large-scale cultivation of rice, wheat and cotton. The 21-man team invited by the Nigerian government will visit various agricultural centres and hold talks with officials.

• A two-man trade delegation has visited Kinshasa to discuss trade co-operation and preparations for possible Zaïre participation in an international trade fair that Nigeria wants to organise in 1976.

• Algeria and Nigeria plan to establish air and sea links, the Federal Commissioner for Transport, Dr. Dikko, said when an Algerian delegation led by Algerian Ambassador, M. Noureddine Djoudi, called on him.

• To support a \$4.2m. sale of US equipment and services for two oil producing areas in Nigeria, the US Export-Import Bank has authorised a direct loan of \$1,890,000 to SAFRAP of Lagos, the French firm. Guarantee of a further loan of \$1,890,000

from the Chase Manhattan Bank to finance another 45 per cent of the US costs has also been made. SAFRAP will make cash payment of 10 per cent of the US costs.

• Drug advertising will be controlled under a Federal decree now under preparation, the Health Commissioner, Alhaji Aminu Kano, announced in Lagos. He said the new decree would help to eliminate the dangers of indiscriminate advertising and distribution of imported drugs.

The Federal Government was formulating a comprehensive national health policy, with emphasis on preventive medicine, rural health and research, he added. • The currency exchange deadline has been extended by two weeks.

Smugglers warned

Fifteen people have been detained in the Western State for allegedly smuggling out cocoa, Brigadier Rotimi, the State Governor, has announced. He gave no further details but said his government was dealing effectively with the culprits.

Governor Rotimi warned last year that the Federal Government in collaboration with his State government would take drastic measures, including detention, against cocoa smugglers.

• African participants would boycott next year's Commonwealth Games in New Zealand if a proposed tour there by the South African rugby team goes ahead, Mr. Abraham Ordia, Nigerian President of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, said in Addis Ababa. He was commenting on reports that arrangements were proceeding for the tour.

Mr. Ordia reiterated an unconditional ban by the Council on all African Commonwealth countries going to the 1974 Christchurch Games if New Zealand maintained sporting contacts with South Africa.

• Since the establishment of the Civil Aviation Training School at Zaria in 1965 the Federal Government has spent 4m. naira on it. The UNDP also contributed 2m. naira in equipment and experts salaries, the Principal, Mr. N. A. Akinbehin, told the



Acting Assistant Inspector Augustine Esiri (left) with the Commandant of the Hendon Police College, Mr. Anthony Lowndes after the passing out parade. Acting Assistant Inspector Esiri, from Abraka, Mid West State, joined the police as a constable in March 1952. He represented Nigeria in the long jump and triple jump in 1954 and 1959 and has over 50 trophies.

North Eastern State Governor who was visiting the Centre. Out of the 3,000 applications invited for interview as pilots last year, only 60 were considered qualified to sit for the higher aptitude test and of these only 18 were selected for training.

■ General Gowon has settled the dispute between airport reporters and the military commandant, Captain Banfa. He called for co-operation and understanding between journalists and security officers who are jointly "working towards the same objectives of building a strong and united Nigeria".

● The Press have been barred from the monthly meeting of the Caretaker Committee of the Lagos City Council. The council's chairman, Col. Sho-Silva, told newsmen to wait in the corridor. He gave no reason.

● The first All-Africa Medical Students' conference was held at Ibadan University's Rural Health Centre from February 10 to 15. The theme of the conference, which was sponsored by the International Medical Students Organisation on

Population (IMSOP), was "Population Pressure and Community Health Care". The conference was opened by Alhaji Aminu Kano, Federal Commissioner for Health. About 100 participants, including two representatives from each of the 28 medical schools in Africa, attended.

● Construction of a plant for the assembly of Volkswagen cars will begin in two month's time representatives of Volkswagen announced.

Agreement for the car assembly factory was signed last September. It is one of two car plants being set up in the country. The second is for the assembly of Peugeots.

● A National Relief and Rehabilitation Agency has been established to take over all functions and responsibilities of the former National Commission for Rehabilitation. Establishment of the new body followed the Federal Government's decision to phase out the war relief activities of the National Commission for Rehabilitation.

● Mr. Ogunjide, deputy permanent secretary, Federal

Ministry of Establishments, has been appointed director of the new administrative staff college set up by the Federal Government. Mr. Ogunjide graduated B.Sc. mathematics and physics from University College, Ibadan, in 1952.

● The College of Education, Abraka, closed down because of a dispute between the students and college authorities, has been reopened after a meeting between NUNS representatives and the Mid-western State Commissioner for Education, Mr. Akpata. A NUNS spokesman described the reopening of the college as a "victory for dialogue".

● The Federal Government has voted 13.7m. naira to help states in their forest development projects in the plan period, the national director of forestry, Mr. Oseni, has said. Already, the South Eastern State had got N160,000 from the vote, he added.

● Four mobile eye clinics have been given to North Eastern, North Central, Mid-Western and Kano states as part of Federal Government's

effort to prevent blindness. The clinics are fully equipped with drugs and instruments.

● The Hausa version of the Koran will soon be translated to Moslems in the Grand Khadi for the states, Alhaji G. announced. Already a translation with been handed to Beirut, Lebanon.

● The Adult Education, General Extension Unit of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, has introduced courses for businessmen through radio and television.

Professor Uziz said that the course aimed at helping businessmen to assume administrative responsibilities expected of them as a result of industrialisation and modernisation programmes in the West and Hausa.

● The World Health Organisation has granted the University of Lagos the Development Laboratory Programme to the Department of Chemistry.



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