

# WEST AFRICA

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RECORD SECTION

## FAIR DEAL FOR FARMERS



Once again Nigerian farmers have been promised a reform of the marketing board system. In his speech marking the 12th anniversary of independence General Gowon said that the government would reform the boards in such a way as substantially to increase the income of farmers whose crops the boards handle, but he gave no details of how this was to be achieved. Similarly the first Progress

Report on the 1970-74 plan said that in any consideration of agriculture the need for the continued existence of the marketing boards, as well as their present powers and functions, would be reviewed. The report went so far as to say that "the indications show that the system as presently operated discourages increased efforts and production by the farmers. The stagnation in the output and export

of some cash crops is attributed to the marketing board system"

In Ghana the Cocoa Marketing Board has been celebrating its 25th anniversary with festivities suggesting that it has been a faithful friend of the farmers during this long period. The Board has handled some eight million tons of cocoa, truly a formidable operation, and has handled the best part of £2,000m. No organis-

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ations have been more important in the economic life of Commonwealth West Africa than the boards and since they directly affect the incomes of millions of people it is not surprising that they have often come under attack.

Historically the boards are something of an accident since they took over from the wartime West African Produce Control Board, established to meet what was thought to be an emergency — although the pre-war Nowell Report had expressed serious misgivings about the system of private marketing of cocoa in West Africa. What is certain, however, as is strongly emphasised by Prof. Bauer in his *Dissent on Development* (reviewed on page 1390) is that it was never intended that the boards should withhold from farmers a high proportion of their overseas earnings. The British government statement of 1946, when the boards were established, was explicit, "the average price paid in West Africa will be substantially near to the average net price realised on the world markets and the boards' buying and selling transactions will, therefore, approximately balance". In fact, as everybody knows, down the years the boards in all four Commonwealth West African countries accumulated enormous surpluses; and these surpluses, for the most part, have not been used to subsidise prices paid to farmers in years of low overseas prices, but have been used by the governments in

a variety of ways. Sometimes they have been used for purposes which can be described as beneficial to farmers; sometimes they have been used for purposes beneficial to the tax payers as a whole; but often they have been used to boost party funds, and have been a potent source of corruption.

Withholding a high proportion of farmers' overseas earnings was justified in the boards' early years as a means of preventing inflation. But whatever the strength of this argument this was never intended to be the boards' function. It was then argued that since the boards' mechanism was one of the few available to raise capital locally for development, the farmers should acquiesce in the withholding of their earnings for this purpose. Once again this was never intended to be one of the boards' functions and it has been totally unjust that farmers rather than other taxpayers should be expected to devote such a high proportion of their incomes to general development. Now that the vast surpluses have been dissipated there is little point in complaining either that they were accumulated or that they were spent in these ways. What is clear is that the farmers whose incomes were so heavily reduced to produce the surpluses have been the victims.

It can be argued, obviously, that had the boards followed the guidelines laid down in 1946 the surpluses would never

have been accumulated or, if related, would all have been used to subsidise prices to farmers. Critic Professor Bauer, however, argues that the board system is a powerful temptation to politicians, since it offers a means of taxing farmers heavily without governments admitting that this is happening, so politicians will misuse it for this purpose. Even in the budget statement Col. Achebe announced the transfer to the Marketing Board of the cost of functions previously paid for from government revenues.

There is, it is true, a limit to the patience of farmers, as was emphasised in the Ayoola Commission into the riots in Western Nigeria at the end of 1968, which found that the payment of cocoa farmers by the marketing board was one of the causes of people's resentment.

Yet if the issue of the surplus is not to be a permanent one, unhappily, almost a thing of the past last season the Western State Board in Nigeria did subsidise heavily (not only to world prices but in relation to prices paid in neighbouring countries with different marketing systems. Even if marketing boards thus realised are genuinely intended to subsidise farmer's prices in later years, it is very hard to persuade farmers of the benefits of the thousand, in all the four countries with Marketing Board systems, farmers still smuggle their produce to neighbouring countries where the prices are higher.

#### Smuggling both ways

In The Gambia, the Board fixes its groundnut prices at a level which may dissuade Gambian farmers from smuggling into Senegal while persuading Senegal farmers to smuggle produce into The Gambia. In Liberia, the attraction of Liberian groundnuts is always present. Smuggling of cocoa from Ghana into the Ivory Coast and regular occurrence, while much cocoa goes into Dahomey and Nigeria. To some degree smuggling is encouraged by the opportunities for obtaining foreign exchange by buying consumer goods to smuggle, in again, to be sold very profitably without this attraction, however, smuggling seems inevitable whenever there is a serious discrepancy in production between one country and another. In Nigeria's case, between the states.

Another complaint which has been making for some years is the "chit" method of payment by boards license local traders — now all indigenous — as buying agents, allegedly testing their capacity for the job. The agents sometimes advance from the boards or from

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but instead of using these for the purchase of produce often use them for other purposes — such as, it has been alleged in Ghana, entertaining their girlfriends. They then pay the farmers with "chits", to be cashed later. In Sierra Leone the government last month warned buying agents that they must pay farmers cash and not give them chits (it was the Sierra Leone board which itself used so much of its resources to develop plantations of doubtful viability that in 1966 and 1967 it could not purchase crops, which were eventually all smuggled into Liberia).

All these complaints against the boards, however, could be said to reflect maladministration rather than any inherent defects in the system. Critics who blame the system for restricting the output of crops handled by the boards must explain why there has been such a remarkable expansion in production of cocoa and groundnuts (even if this crop had such a dismal record last season) in Nigeria and of groundnuts in The Gambia. They must explain, too, why the output of food crops, which now in various ways are encouraged by government agencies but which have never been subject to the marketing board system, has failed to increase in spite of the ever-growing demand. The critics must also explain why the record of the rubber industry in Nigeria is so poor although there is no marketing board for this crop.

What is clear is that in some form the marketing board system has come to stay in Commonwealth West Africa. A return to a free market in produce is not only out of tune with the philosophies of African governments; it would be physically impossible so long as indigenous traders — and foreigners would not be allowed to participate — operate on their present scale. How, then, could the system be "reformed"?

The first objective is to return to the principles enunciated in 1946. Marketing board surpluses must be used only to iron-out price fluctuations for producers, whether inside each season, between seasons, or over longer periods. In Nigeria there is the possibility of reviving "commodity boards", handling particular crops — cocoa, groundnuts, palm produce, cotton — throughout the federation, replacing the all-purpose boards handling all commodities in single states or groups of states. This would remove direct control of the boards and their funds from state governments. Perhaps the whole system should be federal anyway, to remove temptation from state politicians.

To maximise farmers' earnings the overseas selling by the boards must be improved, particularly by establishing high-level offices abroad. A start has been made here but it is tragic that potential earnings should ever have been lost.

Nobody can restore to the farmers the money they have lost. Nor can West African countries give them the privileged place farmers occupy in many Western countries. But unless they are convinced

that they are getting a fair deal they will increasingly refuse to carry the burden their countries lay on them.

## New Start for Guinea?

Will the introduction of the new currency of sily (susu for "elephant", symbol of the ruling party) and corilles (cowries) give Guinea a new start financially? Even since the introduction of the Guinea franc in 1960 and Guinea's departure from the franc zone, currency difficulties have inhibited all efforts to put the economy on a sound footing and have also impeded sincere efforts at co-operation with neighbouring West African countries such as Sierra Leone or Senegal. Mali, which also tried to experiment with an independent currency, gave up the attempt and returned to the franc zone, but the Guineans claimed that this was one of the major causes of the fall of Modibo Keita in 1968. There have been various suggestions that Guinea might profit from her membership of the International Monetary Fund to introduce the sort of monetary reform which helped Zaïre to achieve financial stability in 1967, but there is no indication of any IMF hand in the present Guinean measures. It is probable that the conditions of such an IMF operation would be considered too great an infringement of sovereignty by the Guineans, who still seem to resist the idea of formal devaluation. The introduction of a new currency has not been the occasion for a disguised devaluation, as the official gold parity of the sily is the same as that of the equivalent amount of old Guinean francs. Devaluation was a major feature of the Zaïre monetary reform.

What, then, will the introduction of the "sily" achieve? Blackmarket currency transactions have been an unfortunate feature of Guinean economic life for some time; it has been possible to buy Guinea francs at between one-quarter and one-eighth of their official value. With the introduction of the sily it will be possible to have a more accurate knowledge of the amount of money in circulation, which could be a basis on which to build reforms.

The three-day changeover to the new currency was carried out with all the borders closed to movement of people, and with President Sekou Touré himself personally taking control of the Bank of Guinea until further notice. He told a rally in Conakry at the end of the changeover that the army and militia had been ordered to execute without trial anyone caught trafficking in the new currency, and diplomats and foreign experts were warned that they would be subject to the same penalties as Guineans. The creation of the new currency had made several Guinean franc "millionaires" poor, and some of them, the President said, had "died of heart



President Sekou Touré

attacks". He blamed merchants, foreign experts, Lebanese and Syrian nationals, for organising and favouring the depreciation of the old Guinea franc. The whole operation must therefore also be seen as a psychological and political exercise, within the context of the Guinea revolution. The dropping of the "franc" is akin to President Mobutu's "authenticity" drive in Zaïre, but the Guinea franc in any case had become so disreputable that a new national money, combined with the new strict measures against traffickers may provide some much needed psychological reassurance.

The President also referred, however, to Guinea's improved economic situation, and the now imminent prospects of vastly increased foreign exchange earnings from exports of bauxite and alumina. This, in the last analysis, is what can make the sily a stable currency, convertible in neighbouring countries. It would be a great achievement indeed if Guinea could succeed in saving its own financial situation through its own efforts after so much tribulation.

## Adebo on World University

Chief Simeon Adebo, former director of UNITAR (UN Institute of Training and Research) said in a lecture at Ibadan that he supports the establishment of a world university. UNITAR is the organisation charged with developing this project. Its present head is Dr. Davidson Nicol, former Sierra Leone High Commissioner in London. The university, said Chief Adebo, would be a centre for the co-ordination and harmonisation of world institutes of higher learning.



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# Three Common Market Doors: 3

From our correspondent, Brussels.

Last week's article examined the attitudes of Commonwealth African countries (particularly West African) to the existing association with the EEC, to the three different options currently before them in connection with Britain's own entry to the EEC, and the prospects for the future pattern of relationships between "associates", "associables" and Europe. Nigeria's clear stand (expressed by Alhaji Shehu Shagari to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers) against a Yaoundé or Arusha type of agreement is likely to influence other countries.

On the one hand, you have the Brussels Commission, letting it be known privately that they would prefer all the Africans to opt for Yaoundé (Lady Tweedsmuir, British Minister of State, speaking at a Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers' lunch in London last week also said it was her personal opinion that Yaoundé was the best choice, and if asked, the British government would suggest this), on the other hand you have the "associables" all expressing misgivings about merging themselves in the Yaoundé association, especially as it stands.

The suspicion is that Yaoundé is neo-colonialist, tainted with the brush of France's special relationship with her former African colonies, and designed to condemn African countries to being "hewers of wood and drawers of water". The suspicion is confirmed every time anybody starts to speak of Eur-Africa, which is a hazy concept evolved by those who believe that Africa and Europe have some kind of umbilical tie. It fits in with a world-picture in which North America has a special relationship with South America, Europe with Africa, and Asia with, well, Asia. There may be an historic foundation for it because of the colonial past, but in the era of independence it would seem to be a dangerous and fallacious notion to cultivate. If this is what association means, suspicions could be justified.

In fairness, however, "Eur-Africa" is not something which seems to attract much attention in Brussels. The EEC tends to look on its trading relations at least, in hardheaded business terms, and it wishes to trade with the whole world. The existing associates, too, look on Yaoundé principally in terms of what benefits can be had from it, and if it ceased to be a mutually convenient arrangement it would cease to exist. Thus the institutions of the association, notably the Council and the inter-parliamentary meeting (ironically not all the Associates actually have parliaments), although possessing no real political power, serve the function of ensuring information and channelling grievances, and should not be seen as simply facades.

For example, at the latest Council of the Association in Luxembourg a major

political brouhaha was narrowly avoided over the imposition by the Community of an 8 to 16 per cent tariff on fruit and vegetable exports from Africa to Europe. The associates claimed that the tariff, introduced only this year, violates the rules of association, and threatened to take the case to the special arbitration court provided under the Yaoundé Convention. This would be the first time the court has ever been invoked. Although the associates' exports of fruit and vegetables to Europe are very small (1,800 tons, where Europe imports 21m. tons) it is an area in which the associates feel they could expand their trade: there would also be support on this subject from certain "associables" such as Kenya. The associates see this as a matter of principle.

The tariff is supported, particularly by the Italians, because of the need to safeguard outlets for domestic producers, and the Italians had to seek instructions from Rome at the highest level, while the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, Gaston Thorn, had to be called away from his mother's funeral to participate in the debate. The result was that the associates agreed to accept mediation by Jean Rey, former President of the Common Market Commission, rather than press their demand to take the issue to the arbitration court, which could have been politically embarrassing with the European summit meeting imminent. But it is a good example of the way in which the associates are prepared to play their institutions if they see their interests affected.

## Disappointed Associates

The real question as far as the existing associates are concerned is how far they really want to see the Yaoundé association enlarged anyway. They have been reassured by the EEC's commitment that enlargement would in no way reduce aid levels, but some, especially major traders in primary produce such as the Ivory Coast, see enlargement as a continuation of a process in which all the privileges enjoyed as French colonies have been slowly whittled away. For a long time there was disappointment on the part of associates at the lack of appreciable increase in the level of exports from associates to the EEC: but in the last two or three years, a significant improvement has been registered. There is still disappointment, however, over deterioration in the terms of trade which seems to cancel out other benefits, and for some time the associates have felt that some sort of guarantee for prices of basic commodities was more significant than any preferences, especially as these were being diminished anyway with the Kennedy Round and the introduction of

generalised preferences. This, too, is an area on which associates and associables may well find common ground. In any case the Council of Ministers of the Six have been discussing questions of the developing world and the question of commodity agreements on the lines of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement is reportedly on the agenda of the European summit. West Germany is reportedly the least enthusiastic about such agreements, and has for some time opposed them as counter to a free market philosophy.

Politics seldom figure directly in the Association. This, indeed, is seen by some of the associates as one of its more positive advantages, especially in relation to community aid. The European Development Fund, which has been a feature of the Association since it was simply an annex to the Treaty of Rome and not a separate Convention, is praised by the associates because as multilateral aid it is free from some of the strings connected to bilateral aid. It would be much harder for the EEC to use the aid programme as a political weapon precisely because of its multilateral nature. No European aid has ever been suspended because of political disapproval in the way both the French and the British have suspended aid, although individual European politicians may occasionally stand up and complain about, for example, aid to Burundi. A country's type of political system, it is stressed, is also no obstacle to association.

Another advantage of the European Development fund which officials stress in Brussels, and which the associates commend it for, is the fact that 90 per cent of it is in the form of grants. It has also moved from concentration on infrastructure expenditure in the first Fund, to more emphasis on agriculture, and, progressively, to the encouragement of industry, although such encouragement is still much smaller than the associates have been pressing for, and will undoubtedly press for again in the next Convention (this is one of the areas about which those outside the Association have criticism).

The smaller and poorer countries have found the Fund particularly useful as a means of diversifying aid sources away from the former colonial power. The new emphasis on the "least-developed" is something that the FED has acknowledged for some time. Of Unctad's list of the 25 least-developed countries, eight are within the association: Burundi, Chad, Dahomey, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia and Upper Volta (five - Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania - are African associables). A study of the proportionate allocation of aid in the first two development funds reflects to some extent such considerations. Aid is by no means awarded according to population alone.

The fourth European Development Fund, to which Britain will contribute (probably in a proportion similar to those



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of France and West Germany) is likely to be much bigger than the three previous ones which have increased from \$581m. in 1957 to \$730m. in 1964 and \$918m. in 1969 (these figures include both grants from the fund and loans from the European Investment Bank but exclude aid given to dependent territories). But the fund's size must be affected by the eventual size of the Association. Lady

Tweedsmuir said in London last week that Britain could contribute to the fund without reducing her aid commitments in other directions. By implication, perhaps, no increase in other aid commitments could be expected either. But although aid will be the subject of some haggling, it is considered in Brussels to be a lesser problem compared with others currently on the horizon.

## COCOA

# Moving into deficit

By a correspondent

In Ghana, the Government gives a warning against the issuing of cheques instead of cash to cocoa farmers. In Geneva, attempts to establish an international cocoa pact drag into their fifth week.

Cheques and pacts have been talking points for over a decade and the casual observer can be forgiven for assuming that this is "business as usual" in the cocoa industry.

This impression of the continuity of the problems facing cocoa is reinforced by the celebrations which have been taking place in Ghana to mark the silver jubilee of the country's Cocoa Marketing Board.

But closer inspection shows that the position is by no means static. In the 1947-48 season, Ghana's dominance as a producer of cocoa was undisputed. The country grew 208,000 long tons out of a total world production of 593,000 tons. The next largest producer, Nigeria, was responsible for barely half this total, 109,000 tons. By 1969-70, Ghana's share of the world crop of 1,424,000 tons had fallen to less than one third. Nigeria's production as a proportion of the Ghana total had grown to over half (219,000 compared with Ghana's 409,000 tons).

Other producers, too, were increasing both their output and their share of the world crop. For instance as a result of a carefully planned programme, Ivory Coast output has increased by 100 per cent in the last eight seasons. The breakthrough occurred in 1960-61 when production leaped from 61,000 tons to 95,000 and is now approaching the 200,000-ton mark.

The statistics indicate the trend, but do not reveal the whole story, which was of a rapid decline in the standard of Ghana's cocoa farms. Commented an editorial in the Cocoa Marketing Board magazine, "The average age of the cocoa farmer is 45 years. This is apparently so because of the exodus of the younger folk to the urban areas to seek more lucrative jobs. The situation is disastrously alarming, calling for serious consideration if the cocoa industry is to continue to thrive."

A detailed survey of the country's cocoa industry prepared by the World Bank confirmed this pessimism and, by drawing attention to the dangers, helped stem the trend. It now seems that the decline has been halted, if not reversed.

The 1971-72 main crop is believed to have totalled 450,000 tons, the second largest in Ghana's history (smuggling from the Volta region into Togo probably accounted for a further 9,000 tons).

Main cause of this bumper crop was the large increase in production in the Western Region. Commodity dealers Paterson, Simons & Ewart comment in their latest report: "It is in the West and Brong-Ahafo that most of the new farms have been established since the late 1950s, with farmers coming from parts of Ashanti and the Eastern region to plant cocoa in areas deep in the bush which have been made accessible by timber exploitation. Many of these farms are now coming into full bearing, a factor which will be important for production prospects in the future".

Given the right encouragement — and this is the heart of the current controversy — examined elsewhere in this issue — on the role of the marketing boards in West Africa, particularly in the form of better prices, there is no reason why Ghana should not be producing between 700,000 and 750,000 tons a year by the early 1980s.

Labour could be one of the limiting factors, especially for clearing and planting; but again, with economic incentives, this could be overcome. The Aliens Order of 1969 caused difficulties because Ghanaians seemed unwilling to step into the aliens jobs on the farms. Although it has been reported that most farms look in reasonably good condition, it has also been observed that clearing has again been slow and that several farms are still overgrown. The labour shortage has meant that many farms have to be cleared by the farmer and his family, who may not now do the job until after the harvesting of the main crop.

Paterson, Simons & Ewart attention to "a noticeable absence of migrant labour in the cocoa areas at the beginning of this season" and point out that "the relatively high cost of living and general economic stagnation have given little incentive to foreign labour to remain and work in Ghana and on the cocoa farms the labour shortage is more acute this season than ever before." This will certainly affect the marketing pattern and the picking of what has developed into a short concentrated season will have to be staggered if the whole crop is to be harvested.

"If weather conditions are fairly dry



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during the October/December season, should be possible, as happens in the rainy season, for ripe pods to be left on the trees until they can be harvested. On the other hand, heavy rainfall during the cocoa growing areas, especially parts of Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo, are heavily dependent on migrant labour. Any delay in harvesting could result in a loss of up to 10 per cent of the yield in the areas affected."

Heavy rain would also encourage fungus infestation, which is reported to be fairly light so far this season. The Bank's rehabilitation scheme is making sound progress in the Eastern region. The Bank is assisting Nigeria with a \$7.2m loan to help finance the replanting of about 16,500 acres of new cocoa trees. The replanting of about 27,000 acres currently producing uneconomical cocoa is a high proportion of Nigeria's total cocoa acreage and without new plantings a decline is inevitable.

Over 350,000 farmers are engaged in cocoa production in Nigeria's Western State, the development programme for which has been held back because of the low world price. The potential is indicated by a UN Food and Agriculture Study in 1969 which forecast that the country could produce over 300,000 tons by 1990, entirely within the realm of feasibility. In fact, this level was reached in 1973. This bumper crop was no freak phenomenon for it is widely expected that the 1974 crop will be about 10,000 tons over from last season, production for 1972-73 will be in the 265,000 to 285,000 tons range.

Since crop difficulties have been reported in Cameroon and Ivory Coast where the very dry conditions in July and August have led to severe cherelle, it appears as though the 1972-73 African main crops will yield a harvest of some six to seven per cent more than in 1971-72. World production is expected to increase by a similar amount which would leave supply and demand close to equilibrium. If prices do not move upwards too rapidly, global production in 1973 are expected to show a modest increase. This will mean that the world cocoa economy will be moving out of a period of deficit for the first time in the four consecutive deficit years between 1965-66 and 1968-69.

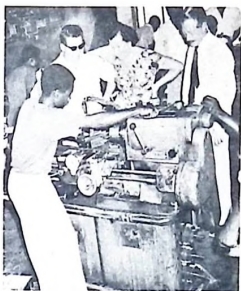
# People

Harold Smedley, who served as British High Commissioner in Ghana from 1965 to 1967, has been appointed High Commissioner in Colombo and non-resident ambassador of the Republic of Maldives. Aged 52, Smedley has had considerable African experience in addition to his time in Ghana he was posted to Salisbury early in his career and in 1971 returned as secretary-general to the Pearce Commission. He helped draft the questionnaire which enabled thousands of Africans to give their views on the Anglo-Rhodesian settlement proposals and played an important role in preparing the final report. At this time he was at the Foreign Office where he was supervising all the African departments with the exception of North Africa.

Another former High Commissioner in Accra (1959-61), Sir Arthur Snelling, is retiring from the diplomatic service. His post as ambassador in South Africa is being taken by James Bottomley, who worked in Pretoria from 1948 to 1950. Donald Tebbitt, who was head of the West and General African Department in the Commonwealth Office from 1967 to 1968 and became an assistant under-secretary of state when the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices were merged, is returning from Washington where he had the rank of Minister, to become Chief Clerk, an innocuous-sounding but important job concerned with the overall administration of the Foreign Office.

Mr. Tebbitt, who had come to the Foreign Office from the tranquility of Denmark, found himself at the centre of the Nigerian crisis and visited Nigeria several times. He never wavered in his support of the Federal cause, and he was one of those who came under heavy fire from the British friends of the rebellion.

Another man in the news who was concerned with the Nigerian crisis when at the old Commonwealth Relations Office is George Thompson, who was Secretary of State at the Office in 1967-68 until it was merged into the Foreign Office under Michael Stewart. In spite of the misgivings of several of his cabinet colleagues, George Thompson, too, never wavered in his support of the Federal cause. Now he is to go to Brussels as one of Britain's Common Market Commissioners. Although this lost him his "shadow" Labour Opposition appointment, he was honest enough to declare that the terms which the Conservative government had obtained for British entry to the Common Market were those which he, too, after leaving the Commonwealth Office to become Harold Wilson's chief negotiator for British entry to Europe, would have recommended to the Labour cabinet. No doubt Edward



Sir Arthur Snelling, left, visiting a technical college in Tamale.

Heath was influenced in making the offer of the Brussels appointment to Mr. Thompson by the fact that he is a Scot Scottish and Welsh nationalists (though definitely not leaders of Ireland, which has become a member of the Common Market) have an emotional antipathy to the Common Market.

West Africa welcomes Mr. Thompson's appointment not only because he is a journalist but because he has been a contributor to this magazine.

John Dzorke, a University of Ghana graduate, who has been selected as the first student to be awarded the Muriel Sanders Memorial Scholarship, has arrived in Britain to attend a one-year science education course at Reading University. Born in Agotime - Kpatie in the Volta region 30 years ago, Dzorke obtained a special Science Teacher's Diploma at the University of Cape Coast in 1964. He taught at the Asokore Training College from 1964-1966, and in 1968 was re-admitted to the University of Cape Coast, where he obtained an Education Course in June 1970. He then returned to the Volta region where he has been teaching science at Jasikan Training College. He says that "I have come to realise that the children or students I teach become excited and happy when they discover something significant for themselves, rather than to be taught or told". There was, therefore, a need for him "to take a course in this method of teaching science through children's activities". The Muriel Sanders Memorial Scholarship was created recently by the directors of Balfour, Williamson & Co. in memory of Miss Sanders, who died suddenly last November while still active with the company. Her interest in West Africa was reflected at the remembrance service held in January, at which the poem *When Darkness Falls*, by Ademola Fashola, which was a favourite of Miss Sanders, was read by Alamu Chief I. A. S. Adewale, Commissioner of Finance in Lagos State, who was a long-standing business friend of Miss Sanders.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Quota systems

**SIR** - In *West Africa*, October 2, it was reported that many delegates to the 16th Convention of National Union of Nigerian Students walked out in protest against the call for a quota system of admission into Lagos and Ibadan Universities. These are good protesters with good intentions. Those who are agitating for a quota system of admission will subsequently agitate for a quota system of passing candidates for university internal degree examinations, and when they get out of the universities by one way or the other, they will again agitate for a quota system of employment, and when they get employed by one way or the other, they will practice a quota system of staff recruitment. The causes of these frustrated behaviours are known, the effects are obvious and the consequences are predictable. The Federal Government must stand by the statement of Dr. Eke and must exercise extra vigilance.

N. A. ADETIMILEHIN

### Renaming Nigeria

**SIR** - In your issue of August 25, Mr. Ogunlure suggested that it is high time that Nigeria be re-named Soughat. One of the reasons he advanced in favour of the change, is that Nigeria is often confused with Algeria or Liberia, etc. I doubt very much if this confusion now exists at all. After all, it was only recently that Nigeria "enjoyed" such unprecedented unsolicited publicity, so much so that there is no mass media anywhere in the world that has not reported or commented on our Civil War. The publicity (good or bad) has brought Nigeria from obscurity to prominence far more than any public relations consultant would have done. You only need to introduce yourself as a Nigerian, especially in western countries, and you are looked at twice or asked how it was the war?

However, in our march to rapid political and economic development, we must not forget the serious problems of congestion, traffic jams and inadequate space for further expansion Lagos - both Federal and State Capital, is now facing some 1.5m. people. The recent appeal by the State Governor to his colleagues to help curb the influx of job-seekers into Lagos and the Federal Economic Development Commissioner's warning, that the Lagos population would hit 5m. in 8 years time, leaves no one in doubt that serious danger lies ahead unless urgent action is taken to avert it. I therefore suggest to the Federal Government that the Federal Capital of Nigeria be moved to a more central city. The best location is no doubt Kaduna, a city with all what it takes to become the most beautiful capital befitting the status of Nigeria. Countries like the US, Pakistan, Brazil and Malaya had reason to change their capital cities for one reason or another. Then why not Nigeria? Or do we have to wait until the situations has become inevitable?

And yet another priority item is that of a national language - lingua franca. Since 60 per cent of the people of Nigeria are Hausa speaking or understand the language, can the Federal Government not make it our national language? If countries like Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya can make Amharic and Swahili respectively as their national languages, in spite

of their numerous linguistic groupings, can't we in Nigeria do the same as part of our "quiet revolution"? Surely such a move is not only a unifying factor but would promote a national sense of pride. Just imagine each time a group of Nigerians from various ethnic groups meet; both at home and abroad, the language of conversation is English.

Finally with the successful end of the Civil War more than two years ago, may I appeal to the Federal Government to change the present name of "Bight of Biafra" (from where the former secessionist leaders got their name) to "Bight of Bonny". This is necessary so that we can forget that ill-fated name once and for all.

ABUBAKAR UMARU

University of Oklahoma, USA

### "Insensitive" officials

**SIR** - The recent hysterical reaction to qualified Nigerians presently sojourning abroad can hardly be entertained in the light of some facts. Often times, there is enough evidence to show that the blame lies in the totally insensitive and sometimes grossly irresponsible attitude of some officials specially designated to recruit these candidates.

Two incidents of which I happen to have first hand knowledge tend to support this view. A fellow Nigerian of Western State origin holding a Master's degree in Geography, applied for an advertised position in one of the northern states' Public Service. However, not long after he received a reply stating "no vacancy".

Again, just recently some members of the delegation of the Public Service Commission of the Western State are said to have gone sightseeing at Niagara Falls (about eighty miles from Toronto) rather than keep a widely publicised appointment with a large number of qualified Nigerians seeking employment opportunities and the possibility of returning home. In the end, most of these candidates left rather angry.

Certainly, it is unpardonable for officials supposedly reasonable to handle a matter of great importance in such a characteristically irresponsible manner. This is why Brig. Rotimi should investigate this incident and deal immediately and appropriately with those involved. Otherwise, our officials must simply realise that available opportunities abroad are such that qualified candidates of Nigerian origin will hesitate to return home unless there is considerable change in attitude and guaranteed rewards.

LAYI ERINOSHIO

Formerly General Secretary,  
Organisation of Nigerians (Toronto);  
1971-72

University of Toronto

### West African businessmen

**SIR** - In the first part of "West African Business men in Britain" certain statements were attributed to me.

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Your correspondent did not conduct his interview with me but saw one of my colleagues and it was only when he was about to leave that I arrived at the office and retrieved one of our company's brochures which he had obtained. At no time did I or any of my colleagues discuss our relationship with the ECGD or make the emotional remarks attributed to me about any bank.

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EMMANUEL OTI

Director

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## RURAL MASTERS OF MUSIC:3

In the third of a short series of articles Mr. Yao Aduamah of the University of Ghana describes in his individual way the reaction of the people of an Ewe village to the invitation of the Ghana National Council, telling them that their village had been selected to send a team to the National Arts Festival in Kumasi.

The musicians were performing for the chief's enjoyment when at last a message came that the Benz had arrived to take them to the Regional Arts Festival at Ho. A glass of molasses was then called for and the chief, pouring libation, prayed in a loud voice and the gods to let no rope or tree block the musicians' way.

But between the decision to leave the compound, of hoarding the bus for leaving for Ho fifty miles away, half an hour was spent in doubts, fresh moments of forgetfulness. A message had been despatched for the drummer who had gone to collect a shirt from the tailor and Kofi Lotoe in the meantime giving an interesting lecture about the weather.

"It's time", said Siedu "and we must make an early start in order not to be late. Had name before the big men from the city."

"Is everything in good order?" Lotoe

"You'll ask me so when you are moving towards a drink bar", said Siedu.

"I've done it since long ago and I know anyone's anger."

"Yes, quite right, around here we have different minds, but there in the official world it is a different matter. It is a white man's matter. You need be regular and timed. You must fall into straight lines; it's like going to school, no staggering matter."

"The very idea!" Lotoe sneered. Siedu stared at him steadily. "I Akpahu had been so successful. How have you gained such a good name?"

"Lotoe mused over the matter for a moment and Siedu gave him an example. "If Alvanyo Tatu had been a staggering man would his name be to this day?"

Presently Daavi Comfort came and told Lotoe not to make a name for himself, for there in the city they were giving him lots of good prizes as should be expected by good rights to him as "keeper of the village from such buffoonery". Comfort shook her head after each effort to speak.

Lotoe was the son of a poor farmer and people said that was the reason he had good ears. When he had two calabash or two of palm wine he danced very gaily. His pride in his dancing was an achievement fraught with great results. The yearly yam and Danvibakaka festival had now, he felt, needed only a raising up by an extra quantity of

molasses, and he had been encouraged in this belief by the local postal agent who observed that it was nothing but right for everyone to stick to his custom even now. Siedu who had been educated and refined by music then reflected and thought "It will upset the drumming if I quarrel with him now. I'd better be careful". In fact since the receipt of the invitation letter from the Ghana Arts Council Siedu had been particularly well-mannered and tender, so instead of raising his hand to accuse, he used it to embrace that of Lotoe and said:

"My man, it is rather late, and as you have to dress, you had better go home".

They moved away and Lotoe reaching his house said: "Now what have I to take with me? My clean jumper and cloth. Which cloth? Kente?"

"No, that's too heavy", said Mrs. Lotoe. "Take your ordinary Sunday cloth". Mrs. Lotoe dived into a bedroom and soon reappeared, sprinkling the Sunday cloth with lavender.

"What else?" mumbled Lotoe.

"A handkerchief for dancing" said she. When Lotoe finished his preparations and came down into the road he found nearly all the drum orchestra missing there. He was smelling of lavender and his jumper showing on his right shoulder was in folds. There were the three drummers in time. There was Siedu shouting to the gonkoku player to walk quickly. His indispensable headkerchief was wound round his head and chin and he had a long gold chain dangling down his chest.

Bachelor Klevuvu, another good sonster, was also there in time although he had complained that there would be nobody left to keep his house for him if he went away. Not to go to the festival would have established one as an oddity or as one who had some ill-feeling against the group. Thus the mammy with the troublesome baby had also lost no time in coming, having just given the baby into the grandmother's charge. All the other women were also there cheerily dressed, except Daava Comfort who was down with the cough, and who could absent herself with no great harm to the group.

"It's the Gabada. Why, your husband is not one of the members?" said a village onlooker who had come to see the musicians off.

"Just as they like. We won't force our partnership on anyone," replied a female spectator, with emotion.

"No, madam, you shouldn't speak like that", said Siedu. "The Council people have asked us to come with thirty-two people. This injunction applies to all the invited groups. Even the Agbekor of Aho will go with thirty-two persons."

The large number of the Gabada musicians had to be sorted out. And the manner of those dropped, because they used to sing or drum with false notes, became marked, for did not the boys say "Siyoo! poor man, he's disappointed"? while the manner of those who could go became more condescending.

At length the bus took off. And on they rode singing merrily through the

familiar Kpando district, Anloe, Hlave, and then through the Peki district. It was the first Regional Arts Festival organised by the Government they were going to attend, and hence the passage was a matter of great curiosity. What does it mean? Are men returning home for a fetish celebration somewhere? No, it is Gabada music. Listen. Then the yam festival? No, it can't be the yam at this time of the year. Then maybe it is the new festival we have heard about on the radio, or a funeral somewhere? The sound of musicians had grown distant. Then it came to a bend in road and became dark as if it heralded the arrival of a dead body. "If so, may it pass away by our village", prayed the villagers. At Agate where the bus slowed down the roadside became occupied by nearly all the inhabitants who had turned out in alarm and remained for pleasure.

There were many more eyes converging upon that musical passage not to mention the glances of birds and insects. A couple transplanting vegetables in a garden, three fishermen rowing on River Dayi, men in distant farms, women at market places, regarded them keenly.

Nearer and nearer they rode until Ho was reached. There suddenly the sound of a different Gabada was heard. It rang from the North. Then a different drum along the main road, and yet another from nowhere. Not only Siedu's, but many other village artists had been invited to perform at the festival.

Siedu and his group alighted, playing a march tune and walked along the main road in front of the lookers-on as the other groups had done. All along they passed and were overtaken by happy groups of musicians of all descriptions on foot and vehicles going in the same direction. Some musicians held their drums in their hands, some on their heads and some under their arms.

The arrival of Siedu's Gabada group brought added cheers and excitement and a mad rush of people from their houses. Two children were playing behind the parking place. The mother came and grappled the tiny one, threw him to her back and hung her cloth round her, and then with both hands planted on her hips came to stand and look on. The bigger child came near and pestered the mother to go home quickly and give him the Sunday cloth so that he could rush and get a place to see.

"But where are they going to dance?"

"In the stadium."

"Where have they come from?"

"The first Gabada came from Tawele."

This one came from Kpando — or, perhaps from Alavanyo."

Other groups had during the last few minutes been ascending the down at the remote ridge at Ho-Dome. They turned out to be a group called Kpotokhka and a church choir in clear-cut and well-starved white robes singing Christian music. But with the arrival of Kpotokhka, whose members wore brown gowns and were swinging swords in the air, a cold chill ran through the spectators.

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# Books and Publications

## Aid and Trade Fallacies

Disson on Development by P. T. Bauer  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.75).

By this time few people concerned with the subject will be unacquainted with Professor Bauer's case against the giving of "aid" by the richer to the poorer countries. In this substantial collection of his essays and reviews, covering a very long period and a great variety of periodicals, his case is made absolutely clear. Even those who still feel that his case against aid is highly exaggerated and based on ignorance of what really happens in the poorer countries will always agree that his observations are a valuable corrective to the easy optimism of those who suppose that aid can substantially alter the situation of the poorer countries; and they are a useful reminder of the frequent misuse of aid.

Professor Bauer believes firmly that the economic salvation of the poorer countries lies in giving full rein to the commercial enterprise of their own people or of such foreigners as they care to allow to participate in their development. But, even though he may be willing to concede the value of some aid, Prof. Bauer's main point is that aid is neither "necessary nor sufficient" for economic development. There is now considerable support for his views in the poorer countries themselves. Professor Bauer also frequently makes mince-meat of those in the richer countries who urge the moral case for aid since he rightly points out that, since aid comes from taxes which people have to pay whether they like it or not, there is nothing moral about it. The proponents of this case can always make personal contributions to several excellent charities.

Professor Bauer is a relentless adversary of the advocates of aid and is often unfair to them. In the present book this is particularly true of his attacks on Dr. Myrdal; he suffers, too, from an obsessive anti-communism and appears to ignore purely practical matters such as the impossibility of obtaining, for example, at reasonable rates of interest loans for dams which in the long run could be crucial to development. All this, however, has now been discussed so extensively that Professor Bauer's case, even if not accepted, is fully understood as a serious one. There is even considerable support for his view that in many cases external aid can be an obstacle to development. He is particularly good, too, in his insistence on

clear definitions of concepts such as "terms of trade", "exploitation", "planning".

For those concerned with development in West Africa, however, the importance of this book lies not so much in what Professor Bauer has to say about aid and development in general as in his discussion of the role of development of African trade and African traders, in his criticism of the 1955 World Bank Report on the economic development of Nigeria, and, above all, in what he has to say about the "operatives consequences" of the produce market boards in West African anglophone countries.

At a time when President Amin is expelling the Asians who have played an essential a role in the development of commerce in Uganda Professor Bauer's discussion of the role of alien traders is valuable. As might be expected he is against any restriction on the activities of traders, believing that this can cause damage to consumers, farmers, and others from whom traders may make purchases.

"Effective restrictionism in trade", writes Professor Bauer, "raises the cost of the indispensable services of commodity assembly and distribution and reduces the alternatives open to the population. By narrowing markets it retards the expansion of production in the market as well as the growth of specialisation and thus the development of the economy; for these reasons it not only retards the growth of agricultural production for sale but also increases the frequency and severity of local shortages especially of food. It increases unemployment stemming from the loss of co-operant resources (including uneven local incidence of the scarcity of these resources) by preventing the effective deployment of the available capital and skill. It also retards the spread of ideas and new techniques and confines economic horizons". It enhances people's sense of dependence on remaining traders, which exacerbates political tension, especially when these foreigners "It often strengthens the position of local monopolies. It leads to the growth of local monopolies, and political and economic strife. Furthermore, many African territories the population itself is heterogeneous, and restrictionism is likely to result in extensive fragmentation of

economy.'

Professor Bauer is not so unrealistic as to dismiss the fears of African governments and peoples of domination of their trade by foreigners; but he suggests it is not the restriction of foreigners but a straight subsidy to African traders, co-operative societies, or government-owned bodies which is the answer. The subsidy might also be given to expatriate firms in relation to their performance in employing Africans in senior posts, for such Africans are the people who later would be successful in trade on their own.

Professor Bauer is extremely cynical about Co-operative Societies which are government assisted and controlled, since the government association is a negation of everything that Co-operatives are supposed to stand for. In spite of his enthusiasm for free enterprise he goes so far as to suggest the establishment by governments of companies to trade in local produce using, if necessary, the services of expatriate companies.

In discussing the World Bank Report on Nigeria Professor Bauer's main complaint is that its authors appear to believe that the establishment of organisations is what really matters, while he believes that attention to the price mechanism is the key. He is particularly critical of the failure of the report to emphasise that although capital formation is the pre-determinant of the growth of national incomes, the capital represented by cultivated agricultural land, together with other investment by

farmers, is largely ignored.

In his discussion of what he calls the "state export monopolies" in West Africa, Professor Bauer relies largely on an essay he wrote as long ago as 1954. In a sense, however, the fact that most of what he then wrote has subsequently been largely justified makes his case stronger. What he is really saying is that although the Boards were established to be "trustees" for the farmers whose crops they handle, they have become in effect agents of the governments in depriving the farmers of a fair return on the overseas earnings of their crops, and in the collection of taxes on them. More serious, he alleges that extension of the cultivation of these crops and improvement of their quality has been inhibited by the depressed prices paid to farmers. He complains, too, that in their early years the Boards, which sold much of their produce to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, obtained inadequate prices. He does not refer to the poor performance of the boards' marketing companies in the free market since then, although many would say that their failure here has been their biggest dis-service to the farmers they are supposed to represent. He easily disposes of the claim that the boards had a duty to under-pay farmers in their early years in order to combat inflation, and repudiates the notion that under-payment of farmers was justified as a means of raising taxation for development.

Although his conclusion was reached so many years ago it is still relevant even

if exaggerated. "The operation of state export monopolies has had social and political as well as economic consequences in West Africa (and in Africa and Burma, where their operation is similar). They have served instruments of taxation in a confiscatory and discriminatory manner, to an extent which would otherwise have been impractical. The obstruction of the rise of a prosperous peasantry, a substantial middle class and a business community which was the inevitable outcome, much affected the political and social landscape. The concentration of power and money in the hands of government has increased the intensity of the political conflicts in Ghana and Nigeria. Altogether, since its introduction the system has been a significant and, in my view, a most damaging element in these countries."

## Panoramic Politics

The Ideologies of the Developing Nations  
edited by Paul Sigmund (Fall Mail Price £5 00)

This is the second revised edition of work which originally appeared in 1966, designed as a comparative treatment of the political thought and ideologies of a number of leaders of developing nations with selections from their various writings. The editor has updated it since

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so much has happened since even 1967 (the date of the first revised edition), and many perspectives have altered. The Africa section still has Sekou Toure and Senghor and Nelson Mandela have been added. Nkrumah is still there, but Busia has been introduced (the book was presumably prepared before Busia fell; a future edition might revise its perspective of Ghana again!). Julius Nyerere is gone, probably more space than anyone else and there is also the 1965 sessional paper on African Socialism of the Kenyan government.

Paul Sigmund's approach is so panoramic (ranging from Mao, Castro, Fanon and Gandhi to the Ba'ath Party and Raul Prebisch, that it is churlish to carp on details. His inclusion of the statement of the first conference of OCAM in 1965 attaches too much weight to the whole notion of OCAM, which is more or less equates with the OAU, saying that with OCAM's birth Casablanca and Monrovia blocs were re-created. That may have been the mood at the time, but the statement ignores the subsequent history of the organization. Had he wanted a statement of African conservatism the editor might have done better with President Houphouët-Boigny.

## The Bangura case

Sierra Leone Police Magazine (Police Training School, Hastings, Sierra Leone)

In the first issue of the magazine to be published since 1967 the former head of C.I.D. Mr. Kaetu-Smith, now Deputy Commissioner of Police, describes how the C.I.D. in March last year identified and later arrested the Force Commander and the other army officers who were later tried for mutiny. He also describes the events leading to the arrest of Mr. Bangura, who was later sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the mutiny. Mr. Kaetu-Smith's account should finally dispose of any idea that these officers were unjustly treated. Mr. Kaetu-Smith also describes what happened when the military regime was overthrown in April 1968 and the junior tank of the army and police arrested their officers, including Mr. Kaetu-Smith himself. Particularly vivid is his account of the appalling treatment both army and police officers received at Wilberforce barracks before they were transferred to Pademba prison, and then at the prison. He maintains that they were not allowed to leave their crowded cells at all for two months. He himself was finally released in the middle of August. It is interesting that the mutinous soldiers and policemen really seemed to have believed that their senior officers were guilty of corruption.

Other features in the magazine are reports from the various divisions and branches, an account of the visit to Sierra Leone of the former Commissioner, Mr. Bill Syer, and various articles of professional interest.

## Matchet's Diary

Addressing officers of the Third Nigerian Infantry Division Dr. Ukpabi Asika, Administrator of the East-Central State, said that he was sure that when politicians returned to power in Nigeria they would, as Talleyrand is supposed to have said of the Bourbons after the French Revolution, have forgotten nothing and learnt nothing. He was not blaming the old politicians, but he hoped that the new Federal structure of 12 States would make it impossible for them to play the "ball game" which the previous three and later four regions had made possible, when insincere alliances were able to dominate the country. Now no two states together could dominate the Federation and population alone could not be the key to political power.

Dr. Asika's primary subject was the implication for national development of next year's census. He agreed that there had been considerable rigging in the 1962-63 census. But he questioned whether the 1963 result was really very inaccurate. He cited the case of the area which subsequently became the North-Eastern State. In the south of Nigeria, he said, people would have questioned whether these four provinces of the former Southern region really could have a population of just under 8 million, since many in the south believed the area to be virtually desert, populated largely by

cattle. Yet in 1968 during the WHO campaign for vaccination against small-pox in the new state, some 7½m. people were vaccinated. It was unlikely that even so carefully organised a campaign would have reached more than 80 per cent of the people. The 8 million figure, therefore, was probably a reasonable one.

Dr. Asika was concerned not so much to defend as to explain the reason why regional leaders might have felt that they had to inflate their population figures. He did not mention the need to inflate their numbers, which had nothing to do with politics, felt by the leaders of small communities whose populations were declining because of their economic decay. They inflated their numbers so that they could continue to attract support for their social services.

The most important thing Dr. Asika emphasised to his audience was that "the conspiracy theory of history" was very seldom true. He was referring to theories about the behaviour of the "old politicians", but he was speaking at a time when throughout Africa the Uganda-Tanzania conflict, in spite of its simple and obvious explanation, was being attributed to the most extraordinary conspiracies from outside. This was excellent advice to his audience.

## Ghana's Politics in London

Although Ghana is now under military rule, it would be a mistake to think that politics are dead. Mr. Joe Appiah, veteran politician and theorist in the side of successive Ghanaian governments, has just paid his first visit to London in his official capacity as Roving Ambassador for the NRC. Mr. Kofi Gbedemah held a similar position until he was dropped in July. During his London visit, after accompanying a delegation led by the Commissioner for Industry for trade talks in China and Eastern Europe, he addressed two public meetings on the "evils" of the Busia régime and the success of Col. Acheampong.

Mr. Appiah was effusive in his praise of Col. Acheampong. He took a meeting, mainly of Ghanaian students, at Poshchester Hall how Col. Acheampong had come to decide to take over power. The situation in Ghana in December 1971 had become critical, and Mr. Appiah "farmers had begun to sharpen their cutlasses" and he saw a real possibility of civil war. Col. Acheampong's kind of leadership, said Mr. Appiah, enabled a civilian like himself to cast his lot with the army. He was prepared, "as long as things are as they are now", to sacrifice all because the NRC was putting Ghana on the right track. There was a new breed of Ghanaian, the "13th of January man" who stood "first out and self-reliant".

The meeting at Poshchester Hall, and the High Commissioner, Mr. Henry Sekyi, who was in the chair, was the first in a



series planned by the High Commission to keep Ghanaians in the UK informed of what was happening at home. It was certainly a lively beginning to the project, and in the best tradition of West African meetings, Mr. Sekyi was almost forced to close the meeting prematurely because of the uproar during question time.

Mr. Appiah's second talk was at the Africa Centre, one of its series of lunch-time meetings.

Although much fatter than in the previous meeting, Mr. Appiah reinforced his criticisms of the Busia régime, recalling that many years ago Kwame Nkrumah had warned him, "Busia is an enemy of Africa". He had not believed it then, but he had become disillusioned with Dr. Busia

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as early as 1969 when he saw the way the elections were going, the voting based on a purely tribal basis. Various actions of the government, the Aliens Compliance Order, the Sallah case, and the sacking of civil servants: all these completed his disillusionment. He cited the vilification poured by the government on Gen. Gowon "the major-general who made it possible for them to be in office", when he sent an open letter to the PP government reminding them of their obligation to declare their assets.

## Poulson People

Reticence is the hallmark of the West Africa Committee, the London-based body which, with offices in Nigeria and Ghana, represents a large number of expatriate firms in certain of their dealings with West African Governments. But Evelyn Malone, the Committee's "Africa" has rightly felt obliged to write to the London *Sunday Times* to protest against its mistaken assertion that Mr. John Cordle, M.P., was the Committee's Chairman and that the Committee had taken a political stand. In fact, as Mrs. Evelyn Malone emphasised, the Committee is entirely non-political and Mr. Cordle and his West African companies have nothing to do with it. Mr. Cordle had, however, been chairman of the West Africa Committee of the Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council. After representation by the West Africa Committee, the name of that body was changed to the CCOA Committee for West African Affairs.

Mr. Cordle had been mentioned in the *Sunday Times Magazine* as one of those associated with Mr. John Poulson, head of a group of architectural and construction companies, whose public examination of bankruptcy has brought to light an extraordinary array of transactions, with West Africa. Mr. Poulson said that he had been paying Mr. Cordle £1,000 a year for advice on West African matters. Other reports of the hearing have wrongly described Sir Adetokunbo Ademola as "Lord Chief Justice of Nigeria". He has now retired from the office of Chief Justice, during his tenure of which he made Mr. Poulson's acquaintance. He is now head of the census board.

Other reports have referred to the late Mr. John Macrae, as though he were still alive and living in Las Palmas. Mr. Macrae, a British citizen, was for some years commercial adviser to the late President Tubman. Mr. Poulson claimed that through Mr. Macrae he had made an appointment with the President. Mr. Maulding, the former Home Secretary, who resigned because of his earlier association with Mr. Poulson, had also visited Liberia representing one of Mr. Poulson's companies, because of the company's interest in the proposed new harbour at Harper in the far east of the country, the President's birthplace. Nothing came of this project. The Poulson Group did secure some contracts in Nigeria, notably one for the Benin Teaching Hospital.

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# Commercial News

## Nigeria's tin problems

A amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, like other mining companies in Nigeria's Benue Plateau State, faces a problem of "ever rising prices for machinery and materials, coupled with increases in wages, none of which has been offset by any upward adjustment in the tin price over the past three years".

Pointing this out in his annual report for the year ended last March, the chairman, Sir Douglas Waring, notes that the floating of the pound and the consequent increase in the price of tin as expressed in sterling had produced no material advantage in operating margins as the Nigerian pound had remained at its previous level. When such margins were remitted to Britain, however, there was a six per cent appreciation at current rates of exchange.

Although the company's position during the early part of last year had given "some concern" due to the delay in receipt of remittances from Nigeria, this position had been rectified, "and although I regret to report that the results for the past six months of the current financial year are again likely to be as marginal as in the corresponding period of 1971, the prospects of the company as a whole are somewhat better, in line with the improvement in the general economy of Nigeria and the gradual return to more normal conditions."

As a result of "rigid economies" a pre-tax profit of £236,953 was recorded. In addition, a non-recurring sum of £211,383 was received, consisting of surplus on the Third Buffer Stock. In August, the balance of outstanding profits and dividends to March 1970, amounting to £535,525 was also received from Nigeria.

Sir Douglas expressed the

hope that the company's representations to both the State and Federal Governments for a reduction in tin royalties "will eventually bear fruit"; no news on any reduction had been received but the company had been told that the matter was "under active consideration". Representations have also been made over the "very high level" of customs duty on a number of items of essential equipment. Until there was an upsurge in the world economy leading to a rise in the price of tin "it is difficult to foresee anything other than marginal profitable operations from tin mining in Nigeria as a whole".

The average number of Nigerians employed was 6,301 compared with 7,130 the previous year. (After the Adebayo Commission the tin industry agreed to pay the award in full while retaining the right to continue retrenchment of daily rated personnel.) The number of expatriate staff fell from 78 to 50.

The International Tin Council has decided not to impose export controls. It decided instead to arrange financial backing to ensure effective operation of the buffer stock and authorised a standby credit facility of £8m for buffer stock purposes. On October 5 the buffer stock totalled 10,131 tons.

Customs duty on imported hydrocarbon oil products which are removed or delivered to a refinery have been waived by the Ghana Government. Goods produced at the refinery for consumption in Ghana from those produces will be liable to excise duty.

Ghana and Bulgaria have signed an agreement in Sofia for the development of trade during 1973.



Alhaji Sule Kolo, the Nigerian High Commissioner in Britain, examines the first of the 100 Leyland buses which form part of a £4m. order from the Nigerian Government. Explaining the controls are Mr. A. T. Webster, sales and marketing director of the trucks and bus division and Mr. L. J. Portman of British Leyland's international fleet sales division.

## Coffee pact doubts

The International Coffee Agreement in its present form is unlikely to be extended when it expires next year, according to Mr. Julius Katz, US State Department deputy assistant secretary for international resources and food policy. Addressing an international commodities conference in New York, he wondered whether the agreement had not "outlived its usefulness": there was no need to have a quota arrangement at all times, and an agreement should reflect growing changes. Noting that the present supply and demand balance in the coffee market might not endure and that a surplus might develop, he said that the US Government would not be interested in an arrangement dealing with superficial aspects of the problems, such as price, and not dealing with the underlying facts such as supply and

demand. International commodity agreements should not be looked on as aid vehicles during periods of increasing consumption, he stressed.

- After four weeks of talks at the UN cocoa conference in Geneva formal discussions on a minimum price for beans under the proposed international agreement were opened. This crucial item was being discussed by a restricted group of producers (Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil and Ivory Coast) and consumers (Britain, USA, West Germany and France).

- After five weeks of the main crop season in Ghana, cocoa purchases were officially estimated at 25,740 long tons (last year no figures were issued until seven weeks had passed, when cumulative purchases were estimated at 223,159 long tons).

## Ginseng tea for Africa

An exhibition of products which the South Koreans are planning to sell in Africa included Ginseng tea, a panacea for medical ailments. Officials at the exhibition, in Abidjan, said that last year the country sold about \$3m. worth of goods to the Ivory Coast alone, a figure which was expected to rise to \$5m. this year. South Korean exports to the whole of Africa totalled \$20m in 1971, which was expected to double in 1972.

## Talks over port

Opening the first all-African port management conference, Sierra Leone's Vice-President Mr. Sorie Koroma urged African countries to get together for multi-national operation of their ports in order to benefit from trade development. The chairman of the conference, held in Freetown, was Captain Abraham Macauley, Sierra Leone port manager.

- The World Health Organisation regional conference in Conakry decided to hold its next session in Lagos.

## Reorganisation for State Corporation

The administrative machinery of Nigeria's South-Eastern State Agricultural Development Corporation is to be re-organised soon and steps are also to be taken to improve the financing of the corporation. This was announced in Calabar by the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. Mion Eyo, addressing the first meeting of the Corporation's newly constituted board of directors. Mr. Eyo recalled that since 1969 the Corporation had been trying to rehabilitate and revive some of the projects inherited from the former Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation and bring them to pre-war standard. He paid tribute to the management and the former board of directors for their part in the work of rehabilitation but observed that progress had been checked by "the difficult circumstances of the time", particularly the administrative and financial problems, with the result that the work of rehabilitation had not been completed and the problems had not been solved.

Nigeria's South-Eastern State has signed a £35,000 contract with a firm of West German consultants. The Battelle Institute - for an economic survey of the state. The survey will take five months to prepare. The permanent secretary in the State's Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Asika Usoro, said that the Institute had conducted a similar assignment for the former Eastern Region, the result of which had been an economic "blue print" for the development of the region, copies of which had helped the South-Eastern State Government in its development efforts.

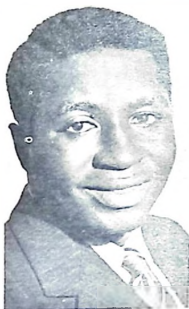
The seventh FAO regional conference in Libreville endorsed a resolution sponsored by the Nigerian delegation that developed countries should phase out their activities in the field of processed and semi-processed agricultural commodities by 1980.

Malaysia's Minister of Primary Industries, Haji Abdul Faib Mahmud, said in Kuala Lumpur that the Government was considering taking over all economic rubber smallholdings, in return for which the smallholders would be given shares in the 150,000 acres of land the Government is opening soon for rubber planting. Smallholders and their workers would be given first preference for jobs in the new areas, the move was designed to give smallholders, who total about 500,000 a "bigger stake" in the industry and a bigger share in the wealth of the nation. The Government also intended to build 34 central processing factories, which would market 40 per cent of smallholders rubber by 1975. Attempts to negotiate a loan with the World Bank to open up the new rubber land were being made.

A Food and Agriculture Organisation report published in Rome last week showed that developing countries are falling further behind developed countries in their agricultural export earnings. In the decade to 1970 agricultural exports by developing countries achieved a consistently lower growth rate than those of developed countries, and last year, because of increases in the prices of industrialised manufactured goods, the purchasing power of their agricultural earnings dropped. The moderate increase in the overall value of world agricultural trade in 1977 was attributed mainly to higher prices rather than to larger export volumes, which had been the main factor in the 1970 boom.

The growth of agricultural production and trade in the developing countries was "pauling", Dr. Adedeji Boerama, director general of the FAO, told a regional conference of the organisation in Munich.

A seminar on the international grading of quality cocoa has been held in Lagos, organised by the US Food and Agriculture Organisation.



Attending management training courses in London is Mr. Thomas "T.M." Mensah, a Ghanaian who started his career in timber with African Timber & Plywood (Ghana) at Samreboi in 1952. He was later seconded to a timber organisation, Levers Pacific Timbers, in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, in 1968. He has now completed two tours in the Pacific where he is Forest Production Manager. One of several Ghanaians who have been chosen for overseas service, he played an important part in developing a new phase of logging operations in the Solomon Islands, as well as bringing logging expertise and using it to train Solomon Islanders in special skills for this work.

## Unionists meet in Paris

Twenty-five African trade union leaders from Chad, Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Cameroon and Madagascar attended a seminar organised by the French trade union confederation CFTU in Paris last month. The programme of the seminar included lectures on the structures of trade union movement - on international and national levels, economic and social problems of Africa and Madagascar, the role of African trade unions in economic planning and development; trade union representation in factories; collective bargaining, labour disputes, and social security problems. At the closing ceremony, M. Enzo Fiaschi of the ICFU, warned African unions of the danger of merely concentrating on minimum wage negotiations. He stressed the need for unions to extend their bargaining to all areas of private and public.

Denmark has approved a grant of £630,000 to the Kenya-based African Mass and Research Foundation.

## £1m. steelwork contract

The Société Nationale d'Electricité (SNEEL), the national electricity generating and transmission organisation of Zaire, has placed a £1m. order with GEC Switchgear Ltd. for the supply of static compensation equipment associated with the operation of the steelworks now under construction at Malindi, 70 kilometres from Kinshasa. Most of the equipment will be manufactured at Stafford, England, and is programmed to be in service by mid-1974. The steelworks project includes an electric arc furnace for steel melting and hot and cold rolling mills. The installation will be supplied with power directly from the 220kV system coming from the new hydroelectric power station of Inga, also situated on the river Zaire, 300 kilometres from Kinshasa.

One hundred British Leyland "Worldmaster" buses which have been ordered for use at the All-Africa Games in Lagos next January will afterwards be put into service by Lagos City Transport Services. Each bus was £10,000. The buses are part of a £2.4 million order which also includes trucks and 540 Land Rovers.

A new 250 kw frequency sound broadcast transmitter is to be installed for the Northern Nigeria Broadcasting Company at Kaduna North Central Station by Marconi Communications Systems. Earlier this year the company announced a £300,000 order from the Western State.

Benue Plateau State Government has signed a £180,000 television equipment contract with Japan.

# US aid programme reviewed by OECD

In its annual review of the US aid programme, the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD noted with satisfaction that United States net official development assistance disbursements increased by nine per cent in current prices to \$3,324m. in 1971 and, reversing a downward trend, rose as a proportion of gross national product from 0.31 per cent in 1970 to 0.32 per cent (the average of the other DAC countries in 1971 was 0.38). It also noted that the US expected funds to be forthcoming for the completion of the third replenishment of the International Development Association, and for the payment of contributions to the special funds of the Inter-American Development Bank and of the Asian Development Bank. The Committee expressed concern, however, as regards the future volume of official assistance and the level of US contributions to multilateral institutions.

Total net official and private flows grew by 12.6 per cent in current prices to \$7,045m. in 1971, as private flows, and in particular private investment, again increased markedly. The share of total flows in US gnp rose from 0.64 per cent in 1970 to 0.67 per cent in 1971, compared with the average of 0.98 per cent for the other DAC members in 1971. The Committee noted that the liberalisation introduced by the United States in its procurement policies in 1970 has resulted in a modest but growing volume of procurement in the developing countries, and welcomed the increase in the volume of assistance extended to the least-developed of the developing countries.

Interest was expressed by the Committee in the changes being introduced in the programming of US assistance, in particular the concentration of assistance on priority problems which are to be dealt with through a close integration of financial and research-based technical assistance. It welcomed the United States' decision to

attach greater weight to social factors, especially employment, in planning its assistance.

• Trading figures for US-African trade showed that at the end of last year Washington had a favourable balance of \$400m. - exports to African countries totalling \$1,600m against an import bill of \$1,200m. This information is given in a background document of the two-day conference on American trade with developing African nations which was held last week. Apart from South Africa - not represented at the conference as it is not considered as a developing country - the main trading partners are Nigeria, Morocco, Zaire, Algeria, Libya and Ghana. US Government officials estimate that the greatest increase will be with the first four of these, plus Kenya and Ivory Coast, especially in the fields of engineering and construction, food and transport.

Mr William Rogers, Secretary of State, told the conference that American businessmen expected countries in which they invested to follow the rules laid down for investors. "If he invests and loses, it's his tough luck. If he is successful he expects the nation to follow the rules. One of the reasons an investor feels unhappy is when he feels he has been misled". Mr Rogers also said that the US was very proud of its competitive system but had no interest in extending it to other nations unless they were interested.

## Study of Togo tourism

The UN has commissioned British consultants Transport Development Unit to carry out a \$64,000 study of tourism potential in Togo. The overall objective of the study is to assess the likely benefits of an expanded tourism sector and to provide a phased programme for its development. Fieldwork starts in mid-October. The final report is expected to be completed by April 1973.

## Shipping News

**F.L.D.R. DE MISTER LINES**  
SOUTHBOUND - From Liverpool KOHIMA slg Douala Oct 21  
From London- FALABA due Tema Oct 15; FORCADIOS slg Oct 13  
From Newport- KUMBA slg Oct 18  
From Glasgow- DEGEMA slg Oct 17  
From N Continent- MACHAON slg Hamburg Oct 20  
From Southampton- AUREOL slg Oct 18  
NORTHBOUND - To Liverpool- FOURAH BAY due Oct 15  
DUNKWA due Oct 19  
To London- FULANI due Oct 22  
BHAMO due Sapete Oct 26  
MANO due Pointe Noire Oct 14  
To Glasgow- DUMBAIA due Appa Oct 13  
To Avonmouth- EBANI due Oct 14  
To N. Continent- MACHAON due Amsterdam Oct 13  
To Poole- CLEARWAY due Oct 14  
WESTBOUND To USA/Canada- DARU due Monrovia Oct 15; LIAN due Cotonou Oct 13  
EASTBOUND - From USA/Canada- MORIAS due Dakar Oct 2  
Eastern Service to West Africa- TEAKBANK due Pointe Noire Oct 16  
**BARBER LINES**  
OUTWARDS - FERNLANI due Monrovia Oct 16, thence Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala; FERGATE slg New York Oct 20 for Monrovia, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Appa, Douala  
HOMERWARDS - FERGATI due New York Oct 18, FERNLANI Idg Lagos/Sbound Oct 21, Sapete Oct 23, Douala Oct 25, Ghana Oct 28, Abidjan/Monrovia end Oct/early Nov.  
"K" LINE  
WESTBOUND - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lohito, Luanda, Monrovia, Freetown, Abidjan, JINNESSE MARU slg Japan Sept 6 due Lagos Oct 11  
EASTBOUND - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown, etc. JINNESSE MARU slg Lagos Oct 16, Freetown Oct 21, Abidjan Oct 25 due Japan Dec 1  
DAIFA LINE  
EASTBOUND - BELGIEN slg Houston Oct 31 due New Orleans Nov 2, Panama City Nov 5  
WESTBOUND - HOLLAND slg Angola Nov 10 due Calabar Nov 14  
BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA  
WESTBOUND - BIA RIVER/Douala Oct 9, Sapete Oct 12, Ghana Oct 17, Abidjan Oct 19, Montreal Nov 2, thence Great Lakes  
BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA  
SOUTHBOUND - KORLE LAGOON Dunkirk Oct 11  
NORTHBOUND - KULPAW RIVER Bremen Oct 21, Hamburg Oct 25  
PALM LINE  
SOUTHBOUND - ENUGU PALM slg Cotonou Oct 15; ELHA PALM slg Appa Oct 15  
NORTHBOUND - ELMINA PALM due Abidjan Oct 15; KANU PALM due Tema Oct 15  
N.Y. LINE  
WESTBOUND SAIKYO MARU Lagos/Appa Oct 11/14, Douala Oct 15/16, Abidjan Oct 21/24, Iakoradi Oct 25/26

EASTBOUND - SAIKYO MARU Douala Oct 15/16, Pointe Noire Oct 18/20, Abidjan Oct 23/24, Iakoradi Oct 25/26, Tema Oct 27/28, Lohito Oct 31/Nov 3, Singapore Nov 20/21, Hong Kong Nov 25/26, Japan first port Dec 1  
HITSUI OSK LINE  
SALAMBARA slg Kobe Sept 27 due Lagos Nov 1, ARIZONA MARU slg Kobe Oct due Lagos Nov 11

MAERSK LINE  
INWARDS - From Japan via Hong Kong to Matadi, Lagos, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, JISPER MAERSK slg Kobe Nov 5 due Luanda Dec 2  
OUTWARDS - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Bathurst, Abidjan, JOHANNES MAERSK slg Luanda Oct 19 due Matadi Oct 20

FARRER LINES  
HOMERWARDS - AFRICAN SUN slg Lagos/Appa Nov 12 for Port Harcourt, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports, AFRICAN STAR slg Matadi Nov 27 for Luanda Dec 2, Lohito, Abidjan, Monrovia, US ports

OUTWARDS - AFRICAN SUN due Dakar Oct 27 for Freetown, Monrovia Oct 31, Abidjan, Iakoradi, Tema Nov 7, Lagos/Appa Nov 9, Port Harcourt, Douala; AFRICAN STAR due Monrovia Nov 13 for Abidjan, Cotonou, Tema Nov 20, Matadi, Luanda, Lohito.

REBLLOYD - SWAL JOINT SERVICES  
AMSTELHOEK slg Rouen Oct 25 due Boma/Matadi Nov 10, Pointe Noire Nov 12, HOGHE MELING slg Bordeaux Oct 27 due Boma/Matadi Nov 11, Pointe Noire Nov 13

SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE  
NORTHBOUND - COVENTRY CITY slg W. Ale Oct 19 for discharge. Scan late Nov/Dec. HOGHE HERON slg W.A. early Nov/Dec. for discharge Scan. mid Dec.

ROYAL INTER-OCEAN LINE  
INWARDS - STRAAI FREAMANTE slg Japan Sept 18, due Luanda Oct 17, Monrovia Oct 22, Freetown Oct 24, Port Harcourt Oct 29, Lagos/Appa Nov 2, Iakoradi Nov 7, Abidjan Nov 11, STRAAI MOZAMBIQUE slg Hong Kong Sept 1, due Abidjan Oct 17, Monrovia Oct 20, Freetown Oct 22, Dakar Oct 26, Cemaury Oct 29, Iakoradi Nov 2

OUTWARDS - STRAAI FREAMANTE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, opt, Hong Kong, Japan early Nov; STRAAI MOZAMBIQUE from Nigeria/Ghana to Singapore, opt, Hong Kong, Shanghai opt, Japan late Oct.

WESTWIND AFRICA LINE  
SOUTHBOUND slg Houston Oct 31 for Tema, Lagos, Pointe Noire, Freetown; SOPHIE "C" slg New Orleans Oct 26, Houston Oct 21 for Lagos, Freetown.

THE F.A.C. LINES  
SOUTHBOUND BOGOTA slg Rouen Oct 10 due Dakar Oct 19, Monrovia Oct 22, Abidjan Oct 24, Cotonou Oct 27, Lagos/Appa Oct 28, Douala Nov 4  
NORTHBOUND SIMBA slg Monrovia Oct 14 due Amsterdam Oct 23, Copenhagen Oct 26, Aarhus Oct 28, Bremen Nov 1, Antwerp Nov 6, Rotterdam Nov 8

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Omo oloko omoo nriaba omo rabaako ayinrekoyi orun re sabb

Mrs. J. I. Ekeade for the children and grand-children

# Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

## PATHOLOGISTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment into the following vacant posts in the Federal Ministry of Health:-

- CHIEF CONSULTANT (PATHOLOGIST), GROUP 4
- SENIOR CONSULTANT (PATHOLOGIST), GROUP 5
- CONSULTANT (PATHOLOGIST), GROUP 6
- PATHOLOGIST, GROUP 8
- MEDICAL OFFICER GRADE II, SCALE A

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE -

- Chief Consultant (Pathologist)** - Should possess a basic medical qualification registrable by the Nigeria Medical Council and a post-graduate qualification in Bacteriology or Virology or any other appropriate post-graduate medical qualifications. Previous experience of at least 10 years in Pathology after post-graduate qualification is desirable, - some of which should be at a level not below that of a Senior Consultant. Experience in the manufacture of Bacterial and Viral Vaccines and appreciable administrative experience will also be of advantage.
- Senior Consultant (Pathologist)** - Should possess the same professional qualifications as for the Chief Consultant and also considerable experience after post-graduate training at least 3 years of which should be at a Consultant level.
- Consultant (Pathologist)** - Should be a Medical Doctor with post-graduate qualification in Bacteriology or Virology or a Diploma in Pathology. Experience of at least 3 years after obtaining post-graduate qualification.
- Pathologist** - At least 5 years' experience in Pathology since basic qualification. (Candidates should have post-graduate qualifications).
- Medical Officer Grade II** - Must have experience in Pathology.

#### DUTIES

- Chief Consultant (Pathologist)** - Will be the administrative head of the Federal Laboratory Service. Duties will include:
  - Planning and co-ordinating of the work of the various units of the Federal Laboratory Service.
  - Advising the Ministry on matters affecting the Federal Laboratory Service and the Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology.
- Senior Consultant (Pathologist):**
  - In addition to assisting the Chief Consultant (Pathologist), he will be in charge of the Bacteriology Laboratory.
  - He will supervise Seriological, Bacteriological and Parasitological examinations of all kinds including those that concern food handlers and report to Chief Consultant.
  - He will take part in the teaching of students in the Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology.
- Consultant (Pathologist):**
  - To assist the Senior Consultant in the Bacteriology Laboratory.
  - To take part in the teaching of students in the Federal School of Laboratory Technology.
- Pathologist:** To assist in any Laboratory work and under a consultant. He will also participate in the training of technicians.
- Medical Officer, Grade II:** Will be in training in Pathology and therefore will rotate from one Laboratory to another.

#### CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The posts are pensionable for Nigerians, and in the case of a new entrant into the Government Service, the appointment will be on probation for the first three years.

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications in duplicate/triplicate, on Federal Public Service Commission Form obtainable from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions should be completed and returned to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Private Mail Bag 12586, Lagos, on or before 28th October, 1972.

Applications from candidates in Government or quasi-Government employment should be submitted through their Heads of Departments who will forward them together with Confidential Reports to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Private Mail Bag 12586, Lagos, not later than 28th October, 1972.

#### OVERSEAS

Application forms are also obtainable quoting reference FR/20 and should be returned as shown above.

The Recruitment Attaché,  
Nigeria High Commission,  
9 Northumberland Avenue,  
London, WC2N 5BX.

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

## Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to vacant posts in the following grades in the Federal Administrative Service:

#### Administrative Officer, Grade III,

Salary Group 8 (EN1,950—EN2,010—EN2,070).

#### Administrative Officer, Grade II

Salary Group 7 (EN2,532)

##### Administrative Officer Grade III —

A good honours degree of a recognised University preferably in Arts and Social Sciences plus at least six years administrative, industrial or commercial experience in a managerial position.

##### Administrative Officer Grade II —

As above plus at least eight years administrative, industrial or commercial experience part of which should be in a top managerial position.

##### Duties:

The duties of Administrative Officers are wide and varied in scope, complexity and levels of responsibilities. They include the preparation of papers connected with the formulation of Government policies; involvement in the implementation of Government policies; organisation, management, control, co-ordination and improvement of the administrative machinery of Government; and reviews of existing practices and current regulations.

##### Conditions of Service

The posts are pensionable and new entrants to the public service will normally be on probationary appointment for three years. Other conditions of service will be as prescribed for the time being for officers of equivalent grades in the Federal Public Service.

##### Method of application:

50 In Nigeria Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed on official application form obtainable from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Independence Building, Lagos.

Application from candidates in Government Service should be submitted in letter form through the Head of the applicant's Department, and, where the applicant is in the public service other than the Federal Public Service, through the Public Service Commission concerned and be accompanied by copies of confidential reports for the past three years.

Overseas Applicants should be completed in duplicate on official application forms quoting reference FR 19 obtainable from:

The Recruitment Attaché,  
NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION,  
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All applications should reach the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Independence Building, Lagos, not later than the 31st of October, 1972.

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# Dateline Africa

## GHANA

## Debt talks again?

Talks have been held in London between the governments of Western countries to which Ghana owes medium term debts inherited from the Nkrumah regime. Apart from Britain the countries include France, West Germany, Japan, Norway, Israel, the Netherlands and the United States; other countries affected are Australia, Canada, U.A.R., Yugoslavia, Spain, Belgium and Switzerland. As a result of previous meetings between the creditors and, first, the NLC and then the Busia governments, payments on these debts were rescheduled to make them far less burdensome. Full payment was due to be resumed last July but before that the Acheampong government stopped all payments and announced its intention of re-examining the debts. In four cases the government announced complete repudiation.

The last figure given of the amount due was that announced by Dr. Busia a year ago: £112m. Over half of these is owed to Britain. The short term commercial debts incurred by the Busia regime itself amounted to a similar sum and there are long-term debts including those incurred by the Volta River debts of some £120m. It is understood that the Western

creditors are again ready to reconsider the Nkrumah debts, perhaps under World Bank auspices, but it is not known whether the Acheampong government is now ready for discussion. Mr. E. N. Moore, Attorney-General, told a news conference in Washington last week that Ghana simply could not pay all its creditors. Britain have been "rather cool" in the matter but as Ghana's traditional trade partner could not afford "to cut us off".

The Government has voted over 21m. cedis to meet expenditure of higher educational institutions during the current financial year. The estimates show this year's allocation of 21,242,784 cedis exceeds last year's by 846,544 cedis. The University of Ghana and its medical school are to be allocated 6,474,080 cedis. The University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, 5,510,600 cedis, and the Coast University 3,759,000 cedis.

Mr. Godfrey Ann, former General Manager of the Ghana News Agency, has been appointed Director of the Information Service department. Mr. Ann was GNA General Manager from 1961-66.



Col. Acheampong receives a resolution from students' representatives congratulating him on the budget and offering their support.

• Former Prime Minister Dr. Busia exchanged letters in April last year with the South African Prime Minister on a "dialogue" between Pretoria and African states, the Ghana News Agency quotes "dependable" sources as saying. According to the sources the much-talked-of dialogue with South Africa during the Busia régime was initiated by South Africa through these letters. In one of the letters Mr. Vorster was reported to have said, "I much appreciate the way in which you are preparing the ground for dialogue with my country. I realise that many obstacles will have to be overcome before other African countries will be ready to proceed on this course and I from my side do not wish to do anything which might jeopardise your efforts to this end."

## Appiah on Busia

In a speech at London's Africa Centre, Mr. Joe Appiah, Roving Ambassador for the NRC (see p 1393), said that Dr. Busia had admitted in an interview with the BBC that he had had some correspondence with the Vorster régime but had qualified it by saying that it was "quite obvious that someone had broken into his safe and taken his correspondence."

• A month-long seminar for 30 sports coaches and directors from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Somalia, Zambia, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Liberia has opened in Accra.

• It would be of advantage both to the developed and developing countries for an early agreement to be signed on the stabilisation of commodity prices, the Attorney-General, Mr. E. N. Moore, told the UN General Assembly. Ghana, he said, regretted that no international cocoa agreement had yet been concluded. Cocoa provided nearly 80 per cent of Ghana's foreign exchange earnings, and the government hoped that a positive conclusion would be reached at the UN cocoa conference in Geneva.

Mr. Moore earlier attacked racism and colonialism in Africa and called on the United Nations to set up a special voluntary fund to finance liberation movements in the continent. He said continuing colonialism and racial discrimination in Africa and other parts of the world constituted "a glaring anachronism and a potential danger to world peace". Ghana was particularly concerned at the increasingly grave situation in southern Africa.

Mr. Moore claimed machinery already existed within the OAU through which material assistance could be channelled to African Liberation movements. But all peace-loving nations should use it. "Furthermore, my delegation would propose that the UN float a special fund, to which voluntary contributions can be made by member states, to aid the liberation movements in Africa," he said.

• Ghana is to contribute 398,000 cedis to the OAU and its Liberation Committee. The amount is included in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs subvention of 832,142 cedis towards internal and external obligations during the current financial year. Other institutions the amount covers include the Commonwealth Secretariat 38,970 cedis; Commonwealth Institute 3,060 cedis; Commonwealth Foundation 11,690 cedis. Subscriptions to the UN and its specialist agencies total 223,227 cedis.

• Cdr. Kyremeh, Commissioner for Brong-Ahafo, has warned that the government would not hesitate to eject forcibly all farmers living in the 13 villages along the Ivory Coast border if any of them was caught smuggling cocoa out of the country. In addition, all cocoa produced by farmers in the area would be confiscated and the proceeds paid into government coffers. Cdr. Kyremeh said that the farmers in the area produced on average 2,000 tons of cocoa every season, but during the past four years the figure had declined to 200 tons.

• The prosecution in the military tribunal in which nine people face charges connected with an alleged

plot to overthrow the NRC has closed its case. Since the trial began the prosecution has called a total of 33 witnesses.

Opening the case for the defence the lawyers for two of the accused, Sgt. Nimako and David Afful Bimpong, submitted that no *prima facie* case had been made against them, and asked the court not to call on them to answer the charges. Counsel for Sgt. Nimako submitted that although the prosecution had called 33 witnesses, only two had vaguely mentioned his client's name.

• Ghana is to reduce the number of diplomatic missions abroad from 41 to 37 during the current financial year to ensure "the strictest economy consistent with efficiency". The missions have been grouped into three zones - missions in Africa, missions in international centres (New York, Geneva, Paris), other missions abroad.

• A four-member committee, chaired by Dr. R. Otieng of the National Standards Board, has been appointed to advise on the reactivation of the 8m cedi nuclear reactor at Kwabena. Work on the reactor, which was being built by the Nkrumah government, was abandoned immediately after the 1966 coup.

• All 50 health posts started by the National Liberation Council, but not completed by the Progress Party government are to be finished this year, the Western Region Commissioner said in Tarkwa.

• Workers at Tarkwa gold mines have resolved not to go on strike or engage in any labour unrest during the administration of the NRC, an executive of the Ghana Mines Workers Union told Western Region Commissioner, Col. Peter Adjekum, during his visit to the mines.

• Ghana will not allow any unlicensed imports into the country from next year, according to a notice in the *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin*. Importers must apply to the Ministry of Trade for the three types of licence required, open general licence, specific import licence or special unnumbered licence, by October 31 next.

• "May succeeding anniversaries strengthen further the bond of friendship and solidarity already existing between Nigeria and Ghana," said Col. Acheampong in a message to Gen. Gowon on Nigeria's 12th anniversary of independence.

• Col. Acheampong sent a message of congratulation to President Idi Amin on the 10th anniversary of Uganda's independence.

• The NRC is to open two new trade offices, in Moscow and Addis Ababa, during the 1972-73 financial year. Ghana already has trade offices in London, New York, Bonn and Geneva.

• Fifty-one of the 299 defaulters of the Small Business Loan Scheme in the Western Region are to be prosecuted.

• Ghana's first post-graduate training programme for 10 doctors, has been opened at the Korle Bu teaching hospital.

• The Food Distribution Corporation has taken over the supply of food to local government secondary schools and training colleges in the Central Region.

• Cadbury (Ghana) Ltd., makers of Bournvita, exported over 500,000 cedis worth of their product to Nigeria and Togo last year.

• The Ghana Export Company Ltd is to be the sole exporter of yams.

## Bauxite work begins

Preparatory work has begun on the aluminium project at Kibi by BASCOL (Ghana Bauxite Alumina Study Company Ltd.). The project is to have two phases. The first should last for six months and consist of opening roads, installing survey lines, drilling bore holes and test pits. The preliminary investigation is to determine the quantity and quality of bauxite in the Atewa Range, and this will indicate what work is necessary for the second phase.

## SIERRA LEONE

Stevens on  
the Asians

Commenting on President Amin's expulsion of Asians, Dr. Stevens said at a meeting in the Kambia District that all nationalist leaders wanted their people to play a greater role in their own economic life; but this was something which could not be achieved by decree or legislation. He did not want foreign domination of commercial life but he did not believe in forcing foreigners to abandon their businesses overnight to make way for indigenous people. Indigenous people could only take over gradually, as they lacked capital and experience. He felt that he should make his government's position clear as events in one African country tended to affect other African countries in the outside world.

- Shortage of rice, Sierra Leone's staple food, was in no way due to the departure of the Taiwan agricultural experts, the Minister of Agriculture had declared. During the past four years imports had declined from some 50,000 tons a year to some 6,000 tons a year, he said. The Peking Chinese experts who had taken over from the Taiwan experts, had set up 11 more rice stations. The Minister said that a "National Herd Organisation" was to be established, to be responsible for ranching, dairy farming and other aspects of animal husbandry. The World Bank would help in development of citrus, to assist in which an Israeli expert had arrived.

A statement from the Ministry of Agriculture had earlier blamed the Rice Corporation for its failures to import even the amount authorised for the current season. The statement also pointed out that the Corporation had failed to store some of its stocks properly. The ministry had not ordered against the import of rice.

The Rice Corporation is now selling directly to the public to overcome shortages, but purchasers have to buy 50lb. bags. Earlier the Chairman of the Rice Corporation

had said that there was a world shortage of rice at present. He blamed dealers for spreading rumours of scarcity in Sierra Leone in order to inflate prices. The Corporation had constantly increased the price it paid in Sierra Leone but the country was still not self-sufficient. The Ministry of Agriculture, however, had prevented them from importing as much as they had wanted to.

Pratt at  
the UN

At the UN the Foreign Minister, Mr. Solomon Pratt, said that his government wanted terrorism to be discussed by the General Assembly. Mr. Pratt, addressing the assembly's general debate, said, "No truly responsible country can oppose the inclusion of such an important item which concerns the safety of all of us". Any resolution on this subject, however, which tended to interfere with "the genuine liberation movements in colonial territories" would be "strongly opposed by my delegation, for the right of self-determination for all colonial peoples of the world is one of the basic principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations". It was "absolutely important" that the term terrorism should be clearly defined before it was debated. Hijacking of domestic airliners and armed attacks against innocent passengers should concern the world community and, said Mr. Pratt, it was "no excuse that these savage acts may be directed against particular countries or peoples".

"As long as they involve attacks on commercial airlines and international gatherings such as the last Munich Olympics, they are in fact a danger to all mankind".

International terrorism had degenerated into criminal kidnapping of ambassadors and top executives and even of innocent school children. It was "not a crime" which was not going to deal with the "groups" Heaven knows what it will send, the minister said.

Mr. Pratt devoted much of his speech to talking South Africa, Portugal and Rhodesia out of the assembly.

- In evidence before the Barthes-Wilson Commission into price rises Mr. Antoine Yazbeck, of Yazbeck Motors, said that in 1964 the company had sold 173 Mercedes Benz vehicles, for which it was the sole agent; but sales had dwindled to some 50 a year.

- Following submissions by Mr. Berthan Macaulay QC, leading defence counsel, that his clients had no case to answer, the Freetown Magistrate had again adjourned the case of alleged murder against 10 leaders of the Opposition SLPP.

- The newly appointed Israeli Ambassador said that he would invite his country's Director of Tourism to Sierra Leone to advise the government.

- Mr. Kojo Randall is the new Ambassador to Guinea. Former President of the National Youth Movement and Secretary of the APC Youth League, he served briefly as High Commissioner in Ghana before he became deputy ambassador to China.

- Presenting his credentials to the President the North Korean Ambassador said that his people all rejoiced over the success Sierra Leone had achieved under Dr. Stevens' leadership. He explained at length the efforts being made to unify the two parts of Korea.

W. German  
Trade up

- Statistics published in a supplement in the *Daily Mail* show that Sierra Leone exported £6m worth of goods to West Germany in 1971 and imported up to £22m worth. The biggest increase in exports was accounted for by iron ore and bauxite. Motor vehicles are the main imports, followed by machinery.

- During the third quarter of 1972 GPO purchases were some £8,225,000 compared with £6,874,000 in the third quarter of 1971. Total Diamond purchases for the year to date amount to some £17,208,000.

## LIBERIA

Tolbert in  
Uganda

Accompanied by George Sherman, Minister, and Foreign Minister, Bright, President Tolbert made a one-day visit to Uganda. Talks between President Tolbert and President Amin were to have continued in the early hours of the communication. President Amin and President Tolbert visited Uganda-Tanzania allowed for the re-brotherly relations. General Amin had said President Tolbert was "my best friend and a member of the African Unity".

- President Tolbert issued a strong statement against what he called "work best in Liberia's development" exploiting "our people to keep Liberia in a perpetual servitude dependence. He urged Senators and called upon him to resign from Uganda. He said Chief Executive "drawn a sword against injustice, corrupt those who try to Liberia's development". The President "our forefathers" decision to be independent; it make the decision economically independent.

- Commenting on efforts to raise at the plight of British in Uganda, a leader of the *Liberian Age* continued British move with Sir Douglas-Home's refusal to allow the plight of Africans in Rhodesia discussed at the UN.

- By 1975 all the elementary schools in Liberia's account time-table issued by the Ministry of Education only exceptions will be Corps volunteers in schools, however, teachers can be recruited for another more, particularly in

## SENEGAL

Normal ties  
with Guinea

M. Mamadou Tounkara has presented his credentials to President Senghor as Guinea ambassador to Senegal. This marks the normalisation of relations following the reconciliation carried out by an OAU Committee headed by Emperor Haile Selassie. President Senghor told the envoy that Africa had been able to show to the world that she knew how to overcome "multiple if conjunctural contradictions". Guinea and Senegal belonged to the same North-Sudan civilisation, "of which the essential values are the sense of order, honour and beauty".

• President Senghor, receiving the credentials of the new Israeli Ambassador suggested a "dialogue" under UN auspices between all the peoples of the former British mandate territory of Palestine, "Jews, sedentary Arabs, Moslem or Christian and Jordanian Bedouins", but also with neighbouring Arab peoples "whether Egyptian, Syrian or Lebanese".

## Sugar project

The "first piece of sugar" has been produced by the sugar refinery of the CSS (Compagnie Soudraise Senegalaise) at Richard-Toll. Full production should begin at the beginning of next year. The CSS, company headed by the French businessman Jacques Mimran, is developing an agro-industrial complex at Richard-Toll which includes a cane sugar plantation (1,000 hectares planted in November 1971 which will increase to 7,500 hectares in 1975), and a sugar refinery with a total capacity of 100,000 tons of refined sugar a year. It is hoped that in 1973-4 it will produce 30,000 tons and 70,000 tons in 1976. The first 1,000 hectares of sugar will produce 100,000 tons of cane, making 10,000 tons of refined sugar.

The Richard-Toll project represents an investment of 16,000m. CFA francs (£25.5m.), the largest single project so far realised in

Senegal. The CSS refinery takes over the function of supplying the Senegalese market from the CAPA group, whose refinery in Dakar closed on August 31. According to *Le Soleil*, CAPA had had the monopoly on the Richard-Toll project, and in spite of successful studies by the government had "seemed unwilling" to proceed with it.

• The TV experiment that enabled the population of Dakar to view the Munich Olympics is to continue until July 1973. The National Commission of Planning will then be consulted about the possibility of Senegal having its own permanent TV network. At the moment Senegal only has a Unesco pilot project for educational TV, but a permanent network has been under discussion for some time.

• Relations are to be established with North Korea at embassy level. Senegal already has diplomatic relations with South Korea.

## MAURITANIA

## Diouf visit

After the visit of Senegal's Premier Abdou Diouf, a joint communique called for the construction of dams on the Senegal river to solve the water supply problem. The dams would be the beginning of a wider co-operation between the two countries. M. Diouf said that in his talks in Nouakchott the need for industrial harmonisation had been recognised, and plans had been drawn up for ministers and technicians to work together.

M. Diouf said there were hardly any customs or trade problems between Senegal and Mauritania now. He had also signed an agreement on social security and employment.

• A state-owned industrial and mining company has been created to carry out research and mining activities. It will be called the *Société Nationale des Industries et Mines*.

• It has been decided to suspend tax on livestock for five years after three lean years which have seriously damaged cattle farming.

## FRANCE

Messmer on  
cooperation

French Prime Minister Pierre Messmer, in his general policy statement to the National Assembly, included a section on France's cooperation with Africa. He said: "France cannot nor does she wish to be inward looking. If she has duties towards all French people, then she also has them towards peoples who have not yet reached her level of development. Our cooperation with other states, especially those in Africa, does not impose itself nor does it make proposals. Our agreements were made with these states just after their independence. I believe them to be good ones. There is nothing to stop them being revised or brought up to date if they no longer reflect the balance which we have sought to establish with our friends. But certain elements of our cooperation are in themselves unassailable. The French language, for example, henceforth belongs to them as it does to us. They have attained it by study and usage. They have their French-language literature. Some of them already have their French-speaking scientists. Their language is not subordinate and their struggle for the prevalence of the French language is on an equal footing with ours. Cooperation, as France sees it, founded on equality and reciprocity, finds here exemplary ground, for these countries enrich our cultural, scientific and human heritage."

## FRANC ZONE

## Policy at IMF

• Prior to the IMF meeting in Washington, ministers of the countries of the franc zone met in Paris. After the meeting, the French Finance Minister M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said that France's partners in the zone approved the creation of the new Group of 20 to study international monetary reform by the IMF. He recalled the last meeting of franc zone ministers in Fort Lamy in January had

drawn attention to the importance of the formation of a Group of Ten in international monetary decisions, expressing the hope that the IMF itself could create a body more representative of the developing countries. M. Giscard d'Estaing added that the partners had underlined the support for developing countries they have always received from the Director-General of the International Monetary Fund.

The meeting also discussed the functioning of agreements on certain basic products, and the problems related to the enlargement of the Association with the EEC following British entry.

## CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

## Shack deadline

Owners of old crumbling buildings and shanty-town shacks in Brazzaville have been given until January 1 to rebuild. Any tumble-down property is likely to be razed to the ground without warning after the expiry of the deadline. President Nguabi recently criticised the decrepit state of certain quarters in the capital and the negligence of some property owners.

• Mompollo Dadet, Minister Plenipotentiary, has told managing directors of private firms that their attitude was systematic aggression against the country's strategic sectors. The government would fight foreign capitalist firms which did not invest.

## UPPER VOLTA

## Wage increases

Wage increases of between three and ten per cent for all government workers have been announced by Prime Minister Gerard Kango Ouedraogo. In a broadcast he said that monthly wages lower than 10,000 francs CFA (about £15) would rise by 10 per cent, those between 10,000 and 30,000 francs CFA (£15 and £45) by five per cent, and those above 30,000 francs by three per cent. M. Ouedraogo appealed to traders not to use the wage rises, which take effect from December 1, as an excuse to put up prices.

## TOGO

## Taiwan out

Togo and China have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassador level, following the visit of Foreign Minister Joachim Hounlede to Peking. Togo is to recognise the Government of the Peoples Republic as the sole and legal government of China. China is also to make an interest-free loan to Togo



M. Hounlede

of about £20m. M. Hounlede said the repayment terms were "very interesting". During the visit the Peoples Daily identified China and Togo as both belonging to the Third world, and sympathising with each other in their common struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Togo has had diplomatic relations with Taiwan since 1960, but the Taiwan Embassy in Lome has closed. The Taiwan agricultural mission is also closing down.

• Delegates from the Entente Council States - Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Volta, Niger and Togo - have held a regional conference on the evaluation of industrial projects. Opening the conference M. Gregoire Adra, Deputy Director of Togo's Planning, said that while member states appreciated the need for agricultural development "they know that productivity in the industrial sector is relatively greater than in the agricultural sector". This was the reason for the development of industry in member States, he said. But in view of the limited human, material and financial resources at the disposal of African States rational use of industry must be ensured.

The conference was organised by the United Nations Organisation for Industrial Development

(UNIDO) and the French Aid and Co-operation Fund.

• Togo-Presse reports that President Eyadema intervened personally in the strike at the Kpeme works of the Benin Mining Company which produces phosphates. The President visited the mine as soon as he heard of the dispute, accompanied by ministers, and warned the workers against taking strike action before negotiations had been completed. He condemned "any act of indiscipline which may in one way or other delay the harmonious development of Togo". The President subsequently ordered the dismissal of 3,000 workers. (The state participation in the company was increased from 19.5 to 35 per cent at the end of September. The rest of the capital is owned by French, American, Japanese and private Togolese interests.)

## ZAIRE

## The Amin Affair

Following his official visit to Uganda, President Mobutu Sese Seko claimed that General Amin had agreed, in the course of talks, to extend the deadline for the expulsion of the Asians beyond November 8. Gen. Amin had made three concessions, said the Zaire President. As well as the extension of the deadline, the threatened internment measures would not be applied and the Asians would be free to transfer their possessions to a country of their choice. Uganda radio, however, repeated Gen. Amin's insistence on the deadline, which led Gen. Mobutu to say he continued to believe that he had been dealing with a "conscientious and honourable statesman. I would be particularly sad if events proved me wrong in this". Gen. Mobutu informed the UN Secretary-General of Gen. Amin's agreement on the deadline. (Latest reports indicate that it may be possible to evacuate all Asians holding British passports by November 8 so the issue may not arise.)

At his news conference in Kampala before leaving, President Mobutu had said the purpose of his visit was to strengthen the bonds of

brotherhood between Uganda and Zaire.

He has subsequently been on visits to Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya, in the course of which he briefed African leaders on his conversations with General Amin.

## THE I'BOND AFFAIR

Foreign Minister Nguza Karl I'Bond spoke at a meeting of foreign ambassadors in Kinshasa about the diplomatic incident which caused him to cut short his visit to Britain. Sir Alec Douglas-Home would have a very different reception should he visit Zaire. "The day he comes to Kinshasa I shall be at the airport to welcome him. I shall accompany him to his hotel, and it will only be when I am certain he is well settled in that I shall leave him to report to President Mobutu", M. Nguza said he did not argue Sir Alec's right to be represented at the airport if he could not make it himself. But he told diplomats last night he was surprised that the civil servant who met him disappeared immediately afterwards. He was taken to the hotel by another civil servant who also left him after arranging for a temporary hotel room to be put at his disposal as the room reserved would not be ready for another three hours. He had left London as a matter of principle and dignity.

President Mobutu himself told newsmen in Uganda that these events were a "grave incident", as it was normal for a host government to provide "customary courtesies". Zaire made no distinction between foreign ministers and Britain. "The British should understand once and for all we are no longer in the 19th Century empire", Gen. Mobutu said his visit to Uganda had been misinterpreted by elements of the British press, which had portrayed him as a "British agent" coming to put pressure on General Amin.

• President Bokassa has laid the foundation stone of CAR's second hydro-electric power station. It is being built with Yugoslav aid on the Mbali river 56 miles northwest of Bangui. Due to be completed in 31 months time, its annual output will be 550m. kwh.

## NIGERIA

## "Never a Satellite"

Nigeria would never be a satellite of any European country and would resist any economic arrangement which infringed her sovereignty, the Federal Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Saifullah Shagari, on his return to the Commonwealth Ministers' conference in London and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington. The Commissioner explained that he did not see any advantage for Nigeria to be an associate of the EEC if Britain joined it. He said Commonwealth Finance Ministers examined the offer of sterling as a reserve asset especially after Britain's entry into the EEC. They discussed the development of trade among Commonwealth countries.

• The proposed voluntary youth corps will be a positive instrument for national unity, cutting across political, ethnic, state, religious and tribal loyalties, General Gowon said in a delegation of the National Youth Council of Nigeria. He said the corps was designed to afford Nigerian youth an opportunity for tireless and honest service to the nation. Nigeria's stability came from the voluntary nature of the army. The State said the idea was to choose any one professional group for compulsory national service but to ensure that the corps embraced

• The Northern State Marketing Board has centralised its operations in effect from October 1. Its area offices have been closed with increased powers and responsibilities to improve efficiency. The area offices include one in Lapsa to co-ordinate the board's operations and have with Product Marketing Commission. The price list for all products to be handled by the board during the coming season also been announced, including £40.65 per ton for £3.25 per bag for groundnuts.

• Three hundred community development projects estimated to cost £2m have been embarked upon in the Mid-West.

• The Federal Trade Commissioner, Mr. Wenike Briggs, has expressed satisfaction with the increasing volume of trade between Nigeria and the Soviet Union. He was speaking at the opening of a two-week exhibition of Soviet products in Lagos, the second to be held in Nigeria within 12 months. He expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would join in ventures with Nigerians, not only in commerce but also in industry. The exhibition, organised by the West African Automobile Engineering Company, Waateco, features products including vehicles and industrial and agricultural machinery.

• Fresh talks have begun in Lagos as the strike of University lecturers over pay and conditions of service. The talks are between the Federal Ministry of Labour, the University Authorities and executive members of the Association of University Lecturers. Lagos University has about 300 lecturers who went on strike at the beginning of the new session.

• The Nigerian Union of Teachers strongly opposes the idea of introducing a quota system of admission into federal institutes of higher learning. The national president, Chief Omoz Garhe, described the idea as "a clever way of introducing tribalism into the country", in an interview with the independent *Daily Times*. Chief Garhe was leading a 12-man delegation to the East-Central State to confer with the State government on the plight of teachers in the state. The state should, he said, realise the need for the implementation of the Adeforasin and Asaba recommendations issued by the various state governments.

• The quota system for university admission has been supported by the Rivers State Governor, Cdr. Dieter Spill, who said that such a system could easily be worked out without lowering the standard of education.

• A warning to the Nigeria Holding Society not to encourage the acquisition of vast estates by individuals has been given by the Federal Nigerian Commissioner for Works and Housing, Mr. Femi

Okunnu. He told members of the Society's reconstituted Board, "your task is substantially to promote home-ownership directly for our people". The Society is now almost wholly-owned by the Government, previously, the Commonwealth Development Corporation held a 60 per cent interest.

• A total of 112,950 crimes were committed in Nigeria in 1970, the "highest in recent years", said the Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Kam Seleim OI these. 26,800 were serious and involved violence.

• Immediate changes are to be made in the Nigerian Ports Authority to place the corporation on a proper footing, the newly-appointed permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Transport, Mr. G. A. E. Longe, said during a visit to NPA headquarters.

• The Price Control Board, charged with responsibility for regulating prices for essential commodities, is to become a permanent institution. According to an official statement, the lull in the activities of the board's inspectorate services was due to the Government's directive that bulk purchase of scarce essential commodities should supplement direct control of prices.

• Some high-ranking civil servants who managed government companies in the past have been frustrating the efforts of the Statutory Corporations Services Commission to reveal a number of "dirty practices" and had been sabotaging the Commission, said one of its permanent members, Dr. Abubakar Imam. He alleged that as a result of incessant agitation by the civil servants some of the SSCS's powers and functions had been given to the chairmen of statutory corporations.

• A team of eleven from the Royal College of Defence Studies (formerly the Imperial Defence College), London, is visiting Nigeria from October 5 to October 13 to learn at first hand about developments in Nigeria. The visit is part of a month's tour of Africa which includes visits to the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia.

• Nigeria expects to produce about 500 doctors annually when present plans for the training of medical personnel are fully developed said the Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Aminu Kano, on his return from a tour of Hospitals in the South Eastern State.

• Discussions at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Lagos on November 29 and 30 "will centre on the question of government participation in the oil industry in the respective member countries", the Cabinet Office announced.

• The United Bank for Africa lent a total of £9m to indigenous businessmen in the year ending March 1972 said the outgoing general manager, Mr. G. L. Schneider.



To mark Nigeria's 12th anniversary of independence Col. Usman, Defence Attache, gave a reception in London. Seen here (left to right) are Col. Usman, Capt. M. A. Agate (shipping adviser to the Federal Military Government), Major Uguh and Lt. Cdr. Makinde.

• A warning to licensed buying agents to pay the official Marketing Board price to farmers has been issued by the Minister of Trade and Industry.

• The Federal Government-owned National Insurance Corporation is to form a subsidiary to handle reinsurance business "as a means of controlling the outflow of foreign exchange". The chairman, Mallam Mohammed, claimed that Nigeria was losing much foreign exchange through the numerous foreign-owned insurance companies.

• A 10-man Nigerian trade mission paid a 10-day visit to Italy, led by Chief Bawsey Okokon, president of the South Eastern State Chamber of Commerce.

• The new British Council Representative in Nigeria, Mr. Peter Gordon Lloyd, has arrived in Lagos.

He succeeds Mr. R. A. F. Sherwood, who has been appointed Controller of the Council's Africa and Middle East Division at Council Headquarters in London.

• UNICEF (United Nations Childrens Fund) is to draw up a three-year plan for further participation in Nigerian social development said the deputy executive director, Dr. Charles Egger, at the beginning of a two-week visit to Nigeria.

• Mr. Mohammed Goni has been appointed general manager of the North Eastern Lines Corporation. The corporation was created this year with an initial capital of £300,000. It has a fleet of 12 45-seater buses and 10 smaller ones.

• Construction has begun on the £2m Kano Hilton hotel. It is to be mainly financed by an indigenous company, Kano Hotels Ltd, but on completion will be run by Hilton International.

• Professor Bolaji Idowu of the University of Ibadan has been elected the new president of the Methodist Church of Nigeria. He succeeds the late Rev. Nathaniel Salako, who died earlier this year.

• The Federal Government has provided £6.2m for a telecommunications system to link 23 urban centres, the director of posts and telecommunications, Mr. Theophilus Akindele, announced.



Gen. Gowon takes the salute during celebration of the 12th Independence anniversary.

- A draft transport protocol is expected to be signed between Chad and Nigeria by the end of the year said a communiqué at the end of negotiations in Lagos between a Chad delegation and Federal Government officials. Further contacts would be made to finalise the agreement for air services.
- President Tolbert of Liberia met Gen. Gowon during a one-hour stopover in Lagos on his way to Uganda.
- Federal Commissioner for Labour, Mr. S. A. Opara, has

urged trade union leaders not to exploit their positions to achieve selfish ends. He emphasised the need for "single and virile" unions.

- The **Zambian Health Minister** has held "exploratory talks" with **Alhaji Aminu Kano** about the recruitment of Nigerian nurses.

## From the States

The South-Eastern State Manpower Committee has been established. The Permanent Secretary and the Secretary (Planning) in the Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction are Chairman and Secretary respectively. The Committee will find out the state's requirements, initiate training programmes and deploy available manpower. Its objectives include making projections of the State's future manpower requirements, indicating areas of surpluses and difficulties, recommending suitable training schemes and other measures to remove any labour imbalance in the state.

- The Rivers State plans to set up a 12-man board to look after the welfare of pilgrims.

- **Benue Plateau State Governor, Mr. J. D. Gomwalk**, has assured all Nigerians in the state of equal treatment irrespective of their state of origin. He reiterated that Government policy was to encourage and assist all peaceful law-abiding citizens in the State. Speaking on Jos on his return from a visit to Lagos, he repeated his Government's intention to protect the lives and properties of all citizens.

- The Rivers State Commissioner for Information, **Mr. K. B. Tsaro-Wira**, has returned to Port Harcourt after a two-month tour of Caribbean countries for negotiations on their participation in the 1974 World Black Arts Festival in Lagos.

- **Mrs. Folake Soyanke** has been sworn in as a commissioner in the Western State. She has been assigned to the Governor's Office and will act as chairman of the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation.

- A research programme to ascertain the potential and extent of the salt deposits in the **Abakaliki** area of **Nigeria's East Central State**, is due to begin soon. Earlier work has suggested that the area might contain the most extensive salt deposits in the country.

- **Headmasters** of all primary and secondary schools in the **South-Eastern State** have lost the power to dismiss any of their students. Dismissal has become the responsibility of the state Ministry of Education. The State government has appointed a team of inspectors to supervise and control all educational institutions in the state.

- The **Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation** is to begin broadcasting local news for **Lagos State** from **November 1**.

- **Kwara State Liquor Fireworks and Distillers Co-operative Society** is to set up a **£10,000 distillery** at **Bacia**, near the sugar estates.

- **East Central State Public Service** has 1,574 vacancies in its "upper segment".



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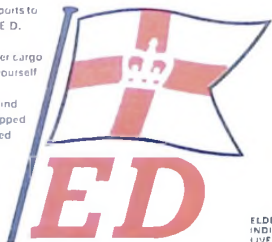
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