

TALKING DRUMS



THE WEST AFRICAN NEWS MAGAZINE

Published Weekly

September 10, 1984



**ONE YEAR
OF COVERING
A REGION
IN
TURMOIL**

•STUDENTS UNREST
ERUPTS IN
NIGERIA

•THE PLIGHT OF
THE EDUCATED
AFRICAN

"WE NEED LEADERS. WE NEED RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS SUFFICIENTLY DISSATISFIED WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE AND IMPATIENT ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, INTELLIGENTLY, QUIETLY, WISELY. WE NEED CRITICS TOO, FOR DISSENTING IS A SERIOUS, WORTHY AND HONEST PURSUIT."

VOL 1 NUMBER 49

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

COMMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHISPERING DRUMS

News tidbits from the grapevine.

A STRANGER'S LONDON

Watching the natives in their natural habitat.

STUDENT UNREST ERUPTS IN NIGERIA

The uneasy alliance between the military and students at the time of a coup quickly dissolves into violent disagreement over policy and political direction as events have proved in West Africa many times. The current military-student clash is viewed against this background.

THE PLIGHT OF THE EDUCATED AFRICAN

Dorothy V. Smith, a Doctoral candidate in History at the University of Kansas, provides a thought-provoking analysis of the subtle mechanism for controlling the development process of Africa through its educated elites.

ASANTEHENE'S DESTOOLMENT OF NANA KWANTWI BARIMA II

The controversial destoolment of a Paramount Chief by Ghana's powerful Ashanti Chief, the Asantehene, continues to be the subject of debate. Our cultural analyst re-examines the legal and customary issue involved.

4	D.A.P.I.T.: GHANA'S INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME	13
5	<i>The attempts to introduce effective intermediate technology into Ghana's development programme is looked into by our correspondent, Poku Adaa.</i>	
6	GHANA: A CASE OF HOW TO BE POOR WITHOUT TRYING	14
7	<i>"The first point to note is that there is no coherent national strategy which sees agriculture and exports as the linchpin of economic growth".</i>	
8	REFLECTIONS ON THE 1984 OLYMPIC GAMES	17
	<i>Inibong Udiadem of Catholic University of America throws a searchlight on the just-ended Olympic Games and suggests a few changes in procedure.</i>	
	TOUCH OF NOKOKO	18
	<i>"Good credit: if you play your cards well".</i>	
9	MUSIC AND ARTS REVIEW	19
	<i>African records review and happenings on the London scene.</i>	
	WHAT THE PAPERS SAY	20
	<i>Editorial opinions from newspapers.</i>	
12	MARKETS AROUND AFRICA	21
	<i>Economic round-up.</i>	
	PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS	22
	<i>News tidbits from West African countries.</i>	
	SPORTS	26

Cover picture:

The West African region is racked by upheavals, much of it brought on by the military.

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•STUDENTS UNREST ERUPTS IN NIGERIA

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COMMENT

WE ARE ONE YEAR OLD

Back in 1981 when the then President of Ghana, Dr Hilla Limann, paid a visit to the United Kingdom, he was asked by a journalist what he considered to be his greatest achievement in almost two years in his job, the good man answered: "I have survived".

Many people thought and said at the time that his answer demonstrated that he had achieved nothing worth recording and had been too pre-occupied with security to have settled down to the job at hand.

As it turned out in the event, even his survival was nothing to comment upon for a few months after his famous answer he was overthrown in a military coup.

We are sorely tempted to state also after one year of existence that 'we have survived', well, thus far at least.

For in the past one year the problems of the weekly survival of 'Talking Drums' have threatened to overwhelm us and take more energy than we could devote to the task we set ourselves a year ago.

The survival battle has been an every day reality and led to a two-week break in production in November last year and a one week break in April this year, but we have made it to one year and we would like to think that we have done more than simply survive.

Telling the West African Story, an area described by one of our contributors recently as "a region in turmoil" has not been easy and has been especially more difficult because we have undertaken to promote open and free debate.

We have not been coy about our distaste for military rule because we are convinced that the good that they seek to do is undone by the inevitable intolerance and brutality that come with rule by the gun.

What is more, we are convinced that if the only way of ensuring accountability by elected governments in West Africa was by military intervention, then our societies will never mature and develop.

We were also moved into taking the plunge into the 'Talking Drums' adventure because of the anger and frustration that we felt at the way West Africa was being reported.

We lamented at our birth, the fact that very few places on the African continent could boast of a free press, not controlled by government and we noted that most governments in the region were either military or controlled by one-party rule and they equated criticism or disagreement with subversion. If you disagreed with the government of the day you were immediately labelled unpatriotic and hunted down.

We noted that in Nigeria (which at the time was still under elected constitutional government) "the practitioners have not been able to resist the temptation to align themselves to various factions, the result being that one needs to read about six different newspapers and listen

to about three different radio stations before one can pick out the truth in any matter".

Thus we wrote in our maiden issue, "to those countries that have free press but where everybody is screaming his own story so loudly that nobody can hear anybody else, we offer the opportunity to make their points without hysteria".

As it were, Nigeria has also in the course of the year gone the way of many other countries in the region and now has a military regime plus a phenomenon called Decree Number 4 which has tamed the country's hitherto virile press.

We have in the past year managed to ruffle a few feathers and succeeded in bringing up for public debate a number of issues that would otherwise never have seen the light of day.

We have undoubtedly published views that have displeased a number of people, but then we would be failing in our duty if we pleased everybody.

We are particularly grateful to all those who have taken the time and trouble to call us or write to us. We would like to thank all those who have written critical appraisals of our performance or have written to register their disagreement — we could not have managed without them.

There are those who like the gentleman who wrote to us from Holland last week have been simply abusive of our persons without stating what their disagreements are. As we have demonstrated amply, we are not afraid of publishing views that are contrary to ours, but we find it totally futile to encourage abusive exchanges that do nothing to enhance the important debates that face us.

Our thanks must necessarily also go to those who have written to us to simply get matters off their chest or who have made analyses of various subjects and we have to thank those who have called or written to encourage us even though we regret that so many of them have been reluctant to be publicly identified. Their encouragement is helpful of course, but would be even more helpful if openly done.

We cannot say that we have achieved even half the target we had set ourselves but we have no doubts that the patronising and smug attitude of covering West African sub-region that we came to meet a year ago will never be the same again.

A year ago we wrote: "We are under no illusions whatsoever about the enormity of the task we have set ourselves, but we are counting on the support of all those who believe that human problems can be solved through dignified debate to join us in this adventure".

A year later, the message is the same even if the task has been even more daunting than we had imagined.

But survived, we have, and hope to survive even longer with the help from you our readers.

Congratulations

This month marks the first anniversary of *Talking Drums* joining the numerous publications reporting on Africa and as a regular reader I must say that it has been an eventful first year.

Right from the first issue, this magazine established a stand against regimes which use unconstitutional means to come to power and it has stuck to that editorial viewpoint no matter whose ox was gored. Your pages have, on the other hand been offered for views contrary to yours and that has been an admirable quality that is difficult to condemn.

Of course, since you cannot possibly hope to please everybody, the criticisms, some bordering on pathological hatred for bold, non-sense magazines like yours have been quite strident.

However, if in spite of the obvious lack of advertisements you've managed to stay afloat for all these months, then your commendation should be even greater.

More grease to your elbow and may *Talking Drums* grow from strength to strength.

T. Hutchful, Peterhead



"AFRC murders and tortures in 1979" I think it sufficient for the moment to remind Mr Broni that in July 1981 after our compulsory retirement, some of us boldly offered to appear before a public judicial enquiry even though others like Jerry Rawlings preferred a trial by ordeal in front of "Akonnedi".

It is a matter of regret that as a Member of Parliament at the time, Mr Broni — a supposed seeker after the truth — did not see it fit to add his weighty voice to our probe call. Had he done so, perhaps even if some of us would have died in the feared conflagration, at least the secrets of the AFRC rule would have been known.

Stripped of all the verbiage, I think Mr Broni is only angry with Mr KO'Opong's pro-Nkrumah stance and just ropes me in as a matter of convenience. The ex-Honourable Member surprises me when he pleads for tolerance, patience and calmness "to discuss and resolve national issues in an atmosphere of peace and concord".

It appears that he cannot see the contradiction when in the very next breath, he turns round to:

a) Chastise others inability to understand political issues.

a) Deplore supposed flippancy in others.

c) Praise only those CPP members who admit of the necessity of the 1966 coup. WHAT TOLERANCE! Of course, in the unfortunate situation in which we find ourselves the kettle will always call the pot black.

No matter how rude I might appear in Mr Broni's eyes, I am confident that privately, Col. Odjidja is not surprised by my account of his role in the AFRC. The Col. cannot deny that as a result of our probe call in July 1981 ex-President Limann appointed a Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Mr Riley Poku to look into our case.

The Col. cannot also deny that in a confrontation at the Castle I firmly but politely pointed out to him in front of the Sub-Committee members why I thought he was more a member of the AFRC than some of us whose names had appeared in the proclamations. As a "child of history" I am certain that but for the Colonel's "intervention" and backdoor roles, we would have

sorted ourselves out at Burma Camp and whatever conflagration arising therefrom would have subsided by now.

In any case, far from being pro-militarist and insulting, I had in my article only dared to point out that people like Col. Odjidja cannot escape responsibility for what has happened in Ghana by trying to disassociate themselves from historical events for which there are too many living witnesses.

After 27 tumultuous years it is important that people who have been at the centre stage of our recent history, are no longer allowed to use their official positions to claim anonymity.

Finally, Mr Broni needs to be reminded that his priorities, timing and spacing of action need not necessarily coincide with mine.

Capt. Baah-Achamfour (Rtd.)

Local banks to buy gold

I wish to draw the attention of the Ghanaian authorities to the existence of diamond house in Nigeria, a country that does not exploit diamond and also to the practice of banks in Europe in buying and selling gold to any individual and suggest the following to stem the smuggling of gold and other minerals from Ghana.

But before then, let me dwell a little on the plight of the people of Obuasi, the base of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, which for many years has provided the government with vast amounts of foreign exchange through the export of gold.

For all their contribution to the national economy, there is not a single Obuasi resident who lives in a government built estate house. And as if that is not enough deprivation, the people are now being subjected to various forms of harassment from the Peoples' Tribunals.

Chaired by a Mr George Agyekum, the tribunals are jailing anyone whose lifestyle can not match his known taxable income.

Recently, a middle aged couple were jailed 25 years for their inability to explain how they acquired a refrigerator ten years ago, and also for not being able to explain the source of their joint income of 3000 cedis.

Like the above couple, the people of Obuasi have done nothing to deserve such raw treatment from the Ghanaian authorities. If the government suspects them to be smugglers of gold, then I suggest that a number of the local banks should be authorised to buy gold from individual citizens so that they may no longer be tempted to find markets for the gold in their possession outside the borders of Ghana.

Kwadwo Opong, Stuttgart, W. Germany

Re: "Healthy Arguments"

With respect, Mr Thomas Broni has indulged in the art of standing an argument on its head in order to demolish it as clearly demonstrated in his comment on my rejoinder to Col. Annor Odjidja's Serials (*Talking Drums*, September 3, 1984).

The ex-Honourable Member of Parliament accuses me of being "extremely intolerant" of views opposed to mine without finding it necessary to cite even one example of my intolerance in the whole of the two page article I wrote. He goes further to say that my article showed the role I "played in the AFRC murders and tortures of 1979". Here again, he does not think it necessary to point to a single assertion I made in the article to show what role I was supposed to have played.

It looks as if in Mr Broni's anxiety to give a dog a bad name in order to hang it, he does not even bother to distinguish between views expressed by me and those expressed by others commenting on what I had previously said. Mr Broni devotes two-thirds of his article to an attack on views expressed by Mr KO'Opong without even showing that I share those views. So why did he have to devote the first four paragraphs of his article to assaulting me?

As to allegations of my role in the

WHISPERING DRUMS WITH MAIGANI



Behind the scene alliances

It was Aristotle, that great Greek philosopher, thinker and writer of years gone by, that woke up early one morning to reveal that every man born of woman and every woman born of another woman is an animal, albeit, a political animal. And as political animals there were to be no permanent friends but permanent interests.

Today, the whole of humanity is on a towering brink of a political precipice, and, but for certain permanent interests that have to be protected, would have gone into hibernation. Take for instance the war of words that is fought daily between the two world super powers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. To Reagan, the Soviets are "the focus of evil in the modern world", predicting that the "march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history". Constantin Chernenko does not agree and echoes that "the Reagan administration has chosen terrorism as a method of conducting affairs with other states and peoples". And on and on, appearing great and endless debate. But don't tell me you do not know that there is a hotline between Moscow and Washington and that Reagan and Chernenko exchange personal handwritten letters between themselves. Love-lust friends but permanent interests. It is the game of politics.

Over the years, Africans have also learnt and acquired all the essential ingredients that go with the trappings of politics with an ingenious mastery that would have baffled Aristotle. And typical of everything African, this acquisition stretches beyond the bounds of etiquette. To them, there are no permanent friends in politics but personal aggrandizements. Now consider the following:

In 1978 when the ban on politics was lifted in Nigeria as if the country had ever been in a state of political inertia (going by Aristotle's words), people were thrown into a frenzy as politicians scampered for supporters. Friendships were made and broken, alliances were formed and shattered, accords were created and discarded, and in the end,

only the most persevering won their various battles. But the politicians had completely changed the political dictionary of the country with the addition of new political words such as "decamping", "carpet-crossing", "accord concordiale", "landslide" and what have you.

Today, Nigeria is supposed to be under a military regime where political vocabularies are an anathema but the behind the curtain manoeuvres show something to the contrary. For, in the midst of the feigned War Against Indiscipline and staggering domestic problems, the top brass of the military leaders are said to be getting some tutoring in the art of politics from an erstwhile ex-senator whose own political record is that of decampment and carpet-crossing. Winning an election in 1979 to the senate under a minority party, he later changed to the party that controlled the centre in the 1979 elections, and as one of the zonal directors helped make what the soldiers call "rigged land-slide victory of the NPN" possible. Today, he is one of the politicians that is not behind bars. The most intriguing is that while his former colleagues who may not be behind bars cannot leave the country (theirs is house arrest), this man is always in and out of Nigeria serving as an emissary or a diplomat extraordinary and plenipotentiary (apology to Chief K.O. the jaw-breaker) in the Buhari-Idiagbon regime.

His assignment is to go round to and extract as much information as possible either from them directly or from some contacts. It is true that at one time or the other, the Buhari regime had sought to make a deal with those regarded as "Nigeria's band of fugitives". After much "bargaining" the ex-senator seemed to have been successful in luring one of the men to the military government's fold. The proceeds are said to be two million pounds for the military government, and the evacuation of the entire fugitive's family from Nigeria to London.

It is also true that only two men from this band have vowed never to compromise their stand against the military. Their names have appeared in the headlines of dozens of newspapers the world over. Theirs is a matter of principle, the most important of all

virtues. Against this background, I wish to join ex-Minister Bello Maitama Yusuf in welcoming to London his battalion of relations from Nigeria, and to ex-Senator Mahmoud Waziri, I say more grease to your peregrinations.

True, everybody is a political animal — Nigeria's military inclusive.

Live and let live...

Ever since the Buhari brigade assumed leadership of Nigeria, Nigerians have never seen a more callous lot. First, there is segregation among the population. The soldiers have become sacred cows living outside of austerity and indiscipline.

They have their monthly salaries in cash, on time, and are regularly supplied with the much sought after essential commodities without a tear. And as if that is not enough, the soldiers are in the process of being given new attires. And why not, wasn't Shagari's white flowing agbada estimated to have cost untold thousands of naira? So a nine million naira contract for the supply of new uniforms for the soldiers is on the way. Of course, when all is over, not nine million will be on record as the money spent. And there is the airforce, the navy, the customs, the police who would also want their uniforms changed too.

Talking of contracts, of percentages and of corruption, who said the military have no grab-grab pecunia-maniacs?

Last word: That Punch Story. I would have loved to answer but shall not, because human energy, my energy, is never more extravagantly wasted than in the persistent effort to answer or respond to issues or allegations that are vague, meaningless and lack substance. Such was the Punch story and I maintain my gait and oath.

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problems getting
**TALKING
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to buy?

Contact the editor on:
01-482 2165

A STRANGER'S LONDON

'No noise' pubs award

A brewery that banned jukeboxes from its pubs has won the Noise Abatement Society's first Award of Merit.

The newly-formed West Midland Brewery's Holt, Plant and Deakin is operating the no-music ban in ten pubs it has taken over this year. The society thinks every area should have some music-free pubs.

Mink terror to wildlife

The Society for the Protection of Wildlife appears to be winning its battle against wanton killing of certain species of animals — ferocious wild minks are threatening to wipe out wildlife on the banks of the River Severn. Wildlife expert Walter Gainey, of Rippie, Glos, said: "If they go on breeding at their current rate nothing living on or near the river will be safe."

Flying pickets and flying justice

With the miners strike going into another week of uncertainty and hardship for everybody involved, a way has been found to deal with the mounting cases of arrests involving miners on picket duties around the mining areas.

A squad of flying magistrates is being sent to the coalfields to deal with arrested pickets. The ten-strong team of special stipendiaries will hear their first cases in Rotherham, Yorks, Chesterfield and Derby. About 6,000 people have been arrested since the

strike began six months ago, but overworked courts have heard only 1,000 cases.

No excuses

"I have been wondering whether there is any country England can beat at cricket" observes Woodrow Wyatt, a columnist of the *News of the World*. "Perhaps the Fiji Islands. But they are good at rugger. If they took up cricket seriously they would soon wallop the worst team ever to represent England". What a thoroughly sad commentary on the performance of a country from which the game of cricket originated.

The Royal birth through the stars

Princess Diana's second child is due in three weeks' time and she hopes the baby will be a girl. Already the astrologers are falling over themselves to predict the unborn baby's future.

According to astrologer Marjori Orr, he or she will be able to switch on the charm — but, like a politician, only when it suits him. The stars show the child as someone of great charisma who will revel in the luxury and pomp of Royal life. Diana might well despair of this vague, wildly over-enthusiastic child, forever living in a fantasy world.

The young Royal's love life will be a source of great joy and great pain. The Queen is likely to put her foot down about unwise escapades. But the need to probe the rock-bottom depths of emotional experience, to be pulled into forbidden relationships could cause real problems.

I dare say that there is a ring of DEJA VU about these predictions, isn't there?

The Naff Guide to sex

Naff — the word immortalised by Ronnie Barker in TV's *Porridge* series meaning corny, vulgar or tacky, is a subject of a new book by "Naffologist" Dr Kit Bryson, Selina Fitzherbert and Jean-Luc Legris. They first examined the whacky subject in their smash-hit book *The Complete Naff Guide*.

And in their follow-up, *The Naff Sex Guide*, they take a special look at the naff art of love and marriage. For example, they give the following naff excuses for a woman caught with her lover by her husband.

"Can you honestly say you're surprised?" and "I'm trying to discover who I really am."

Husband having an affair caught in the act by the wife: "It's alright darling I'm not enjoying it."

Rainmaker

As unpredictable as the British weather is, parts of the country was going through a dark patch and water rationing and conservation were being used by the Water Authorities in the Wales area.

So Big Running Chief, alias John Morley left his office desk and donned his Indian traditional outfit and headed west to drought-parched Plymouth.

According to eye-witnesses he shook his turtle rattle and he whooped, hottered, screamed and danced around his portable mini totem pole at the half-empty Burator reservoir.

According to the Daily Mirror report it must have been heap big magic. Within half an hour, "black clouds rolled up and dropped a few specks of rain."

Thank you Big Running Chief — you can do big business in Africa.

FOR OPINIONS THAT CHALLENGE
YOUR BELIEFS
WHERE ELSE BUT IN

TALKING
DRUMS

Student unrest erupts in Nigeria

More than 30 persons were injured last weekend at the Ahmadu Bello University main campus in Zaria where anti-riot policemen stormed a delegates' conference of the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS).

A News Agency of Nigeria correspondent present at the scene said that about five of the persons including two female students, sustained serious injuries. Sources close to the divisional police headquarters in Zaria claimed that more than 55 students, most of whom were believed to be delegates and observers from 25 universities and other institutions of higher learning, were arrested.

The whereabouts of Mr Lanre Arogundade, the National President of NANS, which had been declared illegal by the Federal Government, was unknown.

The correspondent said that the incident happened at about 4.55pm when the NANS president was rounding off his opening address to an audience of about 300 students. Loud shouts and screams were heard from outside the building which caused a wild stampede. Scores of the fleeing students ran into the hands of policemen who had quietly cordoned off the building. Armed with automatic weapons, tear-gas and bludgeons, the police had arrived on the campus in three trucks and two jeeps.

About five hours before then, Mr Arogundade had told NAN in an interview that the Association would disregard a widely publicised police warning that the holding of the conference was unlawful because NANS was not recognised by the Federal Government. His contention was that the police did not communicate their disapproval to the Association officially, saying that they only heard of it through the press.

An eye-witness said that during the 75-minute operation, the police hunted down delegates in their hideouts by questioning every passer-by and conducting a thorough search of vehicles on the campus. The policemen, however, manhandled the NAN correspondent and destroyed his wrist-watch, while his driver claimed that he was whipped inside a NAN vehicle with a cane by some of the law enforcement agents.

A correspondent adds:

Students in West Africa have invariably been the first on the coup bandwagon and the first to jump off.

When soldiers seize power in any West African country, most people adopt a 'wait and see attitude' partly

The military would tolerate demonstrations of support for their overthrow of politicians but will not tolerate any demonstrations of displeasure against military actions or policies. For students who like to make their feelings known, a collision was inevitable.

because they want to be sure that the coup has been successful and the new leaders are firmly in power before they venture lending their support.

Students, however, are not that cautious and if anybody will go on to the streets to demonstrate any support for military takeovers they are the only ones that will dare.

The Nigerian coup was no different and the Nigerian students were the first to welcome the return of the soldiers. As is usual in these circumstances, the soldiers show their gratitude by their early pronouncements. The wonder is that they are taken seriously since their loyalty is so short-lived.

The period of honeymoon in this case however has been shorter than most, because it did not take very long for the students to become disillusioned with the new military regime.

The disagreements between the students and the Federal Military Government have been on two main issues.

For all their professed dislike for the politicians, the students cherished the atmosphere of freedom that existed under civilian rule and the fact that they could always demonstrate their displeasure about whatever they see wrong with the government.

The military would tolerate demonstrations of support for their overthrow and of the disgust with the deposed politicians but will not tolerate any demonstrations of displeasure against military actions or policies. For students who like to make their feelings known very loudly, a collision was inevitable.

The confrontation was hastened by the decision of the FMG to reintroduce the payment of school fees in all schools, a decision that was loudly decried by the students.

The first rambling of discontent came into the open as early as March when the Bendel Police Command announced that it will not tolerate any form of students demonstrations. The command then said that it was aware that students in the State were planning to demonstrate against the government's decision to reintroduce school fees. The command appealed to the

students to heed the warning "in their own interest".

This was followed up in April by the banning of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) by the Federal Military Government in April.

The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Alhaji Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi stated that the NANS was an off-shoot of the National Union of Nigerian Students (NUNS) which had been banned by the Murtala/Obasanjo administration and therefore could not receive the recognition of the present government. The FMG asked the various educational institutions to step up their individual unions.

The students reacted by calling for a boycott of lectures to back up their demands which included a cancellation of school fees at both Federal and State levels, the release of all detained students and the lifting of the ban on all student union activities.

The support for the boycott call was patchy but it was serious enough to have led to the closure of a number of universities.

The Universities of Benin, Ilorin, Jos, Federal Universities of Technology, Makurdi and Bauchi were all closed down as a result of the boycott of lectures by the students.

Two weeks later the NANS announced a temporary suspension of the boycott of lectures.

In a statement issued in Ilorin, the Association said that it had taken the decision because of "pressures from the Nigeria Labour Congress" which had promised to take up its case with the Federal Government.

Since then the students have been playing hide and seek with the authorities on the holding of their delegates conference.

The students had argued all along that their association was a legally constituted body and the FMG had no reason to ban it and were determined to ignore the ban.

This confrontation is bound to lead to even more strained relations between the military and the students and put the students firmly now in the group of "opponents" to the regime.



•The road to future success starts in the classroom, or so at least these attentive pupils hope.

The plight of the educated African

By Dorothy V. Smith

The belief that education could, and would, generally produce the key to knowledge, mobility and a future of happiness has recently come under a great deal of scrutiny. This notion is also quite true in Africa, especially among those seen as Revolutionaries and Nationalists. Consequently, some critical questions have been posed which must ultimately be addressed: are Africans being educated abroad in order to return to their societies as useful members, or is the goal to educate these Africans who may merely serve as power-brokers and, in the end, to make sure that the status quo is maintained?

Historically, Africans have been extremely interested in educational pursuits which date back to the great University of Sankore, in Timbuktu. Although this ancient academic institution of higher learning was operated and controlled primarily by the Muslims, it is an undeniable fact that Africans attended it in large numbers as part of the attempt to elevate themselves. In that period, Muslims controlled the economy, while Islam was the dominant religion of West Africa.

Interestingly, the educated African

Readers should note that the writer is aware of numerous generalizations in this article about Africans and Europeans. However, the basic information is correct and the points raised are the same, regardless of whether they are Ghanaian or Nigerian, English or French. Essentially, the article will explore several means by which Arabs and Europeans were able to maintain control of Africa.

Dorothy V. Smith is a Doctoral Candidate in History at the University of Kansas; she also teaches History at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

was eventually in a position to interpret and read for the ruling Sultan, thus bringing prestige and rewards to the former and his family. However, it also meant that in order to receive what was being considered booty, concessions had to be made on the part of Africans. Above all, while Africans understood the Islamic requirements of attending the University, their desire to receive an education was paramount.

Africans became spiritually indoctrinated in the Islamic culture and, whether consciously or unconsciously, the seeds for the separation of the African family were sown during this period. Then, in order to become a

pious Muslim, one had to speak the Arab language, and to assume an Arab name. This measure of accommodationism caused immediate and future problems of serious magnitude for the Africans. As Muslim domination came to an end in the 13th century, a new but even more domineering group seized power.

The rationale for Europeans coming to Africa rested primarily on their desire for power and, once on the continent, they began the gradual phasing in of their policies. Although these Europeans understood very little about African society and its class and race distinctions, they were able to

start their subjugation of the people. As part of the controlling mechanism, different laws were applied in various parts of Africa, in most instances depending on which European masters did the colonization. However, the goal of all the colonizers was, nevertheless, their superiority, and one of the best ways to advance that aim was through the educational system. As a result, they organized various educational institutional systems modelled after the ones in Europe.

In order to subjugate the Africans further, it was quite possible for an African to complete all requirements needed for a particular level of study and, yet, know nothing about African history and geography. After years of this mode of mis-education, some steps had to be taken to rectify the anomaly.

The late 1950s and early 1960s ushered in a new era in African educational research and development. There was a political and social awakening which stemmed from the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Despite the Trevor Ropers of the world, African History now took on an entirely new and serious dimension for colleges and universities worldwide to commence the task of re-organizing their curricula to embrace these courses.

To a great extent, the introduction of African History courses into the existing curricula was done in a way which was similar to what had been done earlier in the period of slavery; basically to calm the revolutionaries down. The tactics were, however, different but the message was the same, as courses were to be added and, at the same time, firmly controlled by the colonial educational bosses. To a large measure, it was a sort of contract but in the interim, between the new master and the new "educated slave".

Obviously, the drawbacks were numerous but, perhaps, one of the greatest concerns was about the availability of teachers to teach the new courses. In the beginning, it was taught by whites because they happened to have access to the needed materials and, invariably, they could get books published on the subject to attract the accolade of an authority. This was despite the fact that they were the ones who least understood the African society.

To a great extent, the introduction of African History courses into the existing curricula was done in a way which was similar to what had been done earlier in the period of slavery; basically to calm the revolutionaries down. The tactics were, however, different but the message was the same.

Sadly enough, after a number of years of calculated under-education of Africans, the white masters ultimately produced a group of Africans that they deemed qualified to teach African History. This, of course, was a mixed blessing, since on the one hand there were those whose visions of Africa went far beyond those of their former teachers and, on the other hand, those who held steadfast to the lessons they

had learned from the teachers. The latter group began the cultural and educational commission of crimes equal to, if not greater than those of their predecessors. Africans were, therefore, now being emasculated by blacks and whites. Interestingly, Africans in most instances, wanted to be taught by fellow Africans, and the new African teacher had a familiar voice and face to his students. Above all, he was reassuring, comforting, and welcomed with open arms, but his thoughts were often alien.

It is a fact that a student's spirit was enlivened by the lightness and the spirit of the teacher, but there was something strange and un-African about him. He had the language and mannerism of home, and his face bore African markings, yet he was different as he no longer thought and responded like his own people. Perhaps his shortcomings stemmed from the way he moved so very easily from one topic to another, and the fact that for him customs and boundaries mattered not. To a large measure, he seemed to understand and relate to everything European but to condemn everything that was Pan-African, while his eyes often search among his students to find the one who would be able to continue his marvellous job of mis-educating future generations. This was not the kind of education the African either wanted or expected, because it was something strange and new; unfortunately, it was exploitation by his brother under the guise of education.

Very often, the item which separated a good African scholar from a poor one was language. This, too, became a tool of oppression and mis-education of Africans. Understandably, language is a way of bringing people together, but it is also a way of separating them, and language did bring diverse African

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Asantehene's destoolment of Nana Kwantwi Barima II

The controversial destoolment of a Paramount Chief of Ghana by the Asantehene and the subsequent confirmation by an Accra High Court continue to be the subject of debate. Our cultural analyst takes another critical look at the issue

The Accra High Court recently ruled that "the Asantehene has power to destool any chief in Ashanti." This was the judgement in the case: Adansihene v. Asantehene and the Asanteman Council. Any objective and knowledgeable observer of the evolution of Ghana's chieftaincy can question the customary as well as the legal basis of the court's pronouncement. In my own evaluation the ruling is palpably wrong and even ridiculous.

The sanctity of a chief's stool and office is recognised in Akan-Asante custom, the unwritten constitution that has evolved over generations and has been enshrined in the cultural heritage of a people whose traditional political sophistication is awesome.

The Akan constitution, in its own wisdom restricts eligibility to chieftaincy to only a privileged few, namely royals of the particular stool. The ultimate choice of the Chief, however, lies with all the people by way of consensus through the Elders. Similarly, the Akan wisdom on destoolment is that only those who enstool can destool.

This customary precept was put to legal test at Dodowa in 1973 when ex-

Kyidomhene Nana Poku Sarkodee I instituted destoolment charges against Nana Kwaku Boateng II, Omanhene of New Juaben, before the Judicial committee of the Eastern Region House of Chiefs. In reviewing the appeal of this case before the National House of Chiefs in Kumasi in 1976, the august Judicial Committee of the House affirmed the fact that:

"The fundamental customary law of all Akan is that only those who have the capacity to enstool a chief can destool him, in other words a destoolment requires the consent of the King-makers."

In May 1977, in the Civil Appeal Case No. 105/76 argued before the full bench division of the Court of Appeal, Accra, this superior court of judicature decided by majority to uphold the law as it is. The then Chief Justice, the Honourable Azu Crabbe, summed up the decision aptly in these words:

"From the general principles relating to the right to enstool or destool I think it is clear that the right is a group-right vested collectively in the group as a body and not in any single member thereof."

One wonders whether the learned

High Court judge, in his seemingly preposterous claim to the effect that the Asantehene can destool any chief in Ashanti, availed himself of the Akan wisdom and legal precedent on the issue. In order to clarify this argument we need to elaborate further the substantive parameters that circumscribe the customary as well as the statutory powers and relationships exercised by the Asantehene vis-a-vis all the other chiefs in Ashanti.

Nobody can deny the subservience of every chief in Ashanti to the Golden Stool (Sika Dwa Kofi), and for that matter its occupant the Asantehene. It is paradoxical and almost contradictory, however, to observe that though the supremacy of the Asantehene is unchallenged Ashanti ethnic history and political structure exert equally immense limitations on his constitutional powers. The system is one of checks and balances.

All chiefs in Ashanti fall into two convenient categories. First, there are chiefs who are appointed by the Asantehene to stools created by himself, such as for his sons and favourites, namely *Mmamandwa* and *Esomndwa*. Second, there are lineage stools which individual origins are shrouded in ancestral myths of particular clan, town, village or family groups. All paramount (Amanhene), divisional (Abrempon), town (Ahene), and village (Adekuro) stools belong to this category.

Of this latter group of stools there are some, including all Amanhene and Abrempon, who swear allegiance directly to Asantehene. Most Adekuro and Ahene, who incidentally constitute the majority of chiefs in Ashanti, do not under any circumstances interact directly with Asantehene. Their affairs are never therefore within the immediate purview of Asantehene. They are answerable to their Elders, Abrempon or Amanhene.

This range in the chieftaincy set-up in Ashanti pre-supposes variations in the constitutional relationships between and among chiefs. It also defines their respective rights and obligations both to subordinates and overlords. One obvious implication of this observation is that while it is true that the Asantehene, for instance, can destool Nana Osei Tutu, his own son whom he recently appointed to the Akyempem stool of Kumasi, it is inconceivable for him to assume powers to destool the Paramount Chief of Mampon or for that matter, the Odekuro of Brahabehome. It is therefore absurd for the Accra High Court to rule that the Asantehene can destool any chief in Ashanti.

To return to the issue of the purported destoolment of Adansihene by



**An Ashanti Chief being carried in a palanquin by his subjects — has the institution been debased by the High Court ruling?*

words into the English, French, or Spanish-based Creole languages. Also, language is a way of maintaining social distance among people and it performed similar unhelpful roles in the African tongues.

Indeed, Europeans and Africans had always made distinctions among themselves by how one used words. The higher orders marked themselves off from the lower ones by accent, tone, diction and vocabulary. Therefore, in Africa, African speech and European speech became marks of social disparity, and those Africans who did master the white man's language very well were, in so doing, placing themselves socially at a distance from those Africans who did not.

As a matter of fact, how an African would come to speak the English language would depend on more than an opportunity, intelligence and facility. In most instances, there needed to be a choice to emulate white people, the ability to step from one style of speech into another when the occasion warranted, and the willingness to bear the ridicule of fellow Africans who might see him as a mimic and sycophant, or as merely accepting the white man's way of life.

White people, however, were anxious to keep their language to themselves. They invariably wanted it as an emblem of the social superiority they felt to Africans and the lower orders. They wanted to talk to one another, among Africans, and not have their true meaning and intentions understood. They wanted language to serve as a limited way of communicating between themselves and Africans, but they also wanted it to remain enigmatic. Language, to them, was a mark of civilization as well as a tool of communication, and they needed the sense of security that a monopoly on good speech and literacy gave them.

Furthermore, they knew that language transported ideas, and ideas could be weapons against the established order. So, rather than finding a prideful and missionizing achievement in the acculturation of Africans into European languages, the whites were protective and jealous. Above all, many Africans were to be kept ignorant as far as possible, while those educated were to become Europeanized rather than Africanized. This act of cultural genocide ranks as one of the greatest sins of African History.

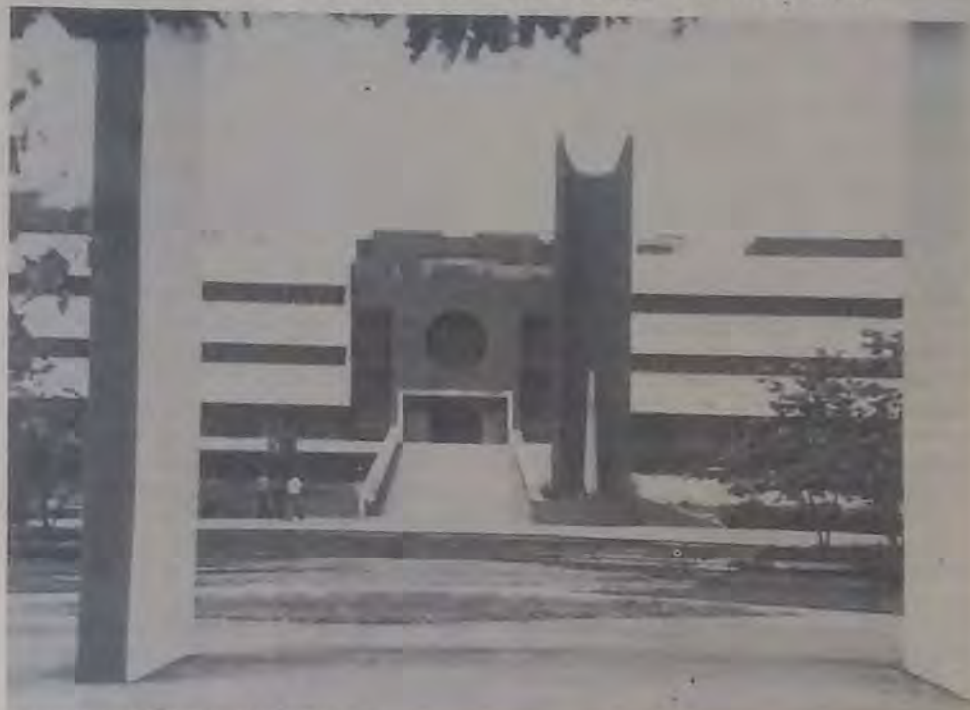
Similar to the educational process, the socialization of Africans worked in a similar manner, as one was constantly being torn by indigenous customs and European laws. The educated African, therefore, faced a difficult future, and would never genuinely be fully a part of his society again, but

also with the obvious realization that he would be rejected in European society. What, then, had education done to him?

For some of the educated Africans, it meant an opportunity to try and find peace of mind, but to others it was cultural torture. For those willing to travel outside, scholarships from various sources were often available.

As the trend to open the system to

change the system, minds and attitudes had to be changed and, as a result, it became necessary to detain, dismiss, or silence individuals who represented a threat to the new way of life. While many obstacles, including neo-colonialism in education and politics remain to be solved, the hope for a brighter future based on a genuine education for the benefit of Africans is now stronger than ever before.



•University of Ife, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Western intellectual traditions increased, it became more difficult for the state to maintain control over African intellectuals. Indeed, both the left-wing and right-wing ideas infiltrated the educational system and created a climate in which the, supposedly, superiority of the European could no longer be taken for granted. Struggles developed between the intellectuals and the colonialist over the direction in which education could take. This was not simply an academic argument but, instead, a disagreement over the role of higher education in the development of the newly independent African States as modern nations.

The 1960s, in fact, witnessed intellectual unrest in many parts of Africa. While there were many reasons to take direct action at this time, the real issue at stake was much broader than the control of educational institutions. To an extent, the fight was about the ending of colonialism, and the Africans won out in the end, but not without a bitter struggle.

The liberation of Africa from the hands of the colonialist produced the opportunity for the support of a new ideology. For the war had been won, but the struggle continued. In order to



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the Asantehene to its analytical context we need to probe further the significant admission made by the court to the effect that: "The Asanteman Council is not a statutory body recognised by law." What this statement means is that the council is only a customary entity. Notwithstanding this fact, the council is not absolved from operating within the law. The law on chieftaincy in Ghana, like the custom of Ashanti, does not empower the Asantehene to destool chiefs.

The law, Chieftaincy Act, 1971 (Act 370) spells out in unambiguous language how a "cause or matter affecting chieftaincy, such as destoolment should be pursued." The learned High Court Judge did not avail himself of Ashanti custom and constitutional arrangements, and more seriously also, failed to inform himself of provisions of the Chieftaincy Act, 1971 (Act 370) in arriving at an erroneous decision. The supervisory jurisdiction in chieftaincy matters vested in the High Court by the Courts Act, 1971 (Act 372) is the loser in this case since it did not benefit from any fruitful research and elucidation of the customary as well as the statutory position on who has the power to destool a chief.

It is humbly submitted here in conclusion that the Asantehene does not in custom and in law have the power to destool the Adansihene as the High Court wrongly asserts. The Asantehene has the right, however, to demand the replacement of a recalcitrant and incorrigible chief. This he does by summoning the Elders of the chief to Kumasi and telling them that the occupant of the Golden Stool finds it impossible anymore to be able to rule Asanteman with their royal.

That is a simple but powerful ultimatum which sends the message that obliges the Elders to retire, consult among themselves, initiate and carry out a sacred duty which they alone have the exclusive and collective right to perform in accordance with law and Ashanti custom.

The judgement of the Accra High Court, in *Adansihene v. Asantehene* and the Asanteman Council, is perverted and dangerous because it has no basis and precedence in Ashanti judicial history. The ruling is also unenforceable because it is inconsistent with the statute embodied in the Chieftaincy Act, 1971 (Act 370), and contrary to the landmark position on destoolment held by both the National House of Chiefs and the Court of Appeal. Finally, the ruling is bogus and should therefore be scrapped by the Supreme Court for being repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience.

D.A.P.I.T. — Ghana inaugurates a programme for intermediate technology

In an attempt to institute active co-operation and collaboration between scientific research and industry, the Ministry of Industries, Science & Technology has launched a programme for the Development and Application of Intermediate Technology (D.A.P.I.T.). POKO ADAA, our correspondent, reports:

Ghana's programme of industrial development which began in the early 1960s was gigantic and very ambitious. It concentrated on large scale and medium scale industries, the majority of whom depended and still do depend on raw materials imported from overseas suppliers. That programme had little incentive for the development of small scale industries which could have made use of locally available raw materials. What small scale industries there are now have existed as isolated units which do not fit into any national policy plan and which have left the rural areas poorer and undeveloped.

The urgency to accelerate growth, development and productivity of small scale industries in Ghana was recognised by government in 1981 with the establishment of a National Board of Small Scale Industries with the objective of the formulation and implementation of small scale industrial development programmes and to institute new and efficient modes of production and to provide technological know-how and services.

As a continuation of this policy, the present government has taken steps to carry the programme on further by bringing the Scientific Research community, financial institutions and the Ministry closer together to give practical realisation to the programme. To this end, the Ministry of Industries, Science & Technology has launched its programme, D.A.P.I.T. and inaugurated a 12-member Committee to be responsible for the selection of projects for finance and execution and eventual development. The aim of D.A.P.I.T., according to the Ministry, is to transfer appropriate technologies to the rural areas after it has developed, tested and demonstrated the suitability of the projects.

It is one of the bilateral ventures between the American Agency, U.S.A.I.D and the Ghana government, negotiations of which began five years ago in 1979. Already C4 million and \$2 million have been jointly spent by the Ghana government and U.S.A.I.D. respectively in respect of the programme's pioneer projects in the Ashanti, Greater Accra and Northern regions.

The programme is being implemented through several institutions in the country, viz. Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) through its affiliate institutions such as the Food Research Institute (F.I.R.), the Industrial Research Institute (I.R.I.), the Information Documentation Unit (I.D.U.) and also the Technology Consultancy Centre in Kumasi which is already a world-renowned centre for development of Appropriate and Intermediate Technology. Another role of the Selection Committee is to disburse the available funds currently estimated at nearly \$1 million as soft loans to entrepreneurs who are prepared to adopt any of the projects selected by the Committee.

The programme has a great potential and the Ministry should widen the scope of collaborating institutions so that the Programme's impact would be felt nationwide. The Management Development & Productivity Institute (M.D.P.I.) for instance has a functioning department for small scale industries and has available expertise to contribute to the D.A.P.I.T. programme. This point was re-echoed by an Official of M.D.P.I. at a seminar on Livestock and Poultry which the institute organised for private farmers in June this year. The M.D.P.I., according to the official, has facilities and resources which can offer immense

Ghana: a case of how to be poor without trying

The problems that have afflicted Ghana for almost two decades now can be simply ascribed to the fact that she is poor. We are always being told that Ghana is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa and that given efficient exploitation of her potential, she can become an economic success story. Yet there seems to be a wide gulf between that hope and present realities, as the country sinks further into the quagmire of poverty. Is it a case then of a country without any hope of success, bereft of sound ideas about how to generate wealth? Or is it because our present condition has been brought about by self-inflicted wounds? The cause of the malaise is due to the application of the wrong set of policies and a determined refusal to acknowledge the realities of this world. Else how do you explain the general economic decline in a country with abundant resources when other countries elsewhere in the Third World are doing so much better?

The answer is that while the economically successful countries in the Third World have accepted the advice that exports hold the key to economic growth, we in Ghana seem not to recognise this. Why the emphasis on exports? Apart from acting as an engine of growth, exports have a decisive impact on such key indicators as balance of payments, capital formation, investments, employment, wages, prices, etc. They enable us to import those things that we need with the surpluses we generate to ensure that we enjoy a tolerable standard of life without recourse to excessive borrowing. A singular feature of our economic problem is that while the cedi money supply has grown significantly over two decades, there has been no similar expansion in the accumulation

assistance at all times to enable small scale industrialists acquire efficient skills in the managing of their enterprises.

It is very encouraging also to know that the C.S.I.R. has been involved in D.A.P.I.T. from the outset since its institutes, especially the I.R.I. has made tremendous strides in recent months which is very reassuring. The I.R.I. has manufactured a prototype bio-gas plant using cow-dung and various industrial and agricultural wastes as sources of energy and is now

Nothing will concentrate our minds more powerfully than the acceptance of the economic fact that were we to fail to be efficient, there will be no money to satisfy our requirements. A correspondent gives a free-ranging analysis of the Ghanaian political and economic situation

of the convertible reserves we need to finance imports.

The above position has been further weakened by the fact that between 40 and 50 per cent of the limited convertible earnings we make is used to import food we can easily grow. Thus the fall in agricultural output accentuates the crisis in our foreign earnings compelling successive governments to perform a conjurer's trick in trying to match earnings with urgent requirements. The result is not successful. Hence the shortages and dislocations that are marked features of the Ghanaian economy.

And yet the fact is that we have not accorded agriculture and exports the priority they deserve to restore a realistic depth and balance to our foreign reserves position. Do we wonder then why we are unable to get the things we desire?

Of the 15 countries in the world with the highest ratio of merchandise exports to gross national product, 12 are from the developing world, more than half of these from Asia. Of these countries, let us take Malaysia as an example. With natural assets and a size of population similar to ours, Malaysia is not only able to feed herself, but manages to export \$14.1 billion representing about 55% of her gross national product. In our own case, from a peak of \$1.5 billion during the commodity prices boom in the seventies, our

exports have shrunk to around \$600 million. This is based on estimates for 1984. The ready answer we are likely to get is that prices for our export goods have been falling. But then so have the quantities of the goods we export. But Malaysia exports some of the things we send out to the rest of the world such as cocoa and timber. She seems to be doing well in these two product areas, even in the face of falling prices and the world-wide recession. The lessons from the Malaysia example are that (a) a conscious long-term effort has been made to expand the base of her exports; (b) agricultural production aimed at feeding the population has not been allowed to go into the doldrums.

The brutal fact is that as percentages of gross national product, Ghana's agricultural output and exports have shown a markedly negative trend for a long time. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that our gross national product itself has consistently registered negative growth rates for a decade now. And nothing seems to have been done to arrest this slide. The consequence can be seen in the increasingly rapid deterioration of the economy and its debilitating effects on Ghana and Ghanaians.

There are many factors for this decline and they need stating if Ghana is to escape the poverty trap which provides the cause for political instability

waiting for finance to carry it to mass production stage. Again the I.R.I. has announced the production of a water-purifier from locally available bauxite and the Ghana Water & Sewerage Corporation has been approached to cease importation of alums so that it can assist the I.R.I. financially to mass produce the substance for its use.

The benefits of small scale industry need not be over-emphasized as it has the capacity to employ a large sector of the idle youth, arrest the rapid rural-urban drift and curb the rampant over-

saturated distribution and retail trading practices.

There are constraints, however, since in the present Ghana's economic climate there are many factors such as poor communications and infrastructure like transport and power which can retard the aims of potentially beneficial programmes like D.A.P.I.T. It is assumed that the Ministry of Industry, Science & Technology has the capability to address itself to some of these problems.

in our country.

The obstacles to economic growth in Ghana are internally caused.

The first point to note is that there is no coherent national strategy which sees agriculture and exports as the linchpin of economic growth. The thrust of our economic policies appear to place more emphasis on satisfying import demands without a corresponding programme of action which will stimulate the variety and volume of agricultural output and exports. In the absence of such a strategy, food output and exports have declined while imports and import substitution items have grown, fuelling an excessive public and private consumption. This demand-led situation has had a major adverse impact on the utilisation of our foreign currency resource availabilities.

The environment within which the two potentially growth areas in the economy can be made to expand significantly is not favourable. The instruments of economic regulation and bureaucratic control have been used to expand and consolidate a statist economic regime which inhibits free enterprise, minimises and punishes economic success and rewards failure. There is a definite bias in the antipathy and pessimism towards market institutions not only in government but among the urban public, and thus sympathy and optimism for statist ones as answers to our economic malaise. But as we have seen during the two decades of our post-colonial history, these institutions distort economic efficiency and promote decline. The

nationalisation of the major areas of our agricultural and export sectors is one reason for our poor economic performance. Take two examples. The various state sector agricultural organisations have become notorious for consuming large chunks of inputs without being able to produce and market food for our people. We now have a situation where the taxpayer heavily subsidises the export of cocoa because the Cocoa Marketing Board is woefully inefficient. The surplus values which could have accrued to Ghana, through a maximisation of earnings from cocoa, have been lost in a welter of anti-market decisions.

The first point to note is that there is no coherent national strategy which sees agricultural and exports as the linchpin of economic growth. The thrust of our economic policies appear to place more emphasis on satisfying import demands...

There are other reasons to explain our poor performance relative to countries like Malaysia. They are:

- An overmanned, heavily subsidised public sector.
- A labyrinth of controls over private enterprise which prevents it from realising its potential.

- Forcibly depressed agricultural prices which discourage agricultural production.
 - Import substitution programmes which consume rather than improve our foreign reserves.
 - Government's monopoly of foreign exchange transactions.
 - An artificially over-valued cedi.
 - The lack of a package of realistic incentives to stimulate the long-term growth of exports and agricultural production.
 - A political establishment and civil service which have neither the knowledge, skills and the vision for managing economic success.
 - The politicisation of labour and the economy.
 - The corruption which is an INEVITABLE side effect of an economy which depends on the arbitrary decisions of politicians and bureaucrats.
 - The apathy of a population, resigned to the effects of long-term decline.
 - The limitations of time, imposed by long periods of political instability, induced by coups d'etat and which prevents the formulation and realisation of sensible policies.
 - The abrupt twists and turns of national economic policies whenever there are political changes.
- In such a situation, productivity cannot be encouraged. The rate of productivity in the Ghanaian economy is appalling. This is encouraged by the impression that whatever happens, government will bail out the dominant public sector economic institutions. Nothing will concentrate our minds



•The first dry-dock of West Africa built in Tema, Ghana, has not been put into maximum use.

more powerfully than the acceptance of the economic fact that were we to fail to be efficient, there will be no money to satisfy our requirements. Productivity in the economy is also adversely affected by low remuneration. Thus low remuneration-low productivity in the key areas of agriculture and exports helps to increase the cost of production and contributes to their economic non-performance. As it is, agricultural output have declined or stagnated. Our share of export goods from the Third World have shrunk dramatically between 1978 and 1983. These underpin the structural weaknesses of our economy because they cannot provide the stimuli for growth and the generation of national wealth.

Low investment in the key agricultural and export sectors and potentially profitable sources of wealth creation has helped to perpetuate the low productivity-high production cost syndrome. It is interesting to note that for all their contribution to our balance of payments, the investment in agriculture and the export sector for the period 1960-1983 has been low. About 20 years of weak investment have made large chunks of capital in these areas uneconomic. Replacing these chunks should have produced an investment boom in these sectors and should have led the way to economic growth in Ghana. Instead the volume of investment in these key areas have been very marginal, less than 1% of gross national product. This sluggish investment is partly the child of slow growth, but it has also been caused by the rapidly declining profitability in the things we sell to the outside world and government's monopoly of investment decisions. Invariably these decisions have tended to concentrate on politically attractive but non-wealth generating sectors.

Moreover the rise in real interest rates in Ghana coincided with the decline in agricultural and exporting output, so the difference between the two has slumped even further. This combination of dear money and low returns has to change radically particularly for agriculture and exports before investment will give our economy the vigour it must have for any realistic recovery and growth to take place in Ghana.

All that we have had to show for this situation is stagnation and decline, and the erection of non-economic entities which help to perpetuate our unfortunate obsession with public sector growth at the expense of real, sustainable growth in agriculture and exports and by consequences, the relief of rural poverty.

If available investment inputs in

Ghana are limited, a realistic recourse for us is to seek outside aid in energising the economy. Outside investment aid has, however, been severely hampered by the crude imposition of senseless and pervasive financial and trade controls. Where it has become available, this has been directed towards imports substitution programmes and socially attractive but non-economic sectors.

Our aid experts always maintain that foreign aid is crucial to the process of economic growth. In fact, external finance accounts for only 13% of total investment in developing countries. This includes official capital flow in the form of soft loans and grants as well as private flow. But the capital formation which has raised growth in the Third World success stories has mostly come from domestic sources. External aid should therefore not be the main determinant of our economic prosperity. Rather than lobby for increased aid, the biggest contribution we should press from the industrialised countries is not the expansion of aggregate monetary demand, but the reduction of restrictions on our exports.

MYTHS AND REALITIES

The effect of the sum total of past and present policies has been to instal a dirigiste development economic policies which have helped neither efficiency, equity nor prosperity in Ghana. What they have encouraged is a command economy which does not accept that the laws of supply and demand operate internally as well as externally.

A successful economic programme should be based on:

- A long-term strategy that shifts the utilisation of resources away from import substitution to an agricultural and export orientated growth.
- Decoupling the state's massive role from key economic areas and encouraging the private sector to feel confident to take part in a successful economic drive.
- Long-term currency reform that ties the worth of the cedi to economic performance and leads eventually to some form of convertibility.
- Tying infrastructural and social development to a vibrant agricultural and export sectors instead of fulfilling political promises and commitments.
- Relaxing financial and trade controls to stimulate an agricultural and export-led growth.
- A high investment and high wage-

high productivity syndrome in the key economic sectors.

- A realistic incentive strategy that entices people away from imports to economic production and rewards success.
- External financing tied to wealth-generating projects rather than financing consumption that only add to the extra cost of repayment.
- Formulating an agricultural programme to feed the population and generate surpluses for export.
- A continuous search, identification and exploitation of new products that add variety and volume to our export base.
- The radical reorganisation of the Civil Service geared towards making it efficient and more responsive to the growth requirements of the economy.
- A very determined attempt to reduce the size of the Civil Service and reduce the impact of its operations on public expenditure.
- An imaginative re-organisation of the education system to encourage the development of vocational skills, management education and training of the new generation of our youth and the retraining and reorientating of the existing labour force to make both alive to the opportunities and challenges of agriculture and the export sector, etc.

No government in Ghana, present or the future, should operate under the illusion that it can bring in economic prosperity without a conscious effort at putting a very high priority on a long-term basis on the wealth-generating factors inherent in a high agricultural and export profile. To hope that the future lies in the rigidities of the kind in which there will be "no private property except in a restricted sense and the replacement of the private profit system by a higher ideal of co-operative service" is to live in a fool's paradise and misunderstand the real nature of the Ghanaian. Such a hope will only invite a more rapid decline than we have witnessed. For it is competition, imagination and the profit motive basic to private enterprise that will energise the efficiency and performance of our agricultural and export sectors and enable them play a beneficial role in Ghana and the high competitive world of international trade.

Then ensure that we have a stable political environment within which we can attempt a real recovery of our economy.

Let us conclude by accepting that it is the policies of the past and immediate present that have brought us to this impasse. Are we ready to shake off old myths and accept new realities?

Thoughts on the memories of the 1984 Olympics

For most athletes from other nations, the memory of the games will be reminiscensed by the Olympic pageantry which was stylized after a typical Hollywood pomp. A correspondent reflects on the games and suggests changes to rekindle the original ideals

By Iniobong Udoidem

The games of the XXIII Olympiad have come and gone, but the memory still remains. In the United States, the names of some of the Olympic heroes like Mary Lou Retton, Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Mary Decker have become household words and children have already taken to their heroes. For "immortal" Carl Lewis, his name will go into the annals of American heroes when Bob Pack, a Houston artist and a Texas sculptor have finished immortalizing him in a bronze statue.

For many the memory is that of joy and for some it is that of pain. The joy of winning and the pain of losing. The joy of the Olympians for having the opportunity to compete with other world competitors and the pain of other world prominent athletes whose nation's jingoistic political stance has barred them from an Olympic joy.

In the United States, the memory is clouded with the thoughts of the success of the US athletes and of how the Russians and their Eastern allies are the losers for boycotting the games. While such memories are great, the self-glorified Olympic record of 83 gold medals makes caricature of an authentic triumph, especially when one considers the fact that some of those gold medalists did not meet already existing Olympic records.

For most athletes from other nations, the memory of the games will be reminiscensed by the Olympic pageantry which was stylized after a typical Hollywood pomp. For some it would be the humiliation of being used as guinea pigs for the exhibition of the American patriotic exuberance. The deafening shouts of "USA, USA" was one such obsession. Perhaps this was a strategy for a home based moral support for the American athletes. But the whipping crowd turned it into an unprecedented, insensitive, unsportsmanlike and demoralizing mechanism for the foreign athletes. The bombardment was so great that some foreign

athletes unconsciously echoed the crowd in frenzy with the shouts of "USA, USA". As if this was not enough, the incessant waving of American flags was most obnoxious. Spectators whose ears were deafened by the noise and visions blocked by the flags wished they had stayed at home to watch the games on television.

For others like the South Korean boxers, their memory was expressed in the comments of Kim Seung Youn. "All the Americans win, I think sometimes they lose and they still win." Kim is the president of the Korean Amateur Boxing Federation. Such memories recall the doubts that surrounded the belief in the impeccability of the judges. The constant protests against the decision of the judges was so rampant that little remained to be desired of the credibility of the judges. The case which involved the US heavy-weight Henry Tillman and Italy's Angelo Musone was both ridiculous and scandalous. "Musone was victimized and robbed by the jury", reported *La Gazeeta dello Sport*.

In games like boxing, wrestling, synchronised swimming, gymnastics and other such related sports where there are no clear cut yard-sticks or standards for decisive judgment except for the whims of the judges, medals should be awarded to all the participants and the games appreciated on the basis of aesthetics.

Many people have written about the lowering of standard of Olympic Games, often blaming it on the boycotts. The boycott, whether in the 1980 Moscow Olympics or in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics has little or nothing to do with the lowering of the standard of the recent Olympics. The lowering of standard is caused by the lack of proper incentive to the Olympians to strive for excellence. Perhaps a strategy that would remedy the falling standard is a restructuring of the methods of awarding medals.

Firstly, all the Olympic participants should be considered de facto Olympic

silver medallists. To have qualified to participate in the Olympics is a great athletic achievement and it should be recognized and rewarded as such.

Secondly, only Olympians who either break the existing Olympic record or their performance meets the existing record should be awarded gold medals. By setting this standard, we could have an Olympic Games where very few or no gold medals are awarded because the athletes did not meet the standard.

Perhaps this will check the apparent gold medal mania such that resulted in the emotional collapse of Mary Decker when realisation dawned on her that her hope of being a 1984 Olympic gold medalist had disappeared into the drains.

The last of all the memories is perhaps the one that has now become a subject for such academic and intellectual debate. The sensitivity and sensibility of the officials to what is human as opposed to the irrational attitude that haunted the officials during the women's marathon. When Gabriella Anderson Schiess of Sweden staggered insensibly into the coliseum, should the officials have intervened?

The choice of the officials in principle was that of having her dead but qualified and of having her alive but disqualified. Thanks to Gabriella and her fortune, for history would never have forgiven the officials if something more disastrous had happened. Gabriella has made history not because she won an Olympic medal, but that she occasioned a re-evaluation of and probably a modification of an Olympic rule.

The same principle that allows a referee to give an unconscious boxer a standing ten count after which the fight will be stopped could have justified the rescue of Gabriella when it was judged that she was no longer able to distinguish between running and walking. The race was a running race and not a walking race. Why is it that in a walking race, if the competitors run they are disqualified, but in a running race when competitors walk they are not disqualified? In principle, Gabriella was already disqualified when she took to walking instead of running. Therefore, the fear of disqualification as some have argued was not a rational justification for the officials refusal to intervene. In taking option for what is human, couldn't it have been morally justifiable for the officials to intervene when Gabriella first stumbled in the tunnel?

Many people will remember different things about the Los Angeles Olympics, but history remains to testify how many will learn from the mistakes of the past.

Good credit — if you play your cards right

My friend Simon really believes in them — I mean cards. The day he revealed the contents of his bulging wallet which throughout the years I had known him, believed to be often depleted of money, I was quite surprised. But then it should have occurred to me earlier that he was one of those people who have shunned orthodox currency and adopted the ubiquitous square plastic money which allows one to buy things without ever handling hard cash — all on credit, of course.

It's all a far cry from the days he desperately wants to forget about. I quite remember one day, seven years ago when Simon, a fresh graduate of the University of Ghana without a brass farthing to his name, was struggling to acquire the basic household necessities to start life. His bank manager would not even discuss a loan simply because he had no security. If that bank manager could see him now . . . Visa, Barclaycard, Diners . . . mortgage loans, and other consumer credit facilities being literally pushed down his pocket.

The fact is these days you don't have to go on bended knees to your bank manager (at least, in the Western industrialised countries) in order to borrow money, and you needn't just be lent money when you're broke.

According to the experts, if you use credit wisely you can even improve your finances. It can be an easy way to make money, but it's also an easy way to land yourself in financial trouble.

The best type of credit deal for you, depends entirely on your personal circumstances — why you need that money, how much you want to borrow, how long for, how much you earn, etc.

But the experts also sound a note of caution: "...think carefully before

A TOUCH OF NOKOKO

by Kofi Akumanyi

entering into any credit agreement. Never sign a blank form — you could be signing your life away".

Yes, indeed, you could very well be signing not only your life but that of your family away if you become hooked on to these apparently cheap credit facilities as my friend Simon found out to his debit. He phoned me not too long ago to join him for lunch at one of London's fancy restaurants in the West End. My only conclusion was that he might have had a windfall because I recently had to come to his rescue to enable him fulfil certain pressing financial obligations. As I usually do not wave away good offers, I showed up promptly at the appointment time and place and raised the issue at the beginning of the sumptuous four course meal.

"Simon, I hate to say this, but I'll definitely feel guilty when the bill is presented. Couldn't you have chosen a less expensive place?" I asked, savouring the delicious shrimp cocktails which could cost quite a bit.

"Not to worry, today is my birthday!" he said and waved to the waitress to replenish the glasses with more wine.

"Congratulations! However, it still doesn't give you the licence to hang yourself with a string of bills."

"Relax and enjoy yourself because the bill will be taken care of."

"By whom?"

"By my bank," he said cutting into a huge medium-rare cooked steak.

"You don't mean you've gone to borrow money for this meal?"

"That's the general idea, except that there's no physical money involved. It's all a question of cards."

"Cards?"

"In this society if you play your cards well you can live like a King," said Simon. He then opened his wallet and brought out about six credit and cheque cards.

"You surely have all the aces in your hand. But I quite remember the problems of a chap called Robert Champ

who not long ago appeared in court for running a dept of £68,000," I said. "What happened?"

"American Express did not find his spending habit, sex, gambling and booze, entertaining at all," I pointed out. The dessert had arrived, the waitress was smiling from ear to ear, obviously expecting a large tip at the end of the lunch.

"It's a game millions of people are playing these days. The banks are only too pleased to offer them so why should I be a drop-out?" he asked me. I couldn't answer this one.

"Well," I said tasting the nice Irish coffee, "if everybody is joining the bandwagon why shouldn't you?"

The bill came on a silver platter and left with a big cheque and a large tip to match the mood. I was impressed.

On leaving the restaurant, I asked him why no bank has offered me credit cards after my applications.

"Simple; you're not credit worthy!"

POETS' CORNER

In This World To Come

Let there be a strong ordinance
A universal covenant
To distribute the resource
A natural law
To return the wealth
To the source

A collective vigilance
A united force
Protecting the people
From the disruptors
The local traitors
The multi-national manipulators
From the tri-lateral conspirators

Let the constitution emerge.
I and I and I
People of One earth.

To erase
The selfish sovereigns of old
From their bloody seats of gold

So who will raise the children
for this awesome feat
Who will guide the sight of nations
To answer this call
To distribute the resource
To return the wealth
To the source

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MUSIC AND ARTS SCENE

AFRICAN RECORDS REVIEW

by Kwabena Asamoah

SUPER BITON DU MALI: 'Balandzan' (TANGENT TAN LP 7008) 'Sodanso' 'S.T.I.'/'Waracoro' 'Kara Demba' 'Flani-N'Goni'.

The Republic of Mali in West Africa offers its music to British audience and the world in general via Super Biton whose music stretches from ballads to Afro jazz depending on how you look at it.

The richness of sounds emanating from the grooves on this album needs to be taken seriously. The music is not necessarily commercial but it has the authenticity which characterises that of most African bands, especially the many not known beyond their immediate periphery.

The instruments do not only harmonise appropriately but also complement the woolly voices (which sound like that of Alhaji Kollington Ayinla of Nigeria) in 'Sodanso'. The striking of the guitar, strong and infinitely appealing, registers melodies competent enough to attract your attention especially in 'Flani-N'Goni'. The strong bass line requires the bass drum which never fails to answer.

'S.T.I.' sounds like a fusion of reggae and calypso but has the authentic African drive never easy to catch if you have no ears for similar sounds.

Just before the keyboards strike an extraordinary length of solos in



'Waracoro', the sax riffs and the answer by the horns ensemble spell out a class worthy of notice by the listener.

Voices dominate in 'Kara Demba' but not for nothing. The harmonies and the vocal plays make beautiful music.

It is difficult to spot out the most outstanding track but 'Flani-N'Goni' sounds like the easiest to dance to if that is your objective. The guitar solos fascinate and reach the listener in an effective manner. The album would make a good part of your African collection.

MAITRE GAZONGA, L'INTERNATIONAL CHALLAL: 'Les Jaloux Saboteurs' (TANGENT TAN LP 7003) 'Les Jaloux Saboteurs' 'Koyse'/'Fatoumata Kanté' 'Kelina'.

A great number of Francophone artistes have recorded at the popular

JBZ Studios in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and one of the newcomers is Hamed Gazonga who is probably from Chad.

Beginning 'Les Jaloux Saboteurs' with an announcement in a humorous way, Gazonga recounts his problems in his slightly high-pitched voice: he encounters problems abroad — Zaire, Gabon, Cameroons and Central African Republic — as a foreigner but returns home — Ndjamena in Chad — only to be persecuted by 'jealous saboteurs'. At the background of those moving words is an amalgam of music powerful enough to drive the listener to the dance floor. Sounding like the Zairean soukous, Maître Gazonga's music retains a certain peculiarity which runs through all the four tracks.

The combination of horns and the guitars in 'Koyse' has a stupefying effect on the ears. At the beginning will be a rumba which later develops into a soukous founded on wailing sax and twanging guitars.

The style in 'Fatoumata Kanté' and 'Kelina' and indeed all the four tracks might sound similar and therefore runs the risk of being monotonous. But Maître Gazonga's choice of lyrics is interesting. 'Kelina' however, stands out differently, as the song develops. The guitar and sax solos have appeal and Maître Gazonga himself encourages the dancer with his invitation.

On balance, there is not much here to knock you mad except 'Les Jaloux Saboteurs' but lots of subtle individual qualities of the musicians gush out as you spin the album on your turntable.

HAPPENINGS.

Namibia: reclaiming the peoples' health

Edited by Tim Lobstein and the Namibian Support Committee Health Collective. Published by Action on Namibia Publications, for the Namibia Support Committee. 170pp illustrated.

Namibia's diamond fields are among the richest in the world yet the health of most Namibians is so poor that half the people have died by their fortieth birthday. Colonisation, dispossession and war have brought epidemics of infection, chronic malnutrition, disability and death. Political independence after a century of foreign domination can only be the start of the long process to reclaim the Namibian people's health. Drawing on the experi-

ence of health workers from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania and Latin America, this book looks at what a people-oriented health service might mean.

Contributors examine the causes of ill-health embedded in social and economic conditions and discuss the training and political orientation of health workers their relation to the people they serve, and how health education can be a politicising experience. The book argues that improvements in health care will depend on selecting community health workers who are answerable to, and even paid by, their local community.

This book is an essential overview of current progressive thinking on health and underdevelopment. It will be of value to health workers, planners and political organisers in developing countries, and to aid agencies, development organisations and individual concerned with health and with Southern Africa.

FORWARD

Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD) launches the Sister-to-Sister programme in Britain. Using the model of the highly successful Sister-to-Sister programme in Sweden, FORWARD is creating a network between women in Britain and women in Africa. By becoming a sponsor and paying £3 or £5 quarterly, or £10 or £15 annually, you can help alleviate women's and children's suffering in Africa, particularly in the practice of "female circumcision". Sponsors will receive a regular newsletter which will provide a channel for exchange of information between women here and African women on a range of issues relating to health and will emphasise the positive practices as much as the problems. For details contact FORWARD, 38 King Street, London WC2E 85T. Telephone: 01-379 6889.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The Times, London Facilis descensus averno

The military ruler of Liberia, General Samuel Doe (Master Sergeant Doe when he seized power in April, 1980), has gone far towards destroying the credibility of his announced plan to restore the country to civilian rule. A ban on party politics was lifted in July; elections are scheduled for next year leading to the handover to an elected president in 1986.

Doubts about whether the soldiers would really be willing to surrender the sweet fruits of power were made stronger when he announced that he was himself going to be a candidate for the presidency; rules that aspiring politicians must immediately resign their present offices did not, apparently, apply to him. Much more seriously, he has in the past days claimed that a plot against him has been uncovered and has arrested several prominent political personalities.

The most notable is Dr Amos Sawyer, a leading academic, chairman of the commission that spent months drawing up a constitution for civilian rule, and chairman of the new Liberian People's Party, which is a descendant of the old Movement for Justice in Africa, which courageously opposed President Tolbert's pre-Doe government. It seems to many inconceivable that a man who had such a stake in the successful transfer of power away from the military would at this stage become involved in any coup adventure. Students at the University of Liberia protested and troops stormed the campus, shooting five dead and assaulting many more. General Doe has now dismissed the entire academic staff, accusing them of being "opposition stooges" and has closed the university down.

Also arrested are Mr Isaac Nyeplu, a former Minister of Justice and a member of the commission that was to supervise the elections, and Major-General Nicholas Podier, formerly deputy head of state under General Doe. The former master sergeant has been beset by coup plots and alleged coup plots at regular intervals since he seized power. Towards the end of last year one such caused General Thomas Quiwonkpa, former head of the army, to flee into exile; he remains a man held in high respect by the military (and by many observers) and a possible force in the future.

In coming to power, the master sergeant's main motivation was to end what was seen as a hundred years' oppression of the local inhabitants by the "settlers", or descendants of freed slaves from America. In power he proved pragmatic rather than revolutionary, accepting a large amount of aid from the United States (who were relieved that he turned his back on Libya) and running his economy in a way that allowed the IMF to pump in funds. He managed to impose some degree of discipline on his soldiers and proved skilful enough in manipulating political forces to survive.

The danger has always been that with the military leaders lacking both ideology and ideas (the educational level of the Liberian army has always been far below that of Nigeria or Ghana, for instance) it was going to prove difficult to produce arguments sufficiently persuasive to take them back to uncomfortable and boring barracks. The United States has exerted considerable pressure and it is largely because of its influence that a constitution has been drawn up and election plans laid. But the road from Avernus is steep and difficult, as Virgil pointed out.

The Guardian — Nigeria South Africa's phoney elections

At the last count, more than two hundred people had been arrested and one hundred clamped under preventive detention by apartheid South African authorities for campaigning against the mixed-race (coloured) and Indian elections which took place during the past one week.

The elections, the latest ploy by the racist regime to win legitimacy and international respectability for its universally condemned pigmentocracy, were sequel to a new constitution which allows for a tri-cameral parliament made up of separate chambers of 178 seats for the four million whites, 80 seats for the 800,000 coloureds, 40 seats for 135,000 Asians and zero seats for 22 million blacks.

The country's black majority which constitutes 73 per cent of the population was completely excluded from this already bizarre arrangement on the grounds that they are taken care of by the notorious Bantustan policy which has sequestered them away in self-ruled concentration camps misnamed "homelands".

The homelands, of course, have their own phoney parliaments which are comparable in legislative inconsequence to the coloured and Indian chambers. None of them has any meaningful legislative powers outside the innocuous subjects allowed by the racists.

The heartening aspect to the electoral charade, and a major boost to the morale of all those who are committed to freedom in Africa's Deep South, is the fact that the majority of the Indians and coloureds for whom the elections were contrived as a means of distancing them from the 12 million black population, denounced the segregated polls and campaigned vigorously against the elections.

In this regard, it is a testimony to the undaunted spirit with which apartheid is being resisted that in spite of the unparalleled harassment for which white apartheid police is notorious, the multi-racial party, the United Democratic Front, consisting of 700 anti-apartheid organizations, launched and carried out a boycott of the elections. In the end, while apartheid radio is glibly describing the dismal turnout as a sign of the unpreparedness of the non-white racial groups for democracy, the whole world is aware that one further attempt to legitimize racism has hit the rocks.

Whereas a general and equal franchise for all the races would have intimidated the possibility of a peaceful solution to the South African problem, the recent "elections" once again have exposed the unviability of the apartheid system.

In the wake of the Nkomati Accord by which Mozambique has been forced to reduce its support for South African guerrillas, and especially in the face of several African countries allegedly entering economic fraternities with the racists, it is of special significance for the option of armed struggle to continue to be posed and kept alive. The onus is on African countries that have consistently supported the liberation struggle to formulate appropriate diplomatic counter-measures to the attempt by the South African Reich to deflect the energy of the liberation movements from battlefields into arguments in phoney, segregated parliaments.

The news, at last, that a date in November has been fixed for a meeting of the OAU, should open the door for diplomatic efforts to ensure that no African country will break ranks under pressure from the racists.

MARKETS AROUND AFRICA

Centre for Industrial Development takes stock

By Ben Mensah

THE SERVICES of the Centre for Industrial Development (CID) set up under the Lome Convention to promote the acceleration of the pace of industrial development in ACP countries are reported in the annual CID report to be having an impact.

Greater interest is being shown by most parties in increasing the use of these services, although new joint ventures are only slowly coming into production due to specific development problems in countries with little industrial infrastructure and small markets.

Along the West Coast of Africa, from Cape Verde to Cameroon, the most important CID activity in the last year was to grant travel assistance to ten project sponsors to Europe for further negotiations with prospective European partners. Another eight project promoters were also invited to Europe to participate in promotion meetings.

CID also organized two regional antennae meetings: one for anglophone antennae held in Monrovia, Liberia in October and one for francophone antennae held in Dakar, Senegal in November 1983. These meetings provided an opportunity to review the existing collaboration between CID and its representatives in West Africa, as well as offering the chance for discussion and reaching an understanding on the role of the antennae, particularly in project identification and project follow-up.

CID carried out substantiations of potential industrial projects in some of the least developed countries in the region: Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Niger. These revealed CID's immediate

and future intervention possibilities in these countries.

Furthermore, as a result of the participation of industrial promotion officers from Guinea, Conakry, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal in the Promotion Attache Programmes organized during the year, CID has opened a brighter prospect for more project assistance requests in the years to come.

However, CID activities with West African Regional organizations such as CEAO, West African Economic Community, the Mano River Union, and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), were rather limited, except in the case of CEAO where CID collaborated with CEAO in the implementation or rehabilitation of the following national projects:

- biscuit plant in Upper Volta;
- soap-works in Mauritania;
- cardboard factory in Mauritania;
- tanneries to be set up or rehabilitated in Mali, Niger and Senegal;
- canning factory (foodstuffs) in Burkina Fasso (Upper Volta).

Countries with specific development problems include Ghana where although the support of the international finance agencies for the government's economic measures promises a brighter future for the promotion of industrial projects, the country's economic difficulties could not allow the CID to attract prospective investors to projects from Ghana.

For instance, in spite of initial serious interest in a poultry and piggery project and the signature of a letter of intent and eventual agreement to undertake a feasibility study, the Danish partner, Intercool, suddenly withdrew on the grounds of its reser-

vations on the profitability of the project.

In Nigeria the CID received a relatively large number of project proposals but in practically all cases, the request was for full foreign exchange financing of the projects. The huge Nigerian market offered a certain attraction to prospective investors yet the country's current foreign exchange constraints made it quite difficult for CID to get projects implemented.

Senegal is one of the countries that have received much assistance, particularly for promotion but also for training and expertise. Yet numerous Senegalese projects could not be implemented due to financial problems. These problems were partly due to the re-organisation of SOFIDESIT (Societe de Financement pour le Developpement de L'Industrie et du Tourisme).

Like Senegal, Togo's problems are related to the dissolution of the two agencies, TOGOPROM and CNPPME which deal with the promotion of projects. The situation has had a negative effect on projects under promotion but CID hopes that a solution will be found for the country's industrial promotion problems.

On a brighter note a new agency in Cameroon has signed a protocol of agreement to act as CID's antenna which during the second half of 1983, helped numerous sponsors to prepare project requests for submission to CID.

Mali has however been the most active country in terms of seeking CID assistance. CID's assistance to the mechanical and metallurgical sectors has been significant and is expected to have a valuable spin-off effect.

EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . . PLACES . . . EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . .

CAMEROON

Douala airport closed

Two people died and 90 were injured aboard a national airlines passenger plane at Douala airport.

Initial reports said 100 people had been killed.

A government statement did not say how the fire started in the plane, a Boeing 737, which was about to take off on an internal

flight to Yaounde with 116 people on board.

While Cameroun Radio blamed the incident on a fire in one of the plane's engines which had spread to the fuselage, a previously-unknown group calling itself the Cameroun Liberation Front claimed from neighbouring Gabon to have planted a bomb on the aircraft.

An anonymous caller telephoned Gabon's Africa number one radio station in Libreville to make the claim, saying the group had not intended to kill anyone.

Cameroun officials have denied that the fire was caused by a bomb, and reliable sources in Douala said that the blaze erupted when kerosine from a ruptured fuel tank leaked onto the tarmac and was ignited by the plane's engines.

The sources said the flames spread, causing panic among the passengers, who were forced to jump from a forward exit, when the plane's emergency chutes failed to operate.

The plane was totally destroyed in the fire.

... EVENTS ... PEOPLE ... PLACES ... EVENTS ... PEOPLE ...

Meanwhile, Douala International Airport has been closed by the country's airport authority.

In a statement the Cameroun Airport Authority said it had closed the airport's runway to facilitate repairs on some damage done to it.

Normal flights will resume as soon as the repairs are finished.

IVORY COAST

Co-operation in tropical medicine

Ivory Coast and Colombia have signed a scientific and technical co-operation accord under which they will aid each other in sectors such as tropical medicine and agronomy.

Colombia's Ambassador in Abidjan, Alberto Zalamea, said the two countries would exchange information and experts in the sectors.

He said the accord was a result of the recent visit to Ivory Coast of the head of Colombia's National Coffee Federation, Jorge Cardenas.

GHANA

Bawumia leads PNDC delegation

A government delegation led by a special envoy of the Provisional National Defence Council, Alhaji Mumuni Bawumiah is in Saudi Arabia to deliver a special message from the PNDC Chairman to King Fahd. On the same plane were 250 pilgrims. An official statement in Accra said the overburdened national economy had made it extremely difficult for more than this number to go on this pilgrimage.

Alhaji Bawumia was the northern region chairman of ex-President Limann's ruling party and chief executive of the Cocoa Marketing Board under the PNP.

PNDC member dies

The death has been announced in Accra of Naa Polkuu Konkoo Chirri, Nadom Naa, a member of the Provisional National Defence Council. He died in Accra on the 25th of last month after a short illness.

In a radio and television broadcast, another member of the PNDC, Mr Justice D.F. Annan, said the government had decided in consultation with the bereaved family to give the late Nadom Naa a state funeral.

Absentee convicts

All persons convicted in absentia will automatically forfeit their assets and bank accounts to the state.

This is contained in a new Public Tribunal Law just released and which takes effect from December 21, 1983.

The law also provides for the establishment of District and Community Public Tribunals.

Establishment of national public tribunal

A law providing for the establishment of a national public tribunal to hear and determine appeals from the decisions or orders of a regional public tribunal has been published in Accra.

According to the Public Tribunal Law 1984, the national public tribunal shall consist of at least three members and not more than five. One of them will act as chairman. The law, signed by the Chairman of the PNDC (Provisional National Defence Council), Flt-Lt. Rawlings, stipulates that a decision of the national public tribunal shall be final.

It also provides that findings made by any commission of inquiry shall, in the interest of justice, be reviewed and the tribunal may confirm, reverse or modify any such findings.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

Chairman Maj. Kojo Boakye Djan rtd., announces that its monthly newsletter:

GHANA BRIEFING

Motto: Development through Democracy — Editor Kofi Akainya is now available to the general public by subscription only.

Topics in issues No. 1 December 1983 to No. 9 in August 1984:—

The Blackmarket and Currency Reform in Ghana, Public Corporations and Worker Participation; What the CDG Stands For; The Democrats Manifesto; Legal Reform in a Political Revolution; From Here to Democracy: A Transitional Programme; Transport, the Law and the Bicycle; Food, Politics and Starvation; A Foreign Affairs Agenda; The People's Militia; Information as a Basis for Administration; Towards a Viable Revenue System; Popular Power to the Shop Floor; Functional Management and Political Accountability; The Organisation of Political Parties for Civilian Administration; PNDC Appointees: Collaborators or Contributors?; The Debate on Federalism 1954-61; The Structure of Federal Politics and Government; The Control of State Security Forces; Electoral Reform: Proportional Representation; Double-Talk in 1984; Cocoa: A Crop Turned Sour; The Role of the Market Woman and the Petty Trader; The Economic Objectives of the State; The Foreign Investor: Abuses and Uses; The Economic Role of the Overseas Ghanaian; Unity in the Struggle for Democracy; Education, Democracy and Development and many more including the features, "Fragments", Home Sweet Home", "What You Too Can Do".

Plus the exclusive unabridged and in-depth interview by Lindsay Barret of Maj. Kojo Boakye Djan on events in Ghana from 1979 to the present.

Available free to individuals from the Editor, Ghana Briefing, Charing Cross Chambers, 34 John Adams Street, London WC2 6HN. All applications must be accompanied by a contribution sufficient to cover postage or large stamped S.A.E.

**LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASICS:
RECONCILIATION, REFLECTION AND RECONSTRUCTION!**

... PEOPLE ... PLACES ... EVENTS ... PEOPLE ... PLACES ...

Goods will be seized

The Secretary for Trade, Mr Ato Ahwoi, has announced that goods imported by traders without proper import documents will be confiscated to the state.

He said under no circumstances will any of the goods be released to the owners until they produce genuine papers covering them.

Mr Ahwoi, who was scheduled to address members of the General Traders association was speaking to newsmen when none of the members turned up for the meeting.

He reminded traders that they have 60 days within which to clear their goods, adding that after the grace period the goods are liable to confiscation under the law.

He said without a proper clearance certificate, certificates of registration and special unnumbered licence, the goods will be liable to seizure.

Energy experts leave for Brazil

A delegation of Ghanaian experts in energy production and allied techniques will leave Ghana for Brazil to study that country's energy production procedures, conservation and maintenance of equipment.

The visit is the result of a co-operation programme between the governments of Brazil and Ghana in the exploration of alternative sources of energy.

Conscientization programme

The Cape Coast branch of the New Democratic Movement (NDM) has called on the PNDC to come out as a matter of urgency with a national conscientization programme.

The programme should aim at infusing into the broad masses, especially the youth, sense of patriotism and nationalism for the rapid social transformation of the country.

The movement has therefore suggested the setting up of educational committees at the community level and at work places to educate the people to understand the changes that are taking place in the country.

Law on defamation

The PNDC has published a new Draft Law on Defamation which is to be discussed by the general public.

The law is being published in pursuance of the PNDC (Establishment) Proclamation, 1981.

The draft law said a person will be liable if he intentionally publishes any insulting matter concerning another person without lawful justification.

Damages for defamation shall be compensatory and shall be limited to damages for the relevant harm.

Appeal against Amoo-Addy's discharge

The Special Public Prosecutor has appealed against the acquittal and discharge of Nii Amoo-Addy on a charge of murder by the Public Tribunal.

The Special Prosecutor argued that the trial panel's decision is evidently wrong in law and inconsistent with the reasoning of the tribunal.

According to the Special Prosecutor, the tribunal's decision amounts to a blatant miscarriage of justice.

The Chairman of the PNDC, FR-LL J.L. Rawlings, ordered the re-arrest of Amoo-Addy by the police after his acquittal.

No politics with food

Mr Robert Fritts, United States Ambassador in Ghana, has stated that his country does not play politics with food aid it sends to needy countries.

Answering a question on his country's mode of food assistance to developing countries at the Ghana Press Club in Accra, Mr Fritts said: "We do not play politics with food, we send them purely as an aid."

No ties with Israel

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr Obed Asamoah has emphasised that the government has no intention of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel nor establishing ties with South Africa.

This is because the policies of the two governments are against the dignity of man which Ghana seeks to promote. Dr Asamoah was giving a lecture at a one-month refresher course in Accra for working journalists and public relations practitioners on Ghana's foreign policy.

Fosuhene is new Adansihene

The Kingmakers of the Adansi Stool have elected Mr Samuel Asante-Fosuhene, a journalist, lawyer and former parliamentarian as the new Adansihene.

The election of Mr Asante-Fosuhene, 46, was announced by the Krontihene of Fomena after a whole night of deliberation by the Kingmakers to elect a successor to Nana Kwantwi Barima, who was destooled by the Asanteman Council three months ago.

Two other royals, Mr Dua Kyei, a former assistant headmaster of Prempeh College, Kumasi and Mr K. Ababio a graduate teacher in Nigeria, contested Mr Fosuhene.

Homowo

The annual Homowo festival of the Osu people of Ghana will be held on Sunday September 15 at 2pm at the Saint Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Salisbury Road, London NW6.

For further information, please contact the Secretary on 01-740 8507.

NIGERIA

Traditional rulers disciplined

The Ooni of Ife, Oba Kunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II and the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero have both been suspended from chairmanship of the Oyo and Kano State Councils of Obas and Chiefs respectively.

The announcements to this effect, which were made in Ibadan and Kano by their state governors, followed the trip to Israel which the Federal Military Government described as "embarrassing".

In a release issued in Ibadan, the Oyo State Governor, Lt-Col. Oladayo Popoola said: "The Ooni is suspended from office for six months for making a trip to Israel without clearance from the governor's office".

Governor Popoola confined Oba Sijuwade to Ile-Ife, his domain, for a period of six months.

The governor explained that it was true that the Ooni of Ife applied for and got the state military government's approval to travel abroad, but added that the Ooni did not indicate any intention whatsoever to visit Israel. The passport and any other travelling documents of Oba Sijuwade have been declared invalid.

The Governor of Kano State, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, also told journalists at the Government House that the Emir of Kano's passport had been withdrawn and that he had been prevented from travelling outside the country until further notice.

Kwashiokor on the increase

An investigation by the New Nigerian at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Teaching Hospital, Kaduna, has revealed that Kwashiokor and Marasmus — diseases of protein deficiency are on the increase.

The disorders which result from Protein Calorie Malnutrition (PCM) mostly affect children in severe cases, who may be permanently retarded. Marasmus, however, could occur in old age.

Informed medical sources at the hospital said the increase in the number of cases reported at the hospital was due to the spiralling cost of baby food.

A market survey showed that a 450 gramme tin of 'similac' with iron that sold for 4.50 naira four months ago now sells at 8 naira, while a similar tin of SMA baby food sells for 10 naira instead of 4 naira four months ago.

Drugs shortage in hospitals

Doctors in Rivers State have urged the government to find a solution to the problem of drugs shortage in government owned hospitals.

EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . . PLACES . . . EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . .

In their meeting with Governor Fidelis Oyakhilome in Port Harcourt under the auspices of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), the doctors said they were also worried over the health care delivery in the state.

Solution to the problem they suggested, could be found in bulk buying of drugs and equipment for the hospitals as well as the granting of import licenses to the Ministry of Health to buy drugs and equipment directly from the crown agents.

Airline boss wanted by London police

The managing director of Nigeria Airways Group, Captain Bernard Banfa, is believed to be one of two Nigerians wanted by Scotland Yard in connection with the kidnapping of Alhaji Umaru Dikko on July 5.

Scotland Yard are also looking for two Israelis in connection with the same incident. Group Captain Banfa, a former Air Force Officer, was appointed head of the national airline in January after the military coup.

He was reported to be in Britain just before Alhaji Dikko was seized but is now back in Lagos where his residence is being guarded by soldiers.

Meanwhile, four other men, three Israelis and a Nigerian, have been committed for trial at the London Central Criminal Court on charges of stealing and unlawfully carrying away Alhaji Dikko against his will and Common Law.

Government denies crate story

The Federal Military Government has denied that Group Captain Bernard Banfa, the managing director of Nigeria Airways, who was wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnapping in July of Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the former Transport Minister, escaped from Britain in a crate marked as diplomatic baggage.

Ex-Governor's wife jailed for 21 years

Victoria Mbakwe, wife of the former Imo Governor, has been convicted on eight of the nine-count charge of corrupt practices and unlawful enrichment preferred against her at the Enugu zone of the special military tribunal on the recovery of public property.

She was sentenced to 21 calendar years and 21 days' imprisonment on each of the first two counts. She was also sentenced to 21 years imprisonment on each of the remaining counts, except count eight. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The chairman of the tribunal, Air Commodore Muktar Mohammed, said that Victoria would, in addition, forfeit to the Federal Government, 1,354,459.05 naira and other sums of money totalling more than 2,000,000 naira.

Don't expect surplus too soon

The Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Idiagbon, has noted that the proposed fourth Nigerian international trade fair scheduled for November this year would show to the outside world the industrial potentialities of the country. He said that even at hard times such as Nigeria was currently passing through, it was necessary to engage in trade promotion to serve as impetus to the economic measures being taken by the present administration to resuscitate the economy.

According to him, the fair would also expose to foreigners the opportunities offered by the Nigerian market so as to generate in them the desire to invest in the economy.

On the present state of the nation's economy, the Chief of Staff noted that it would be naive for any one to expect that barely four months after the budget was announced the economy would have graduated from scarcity to surplus. He added that the financial assistance of over 690m naira to State Governments to pay arrears of salaries, was a clear testimony that the military intervention came to save a situation that would have got worse.

Nigerian is part of research team

A Nigerian cell biologist at the Harvard Medical School is part of the medical research team that has been working on a novel method of growing a human skin in the laboratory which is considered essential in the successful treatment of serious burn victims.

The research team's efforts received world-wide publicity when such large-scale laboratory-grown skin was used successfully to treat two children aged five and six who had suffered burns to 97 per cent and 98 per cent of their bodies respectively.

The Nigerian medical research scholar is Mr Olaniyi Kehinde.

Officers for Bar Association

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has elected new officials for 1984/85. They are Prince Bola Ajibola (president); Messrs Ebele Nwokoye (first vice-president), A.I. Adeyemi (second vice-president); C.O. Scott-Emuakpor (third vice-president) and Bode Popoola (treasurer).

Others are Mr A.O. Fayokun (general secretary); Mrs Chinwe Iyizoba (assistant general secretary); Mr Agbo Olalye (financial secretary) and Akin Halloway (publicity secretary).

Government will end criminal activities

Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brig. Tunde Idiagbon, has said in Rukuba,

near Jos, that for the first time in the history of the nation the Federal Military Government would bring to a logical conclusion the criminal activities of former politicians.

Declaring open the training week of the 3rd Armoured Division, Brig. Idiagbon said that although the method was gradual, it was consistent with the revolution aimed at enforcing probity and accountability in the body politic of the nation. He said that no public officer found guilty of abuse of office would escape from "just punishment".

He said that the Federal Military Government was determined to revive the economy and give the country a purposeful sense of direction. "Economic self-reliance is our goal. We have to produce enough agro-based raw materials to keep the wheels of our industries rolling", he said.

He urged the soldiers to render dedicated service that satisfies the need of the majority rather than the greed of the few. Earlier, the general officer commanding the 3rd Armoured Division, Brig. Salihu Ibrahim, said that the training week would discuss national issues and operational problems in the Army.

Third phase of WAI

Head of State, Maj-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari has directed that henceforth the national flag should be hoisted on all public buildings. Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brig. Tunde Idiagbon announced this in Jos while launching the third phase of the War Against Indiscipline (WAI). Brig. Idiagbon said that flags should also be hoisted in commercial houses, in the private sector, residences of governors, ministers and commissioners.

He said that other Nigerians should show their patriotism by displaying the flag in their homes during national celebrations. The Chief of Staff said: "One of the primary objectives of the launching of this phase of WAI campaign is to remind you that it is part of the responsibility to our dear country, to respect the national anthem and live like disciplined persons worthy of being numbered among its patriots."

Brig. Idiagbon said that the recent decree on miscellaneous offences was promulgated because the national consciousness of some Nigerians was not sufficient to make them desist from "acts of arson, damage to public property, tampering with oil pipelines and telephones, dealing in dangerous drugs and cheating at examinations".

He urged all Nigerians to develop a habit to patronise made-in-Nigeria goods, develop local raw materials for the use of the industries, plant more food, encourage respect and honour for the national culture and literature.

Three questioned over disappearance

Three policemen have been questioned

EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . . PLACES . . . EVENTS . . . PEOPLE . . .

connection with the disappearance of Samuel Etefia, a disc jockey of whom no one has heard a word since April 6, when some policemen took him away.

The policemen belong to the Lagos State Police Command.

Samuel, a former disc jockey at the Best Form Hotel in Suru Lere, Lagos Mainland, was seized on April 6 by policemen who raided the venue of a peace meeting between him and his former employer, Mr Nurudeem Bankole, owner of the hotel.

His arrest along with others who were later released, was alleged to be connected with a plan to steal the disco machine of his former employers.

LIBERIA

New speaker for interim assembly

Brig-Gen. Abraham D. Kollie has been appointed Acting Speaker of the Interim National Assembly (INA) following the arrest of the former speaker Maj-Gen. J. Nicholas Podier. Meanwhile, Gen. Doe has told the Assembly of his endorsement of the arrest of Speaker Podier "because it will afford him the opportunity to exonerate himself of the charges levelled against him". Gen. Doe said he has no personal matters against General Podier but said it was a matter of fair play for him to be arrested along with others involved in the alleged coup plot.

Commenting on the letter from the Liberian Council of Churches, the Liberian leader said mimeograph copies of the letter to him were already in circulation before he received the letter on August 16 while it was being read during one of the regular Church broadcasts on radio.

Assembly discusses budget

Members of the Interim National Assembly have deliberated on a wide range of national issues including the budget. During the deliberations, the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Emmanuel Gardner, the Minister of Finance, Alvin Jones, the Governor of the National Bank of Liberia, Thomas Hanson, and the director of the budget, Thomas Sherman, appeared before the Assembly with their deputies to clarify points on the status of the budget.

Following the Assembly session, which lasted about six hours, INA Secretary General J. Patrick Biddle, announced that the members of the Assembly had unanimously endorsed the position of the INA President and Head of State, Commander-in-Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, that the process of returning Liberia to democratic civilian rule will continue in accordance with the approved timetable.

Secretary General Biddle said the Assembly was now looking forward to re-

ceiving the fullest co-operation of every Liberian in the realisation of this noble goal.

The session, briefly attended by members Assembly President and Head of State, Dr Doe was presided over by INA Vice-President, Dr Harry Moniba, assisted by Acting Speaker Brig-Gen. Abraham Kollie.

US supports civilian rule

The United States has said that it strongly supports the steps the Liberian Government has taken to return the country to civilian rule.

The statement was made in Washington D.C. by a spokesman in the office of the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Chester Crocker.

The spokesman, who was answering questions at a state department press briefing, also told reporters that all of the arrests made of political figures in Liberia are in the context of an alleged coup-plotting against the government of Liberia.

On the election process, the spokesman also told newsmen that the US will continue to observe the situation and expects due process based upon Liberia's reaffirmed commitment to the transition process.

102 injured in university clash

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has disclosed that 102 persons received treatment for injuries sustained when soldiers dispersed students on the University Campus.

It noted that "no death resulting from the military operation at the University Campus have been reported by any of the 13 institutions contacted".

It added that the funeral parlour in Monrovia had been contacted, but no dead bodies related to the campus incident was reported.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information has announced that anyone claiming a missing relative from the University incident should report the matter to the ministry without fear.

Beware of the socialists

Defence Minister Gray D. Allison has claimed that trained socialists had infiltrated the Liberian Society and called on the citizens to be aware of their activities aimed at causing disorder and confusion in the society.

He disclosed that following the April 12, 1980 Revolution, several members of the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA) were sent to socialist countries and trained to "subvert" the State and set-up a socialist system of government in Liberia.

Speaking at a press conference at the Defence Ministry, Minister Allison pointed out that when the revolution was ushered in, the then Ministers of Foreign Affairs, G. Baccus Matthew, and Planning Minister, Dr Togba Nah Tipoteh, made several

proposals to the Liberian Government that were geared towards socialism.

The proposals, Minister Allison said, were socialist oriented and as such were rejected by the then People's Redemption Council government.

General Allison listed the proposals as the killing of all "Congo" individuals and their families, as well as the confiscation of their properties.

He said the proposals also included the elimination of all Church leaders and the subsequent turning of the Churches into markets, schools and shops.

The Providence Baptists Church on Ashmun Street would have been turned into the Headquarters of MOJA if the proposals had been accepted by the Council, Minister Allison said.

Other proposals were that the Government of Liberia break diplomatic relations with the United States, stop all foreign scholarships to the West and send Liberian students to the East for training.

According to General Allison, the socialists also proposed the ownership of all by the State, the abolition of the free enterprise system and the Poro Society.

Defence Minister Allison said Dr Tipoteh also encouraged the late PRC Co-Chairman to overthrow the Government and institute a socialist government and establish the Libyan People's Bureau as well as change the Liberians way of dressing.

Reacting to rumours that he shot a gun on the campus of the University, Minister Allison said he never shot any gun, nor did he shoot anybody.

The Minister made it clear that he does not carry arms, and explained that after the students had stoned him three times as he approached them to see what was happening on the campus, his bodyguard shot in the air.

TOGO

Naira bank closed down

The Togolese Government has closed down a bank found to be illegally dealing in naira. President General Gnassingbe Eyadema announced in Lagos during talks between Nigeria and Togo at Dodan Barracks. General Eyadema said that the Togolese Government shared the concern of the Federal Military Government in stopping trafficking of the Nigerian currency.

On his part Maj-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari stressed the need for Nigeria and its neighbours to tackle the question of security on the West African sub-region because criminals and saboteurs had taken advantage of the ECOWAS protocol on free movement to engage in smuggling and currency trafficking. "It is my view that this nefarious development should be nipped in the bud before it attains uncontrollable dimensions", he said.

He referred to the recent meeting in Lome involving Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana on security and remarked, "I am confident that the follow-up action on the part of all the states concerned will produce the

desired results." Maj-Gen. Buhari said developing countries should "close ranks and work together" for the economic survival.

Trade agreement revived

Nigeria and Togo have agreed to revive their 1980 trade agreement in order to expand the existing economic co-operation between them. A communique issued at the end of a two-day visit by the Togolese President, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, said that Nigeria would provide the standard draft text of the economic, scientific, technical and cultural agreement for study with a view to achieving greater co-operation between them. They also agreed to increase the frequency of contact between officials of both Governments.

According to the communique, Nigeria was pleased with the closure of a Togolese bank known to be involved in trafficking in the naira. It said that the Heads of State of Nigeria and Togo discussed the question of expulsion of illegal immigrants and the closure of borders and that the Federal Military Government undertook to give an urgent and very careful consideration to the representations made by President Eyadema.

OAU

Liberation Committee meeting

At the 42nd session of the OAU Liberation Committee meeting in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam, Ghana has been elected chairman for the next meeting of the committee.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, made this known to newsmen in Accra on his return from the committee's meeting in Tanzania. He noted that the leader of liberation groups, including SWAPO, the ANC and PAC (Pan-Africanist Congress) met for the first time at the meeting.

This, according to Dr Asamoah, enabled the meeting to examine critically the situation in their countries. Full details of the settlement talks between SWAPO and South Africa were also made known at the meeting. Dr Asamoah added that Lesotho and Botswana complained about force being applied on them by South Africa to enter into a similar accord.

On the security arrangements involving Mozambique, SWAPO and Angola, Dr Asamoah said the meeting discussed the recent developments in Southern Africa and their effects on the liberation struggle. Touching on the recent visits of the racist leader to some European countries, Dr Asamoah said the meeting condemned such a visit.

On Namibia, delegates rejected the terms to link the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a pre-condition to Namibian independence. The second resolution praised the people of South Africa in their stand in the recent elections, while the third one called for increased assistance for liberation movements in southern Africa.



Forty invited to camp

In preparation for the World Cup African zone elimination match against Liberia coming up in Lagos on October 20 and Monrovia, Liberia on November 4, the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) has invited a total of forty players for camping.

The camping is in Maiduguri. From the list of invited players, IICC Shooting Stars and New Nigeria Bank FC of Benin top the list with seven players each.

Rangers International FC of Enugu, Leventis United of Ibadan and Abiola Babes FC of Abeokuta have four players each.

The players are goalkeepers Peter Rufai (Stores), Wilfred Agbonaybare (NNB), Eta Egba (Rovers), Sunday Rufai (Kaduna Rocks) and Patrick Okala (Rangers).

Others are Kingsley Paul (Bauchi Wunti), Mohammed Ibrahim, Muda Lawal, Ogbein Fawole, Felex Owolabi, Rashid Yekinni, Ademola Adesina and Taiwo Ogunjobi (all from IICC Shooting Stars).

Henry Nwosu, Stephen Keshi, Samson Ozogula, Brigit Omokaro, Sunday Eboigbe, and Humphrey Edozor (NNB), Clement Temile (NNPC, Warri), Fatai Yekinni (Standard of Jos), Charles Osuji (NEPA) and Bright Benson (Electricity of Jos).

From Leventis United are Paul Okuku, Bala Ali, Femi Olukanni, Chibuzor Ehilighu and James Etokebe while Yisa Sofoluwe, Wahab Adesina, Deinde Akinlotan and Taju Disu were invited from Abiola Babes.

Terfa Kpakpor, Moses Kpakpr and Dominic Lorfa (from BBC), Offor Chigoze (ACB), Amaechi Otti, Louis Igwillo, Sunday Ikwulagwo (Rangers International of Enugu) and Augustine Eke from Dic Bees of Kaduna.

Kotoko reach semi-final

Ghana's F.A. defending champions, Accra Great Olympics, went out of this year's competition beaten 2-1 by B.A. United.

But Asante Kotoko pushed out hot favourites Sekondi Eleven Wise with a 2-0 win in their encounter.

Inside right Joe Tex grabbed the semi-final berth for Kotoko with a goal in each half.

Azuma's fight postponed again

The twice postponed Azumah Nelson-Wilfredo Gomez world featherweight title fight has been tentatively fixed for Saturday, September 29, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

This was the outcome of a series of meetings held between WBC President, Jose Sulemanna and Youth and Sports Secretary, Mr Amarkai Amarteifo who was

in Los Angeles for the Olympic Games.

The fight originally billed for Puerto Rico on July 28, was rescheduled for August 25 in New York.

The American promoter Murhad Mohammed, who was to promote the New York fight failed to meet the August ultimatum given by the WBC President for the confirmation of the date and venue of the fight.

Consequently, the option went to the second highest bidder, a Puerto Rican Syndicate to promote the fight, according to the terms in the ultimatum.

Wrestling championships

The Nigerian Amateur Wrestling Association (NAWA) has announced September 10, 1984 as its closing date for entries for the Inter-State Under 18 Wrestling Championships scheduled to be held in Lagos from September 25 to 28.

The championships is tagged "catch them young".

Ten wrestlers are expected to participate from each of the 19 States of the Federation. Eight states have so far indicated their participation in the four day championships. These are: Niger, Rivers, Bendel, Ogun, Benue, Lagos, Olateau and Kano.

Kotoko star goes professional

Ghanaian soccer star Opoku Nti begins a new football career as a professional when he presents his Transfer Certificate from the Ghana Football Association to the Swiss Football Federation in Zurich.

Opoku Nti has formally signed a two-year contract with the Swiss first division club Servette F.C. in Geneva.

According to Mr Yaw Bawuah, executive chairman of Kotoko, the management agreed to Opoku's transfer after satisfying itself that the terms of the contract were in the supreme interest of both the player and his club, Kotoko. Opoku Nti played his last match for Kotoko against Wise in Sekondi which Kotoko won.

Atanda Musa reaches last eight

Nigeria's Atanda Musa made history for Africa by stroking into the elite "last eight" of the World Cup Table Tennis championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Musa gained a sweet revenge in out-stroking Commonwealth singles champion, Chiu Man-Keun of Hong Kong 21-16, 14-21 and 21-15 after spanking highly rated Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden who is ranked fourth in the world.

The Nigerian has lost to Man-Kuen in the 1983 Commonwealth Championships.