

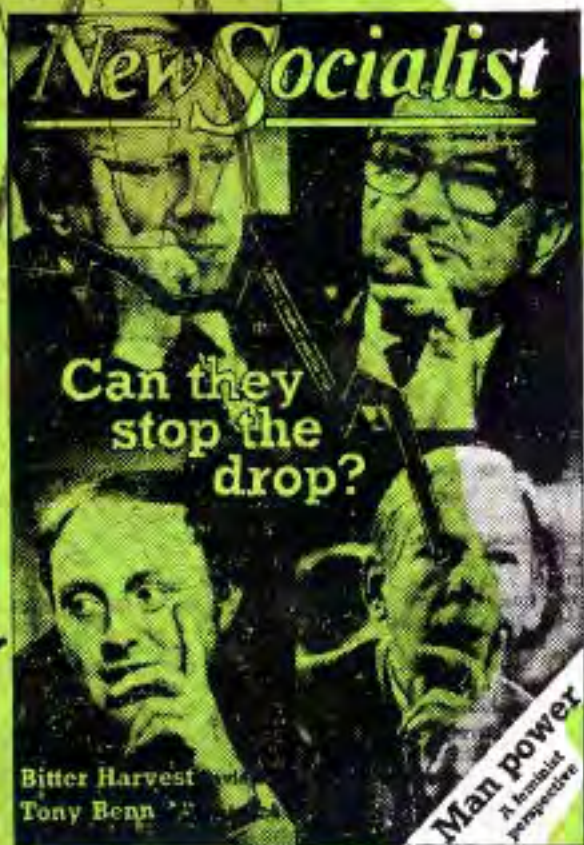
TALKING DRUMS

Published Weekly Oct: 3, 1983 Price 50p.

THE GUARDIAN Monday September 26 1983

'Hunger is a desperate daily reality for Ghana's 14 million people'

New Socialist Sept/Oct '83



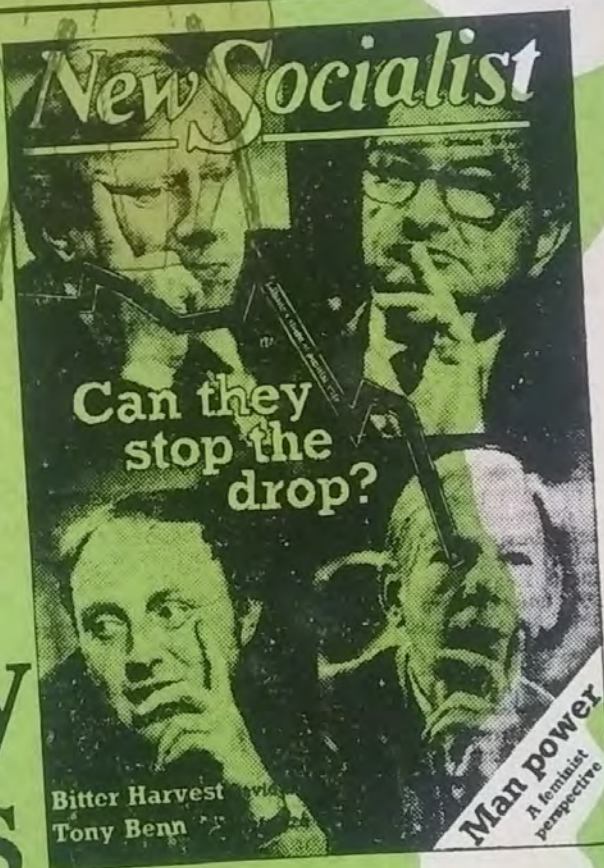
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TALKING DRUMS

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"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"

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COMMENT

THE SILENT DRUMS?

We were told by those who know that only fools or totally mad people would undertake the type of venture we wanted to do.

The reality of the market place has defeated all who have attempted this route before and you will go the way of all other fool-hardy predecessors.

But as the saying goes in the market place, nothing ventured, nothing gained and what was more important, the situation in the western region of Africa was so critical that an alternative voice needed to be heard.

We were convinced and we still are that enough people cared about the state of affairs to want to do something about it.

We have been very encouraged by the enthusiasm that greeted the announcement of the paper and our appearance four weeks ago. We have been quite overwhelmed by the number of letters and calls we have had and continue to get from all over the world.

The reality of the market place means that unless our advertisement situation improves, we shall be forced to "go the way of all other fool-hardy predecessors."

While we express our thanks and gratitude to all who have exhibited such enthusiasm and confidence in us and sent in subscriptions, we would wish to appeal to the business community to take a closer look at us.

All those who believe that there is a need for a sane and quiet discussion and debate of the issues that bedevil the region, all those who believe that dissenting voices need to be heard, all those who believe that there is a need to do something beyond grumbling or sighing in despair should join in the "Talking Drums" adventure.

We will on our part continue the struggle. For a start, we will alter the look of the paper but we will not detract from the quality of the articles. Indeed we shall strive to improve upon it each time.

We are aware there is a lot of room for improvement and we welcome every criticism from the reading public.

Our pledge at the beginning to publish views from all shades of opinion is still valid and we stand by it.

If the "Talking Drums" go silent, we believe it would be a tragedy.

This is the time for all those who believe in what we believe in, to demonstrate their belief.

We wish to ask all to bear with us while we go through what we are convinced are teething problems.

In the meantime we must thank the numerous people who have reacted to us with such enthusiasm, we are grateful.

Spread the "Talking Drums" message, don't let the drums fall silent.

JOIN THE 'TALKING DRUMS'
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Sweet Taste Of Power

Dear Editor,

After reading through the "Talking Drums" I was particularly struck by the article on the Cameroons — "Tissue Rejection — Biya comes of Age". The utterances of the former President Ahamadou Ahidjo and other political leaders in Africa give me the impression that once an African has tasted power, he simply cannot quit and live peacefully in retirement.

It was not long ago when the ousted Bokassa of the Central African Republic, not satisfied with declaring himself life president also decreed that after his death his son should succeed him.

In Ghana the late General Afrifa handed over power amid pomp and pageantry and after a brief and peacefully idyllic life — in the Mampong hills, he had to get involved in politics only to be shot at the stakes. At the moment we have Ft-Lt J.J. Rawlings who after handing over the reins of power could not sit back but had to

come and fulfil his life long dream of turning Ghana into a holy land.

I have the impression that most politicians are simply power loving and do not care two hoots if their countries are reduced to cemetaries.

Emelia Forson-Blyth
Edinburgh

LEAVE LIBYA ALONE

Sadly, Africa the dark continent remains neglected after its riches, mineral and human resources had been exploited to develop Europe and the New World.

As you reported correctly in the article on Chad in the maiden issue of your magazine, while famine persists in Ethiopia and other Sahel countries apartheid in Azania and Namibia is condoned and poverty has become widespread in Africa, there is over abundance of almost everything in Europe to be enjoyed not only by human beings but also dogs and other pet animals.

But if the return of the whiteman to Africa is to result in the provision of deadly weapons to be used by Africans to kill their own kith and kin as the French are doing in Chad then Africans must be left in their honour and dignity to die in poverty.

French intervention in the conflict in Chad therefore must be condemned but if they claim colonial links to justify their action then the Libyans who are the next door neighbours of Chad have a better justification to intervene in the country's troubles so as to at least ensure that their own borders are safe and secure.

Mrs Agnes Dosoo
Walthamstow

BLAME THE JOURNALISTS

Dear Editor,

The article "Focus on the Media — Question of "Disagreeing to disagree" in Talking Drums" of September 19, 1983, made interesting reading. It looks as if the official attitude towards the press in Ghana is characterised by an inexplicable ambivalence on the issue of press freedom.

Apart from the harrassment and arbitrary arrests of journalists the present government in one breath admonishes the press and asks them to be the vanguard of the revolution and in the same breath castigates them for either being sycophants or critical of the government.

As far as I can tell, this is a sign of a government suffering from "split-personality disorder". All the same, in all this, the operators of the media cannot escape blame for their tendency for being subservient to the government of the day.

The arrest and detention of Mike

Adjei and Tommy Thompson of the *Free Press* is a typical example of the plight of the Ghanaian Journalist who is prepared to fight from within.

Kwabena A. Opoku
Balham

Bury All Jealousies

Dear Editor,

I was very happy to read in the issue of "Talking Drums" — 19th September, 1983 an advertiser's announcement by the Ghana Democratic Movement.

I was glad to learn that at long last all members of the political parties in exile after the 31st December coup have united to form a movement which will fight until freedom and democracy are restored in Ghana. This movement is long overdue considering the fact that the suffering majority in Ghana are totally helpless about their present situation.

It is a refreshing though to know that instead of the politicians rushing to the airport everyday to ask travellers from Ghana about how hard the situation is, they are now doing something about it.

I hope for once, all their petty squabbles and jealousies will be submerged for the sake of our once beautiful Ghana.

Akua Serwaa
Birmingham

COMMON FRONT

Dear Editor,

The birth of the Ghana Democratic Movement is welcome indeed. Before this latest efforts, all attempts to create a common front for fighting the present deprivations in Ghana had been sacrificed on the altar of selfish and individual interests.

It is important that such individualistic tendencies are submerged for the general good. The old politicians who have always thought they should be in the fore-front even though they suffer serious credibility — gap, must now stay in the background.

John Awuku
London

O A U-WATCH DOG WITH RUBBER TEETH (PART 1)

Following recent attempts and failures of African countries over the Polisario issue, the Chad conflict which has assumed international dimensions and a host of political problems of which the OAU has been proved to be completely impotent. Mark Kwasi Gyebi Korang examines the organisation's charter and concludes that its shortcomings make it an important but inefficient machinery for problem-solving.

There is no doubt that Africa is a continent with multiple problems and the question of Human Rights is certainly one of them. Names like Idi Amin and Bokassa readily spring up to mind when one mentions the question of Human Rights in Africa and I suppose it is not an understatement to suggest that if there is any continent which has suffered endless violation of Human Rights, it is probably the continent of Africa.

The formation of the organisation of African Unity in my opinion is the highest "watermark" in the history and the struggle of the people of Africa. The aims of the organisation were clearly defined in its charter adopted in 1963. To those who had foresight and Africa at heart and who were genuinely committed to the African course, the birth of the OAU was the signal for the total emancipation of the people of that continent from all sorts of oppression and domination. The idea, of course, was not just to rob Peter to pay Paul; i.e. free the people from colonial domination only to subject them to tyrannical rule and coercion. A quick glance at Articles 11 & 111 of the OAU Charter of 1963 will throw more light on this point.

Article 11, for instance, set out "to promote the Unity and Solidarity of African States — to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa and to promote international co-operation having due regard to the charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is worth mentioning that it was the first time the constitutional instrument of an international organisation made a direct reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 111 underlines what then was and still is the major task of the organisation i.e. absolute dedication to the emancipation of the African territories which are still dependent or under foreign domination.

Having specifically mentioned Human Rights in the Charter that brought the organisation into being and avowing to uphold the UNO's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ball was then in the court



President Sekou Toure — he hosts the summit of the OAU next year.

of our leaders to take measures that will ensure the rights of the inhabitants of the continent.

From 1963 to 1980, nothing positive was done on this all important question of Human Rights. Meanwhile between this period there had been endless violation of human rights. Many regimes have come to pass in various parts of the continent some of whose only landmarks are unpardonable destruction of human lives.

If we consider the fact that in Ghana today three innocent people and a retired Army Officer could be abducted and killed in cold blood then the question of Human Rights is as important today as it was yesterday. There was no doubt that his original question of Human Rights in Africa was long over due.

Definition

In 1981 however, the OAU introduced the African Charter on "Human and Peoples Rights". Needless to say that the OAU has taken a new dimension of adopting a different definition. The venomous critics who are always waiting in the wing to crush the OAU whenever there is a change are dissecting the new definition to see how appropriate it is and what are the flaws if any. Some, of the questions being asked are:-

We know of Human Rights but what is people's rights? That 'human rights' is a universal concept — if that presumption is correct, what was the need for the OAU to adopt a new definition. What is abundantly clear is that, this new definition cannot easily be dismissed without much debate.

Firstly, it is not in contravention with the Universal Declaration of Human Right. All they have done is to stretch it a big to cover certain problems which appertains to Africa. Thus, the argument that since the OAU is a subscriber to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it should have adhered strictly to the UN definition so as to confirm the belief that "Human Rights" is a universal concept, to my mind, is not a strong point.

I must point out that, Article 52 of the UN Charter states inter alia that "nothing in the present charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the purpose and principles of the UN." It is against this background that regional organisations are formed in order to make adaptations to satisfy local conditions.

circumstances without necessarily breaking them.

It is submitted that the concept of human and peoples rights, has been used to denote individuals rights on the one hand as well as the collective rights of people within a state on the other. There are rights which the individual can claim for him/herself eg. the right to vote. Conversely, there are rights which can only be claimed collectively by people within a territory, such as the right to self-determination.

Thus, whilst giant nations of Europe and America may take "peoples rights" for granted, in Africa it is the first and foremost right to consider. Before a state can talk about human rights in the sense of individual rights, that state must first of all be free from external control or colonial domination.

Thus considering the peculiar history of Africa which is punctuated with all forms of colonial rule and imperialism one can appreciate why the African draftsmen thought peoples right comes over and above everything else. Personally, I do not find the terminology "Peoples Rights" out of place; neither is it a contravention with any existing International Law. In fact, it is in conformity with the New International Economic Order which has in turn given birth to a New International Legal Order.

In view of the special African problem, it would have been inappropriate to draft a charter which circumvents or ignores this all important question. Besides, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not condone the domination of a State, by another. This can be inferred from Article 1 (2) which expressly encourages the right to self-determination.

It is reinforced by Article 1 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which says that "all people have the right to self-determination and by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." In short this is what has been labelled as "Peoples Rights" in the African charter - Article 19 of which says, "all people shall be equal..... Nothing shall justify the domination of a people by another".

NIGERIA

Religious Disturbance: COMMISSION BLAMES POLICE, N.S.O.

The Commission of enquiry into the religious disturbances in the Bulunkutu area of Maiduguri has said that more than 500 people are believed to have died during the disturbances between the 28th and 29th October last year.

A government white Paper on the Commissions report, released in Maiduguri yesterday said that although the number of deaths were officially put at 175 "other less reliable sources seem to indicate that upwards of 500 people died against the police figure of 132 deaths".

The report said that a witness who testified at the commission said that 32 people died in the police cell instead of four persons officially reported.

According to the report, property worth over 3,000,000 naira were lost to more than 1,000 people during the disturbances.

The Commission blamed the Borno State Commissioner of Police for what it called neglect of duty in allowing the Maitatsine to build up in Bulunkutu, a stone throw from his headquarters, and for not taking serious action against the people involved despite previous reports.

It also blamed the NSO (National Security Organisation) for being rather casual about their primary responsibility for monitoring matters affecting state security.

The Government white Paper however rejected the Commission's recommendation that a state owned police force should be established, adding that control of the Federal police should be left in the more neutral authority as it is the case today.

The White Paper commended the sense with which the commission had viewed the malaise into which our whole Koranic education should be re-organised and sufficiently energised so as to make it fit into and fulfil the needs of the fast moving development process in Nigeria.

The six man Commission headed by Alhaji Hassan el-Badaway was set up in November last year to investigate and ascertain the remote as well as the immediate causes of the disturbances.

It was also to ascertain and determine the extent of the loss of lives and destruction of property and the involvement and participation of persons or groups of persons in the disturbances.

Other terms of reference include determining person or persons involved, apportion blame where it is established and recommend ways of preventing future occurrences of such uprising.

MASON

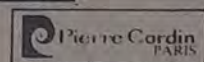
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GHANA ARMED FORCES : LEGACY OF INDISCIPLINE

By A Correspondent

The role of the Armed Forces under the doctrine of military aid to civil power should be the ultimate guarantor of order in the state of Ghana. The armed forces should, therefore, not normally interfere with an elected civilian administration.

But they have since 1966 thrice interfered with civil power for various reasons.

In 1979 the Junior officers and other ranks mutinied and formed a government for a period of three months and this set in its train, indiscipline which has remained with the Armed Forces till to-day. When therefore, the Limann Administration took over the reins of government in 1979, it was faced with the indiscipline created by Capt. Rawlings and his team who handed power to them. The question is did the Limann administration tackle the problems in the Armed Forces in order to give security to the 14 million Ghanaians entrusted to their care? The answer on the evidence available is no.

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What were the internal security problems between the time Dr. Limann became President of Ghana in September 1979, and the time of his being over-thrown by Capt. Rawlings on 31st December 1981? It was always assessed to be elements with radical views who, using Rawlings, could get at the Junior officers and the other ranks to disturb the smooth running of the civilian government. What did Dr. Limann and his government do about the report?

Nothing. It is understood that up to the last week of December 1981, a report indicating that Rawlings and Tsikata had plotted to overthrow the government was submitted to the government, but still nothing was done.

This gave rise to a lot of stories. Did Dr. Limann have a phobia for Rawlings? Was he in the know about the Rawlings plot. Did he trust Rawlings to the extent that he did not believe his security officers? Events have shown that the simple answer to all the questions is that Dr. Limann and his small body of security advisors simply took things for granted and were unbelievably inept.

They could not on the morning of 31st December 1981 mobilise the whole of the Ghana Armed Forces to contain about eight men who had started the so called Revolution. Dr. Limann simply sat around presumably shocked that his trusted friend Rawlings had let him down so miserably.

But what was the state of the Ghana Armed Forces before all this. The period of 1972-79 when Ghana was under military rule rather saw the deterioration of the Armed Forces. The best Senior Officers were too busy being managers of state industries.

The Armed Forces was neglected. It had completely reduced in size, and by 1979 with all resources put together could make up only a brigade of three battalions which for the economy was a good starting point for a new

government, because defence budgets are quite a drain on foreign exchange reserves. But the Army in particular had been rendered idle. They were never on exercises and morale generally was low. This continued throughout the Limann government who never seemed to have an answer to the problems they inherited and could not take a decision on how best to use the Army.

The Air Force and Navy suffered from lack of spares and were grounded most of the time. It is known that an idle Army can be dangerous.

In the particular circumstances of the Armed Forces, were they a fertile ground for subversion and why should this be possible? In 1979 certain Junior officers conspired with the other ranks to mutiny and form a government. The socialist rhetoric of power to the people was introduced into the Armed Forces for the first time.

The result was that other ranks with junior officers to constitute the government of the day. This started the serious problem of the indiscipline. It affected the command structure with the result that to-day there seems to be a disintegration of the Ghana Armed Forces. A fine institution with a proud record at home and abroad.

The future of the Armed Forces is uncertain. Having been used by

Rawlings in what he terms a Revolution, it looks as if it will be superseded by a Peoples Militia and that has already started.

There are only three events in a man's life; birth, life and death. he is not conscious of being born, he dies in pain and he forgets to live.

(D'homme)



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MIRAGE OF ONE-PARTY SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

By Ben Mensah

If the elections in Nigeria were not free nor fair, and there has been ample evidence of rigging and falsification, then the numerous human lives that were lost in riots and electioneering campaigns, millions of naira spent on the exercise and the time spent by the electorate in scorching sunshine to cast their votes had all been a waste.

Again if the outcome of the elections is a spectre of one party system in the country following the massive victory of President Shehu Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN) then any other form of government in Africa either military or one-party dictatorships is justifiable.

These two messages from the elections would have presaged doom to the fortunes of multi-party based parliamentary democracy in Africa but for the following reasons.

Nigeria is regulated by a properly drawn up constitution which defines the roles of farmers, soldiers, the politicians, journalists etc in the society and no wonder the judges have had a busy time adjudicating over election petitions. Not all their verdicts have been popular but, at least, some of them deserve commendation.

In Anambra, the election tribunal were not intimidated by incumbent Governor Nwobodo's threats and refusal to vacate the government house, nor were they overawed by the authority and influence of President Shagari whose NPN candidate had been declared winner by FEDECO.

Their verdict which overturned the FEDECO result in favour of Governor Nwobodo of the NPP was handed down from the ability and integrity of the judges.

In Ondo a similar puzzle of rejecting Fedeco results in favour of NPN candidate Chief Akin Omoboriowo and returning the incumbent Governor Chief Ajasin was done to the best intentions and ability of the judges.

In Oyo the Fedeco results were endorsed by the tribunal and the incumbent Governor Bola Ige of the UPN lost the state to NPN's Dr.



• Governor Bola Ige

Omololu Olunloyo.

Nor were the three states the only ones where the courts had election petitions to deal with. In Borno state Alhaji Mohamed Abba Gana of the GNPP lost his challenge against the election of Alhaji Asheik Jarmar as Governor-elect. In Imo state, Chief Collins Obi also lost his petition against the re-election of Governor Sam Mbakwe.

The flood of these petitions cast a shadow of doubt and despair over the conduct and objective of the elections.

But what is the alternative system to it? Coups d'etat staged by the military on behalf of opposition civilians in which blood is shed or one party dictatorships in which the electorate are offered the opportunity to change personalities but not policies!

In an open letter to President Shagari, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe who is generally regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism and Presidential candidate of the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP) warned that the country was on the brink of dictatorship as a result of electoral malpractices.

He described the election as a breach of democracy and a mockery of the concept of free and fair elections.

In conclusion Dr. Azikiwe lamented, "as one patriot who struggled alongside other compatriots to make Nigeria free, I see my country on the brink of dictatorship because of the arrogance of power exhibited by the party in power throughout the election exercise."

The NPN, despite its overwhelming

majority in both houses of the National Assembly and also control of eleven out of nineteen states has dismissed fears of one party dictatorship as hallucinatory but the opposition parties are not convinced.

President Shagari has stated his abhorrence of a one party state and one hopes that he resists pressure from sycophantic sources to amend the constitution to enable him to circumvent the constitutional prohibition of third term for him.

With Shagari off the scene in 1987 to be replaced by a candidate outside the northern constituency of President Shagari, under the 'Zoning system' will the four states of Chief Awolowo's Unity Party and three states of Azikiwe's Northern Peoples Party, all in the south fall behind a southern candidate and make the NPN's dominance a 'fait accompli'?

It is the view of this writer that a southern-led NPN will lose some of its support in the north to a party like the PRP whose support base in Kano state has not in any way been eroded by President Shagari's stature.

In effect, it will lead to a virile and rejuvenated Peoples' Redemption Party drawing its support from Northern solidarity, while parties like the UPN and particularly NPP will succumb to an NPN which is likely to be inspired by Colonel Ojukwu and other southern personalities.

Hence while the spectre of a one-party system is a far fetched possibility in a culturally and ethnically diversified society like Nigeria which also has a dynamic press, the onus will be on President Shagari and his party, between now and 1987, not to play any funny tricks on the Nigerian people by exploiting their strong position to amend the constitutional provision that guarantees a multi-party system and also ensures only a two term presidency for one man.

For it is only when the constitution is respected will Nigerians continue to set examples for the rest of Africa and also be spared the other alternatives to parliamentary democracy - military coups or one party dictatorships.

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PALM WINE: Potential Industrial Resource

Tapping of wine from the oil palm tree has been an occupation for rural folk in many West African countries for many years. The wine has always been used for consumption either in its fresh undiluted form or a crudely distilled form. Recent scientific research evidence reveals that palm wine contains a large quantity of yeast which gives the sap its milky appearance. Besides, fermentation of the wine produces Ethanol, a chemical of enormous industrial and economic importance.

The oil palm to-day no longer depends on nature and on the ingenuity of insects, rodents or wind for the crops propagation and multiplication. Oil palm is now cultivated. Commercially, that is. In Ghana, large, medium and small scale plantations being cultivated are the new vogue in farming ventures, second only to fish farming.

In large areas of the country which have suffered severe drought and the ravages of bush fires in recent months, farmers are converting their burnt out cocoa farms to oil palm plantations. In the public sector, the State Farms Corporation has about 10,500 hectares of oil palm while the State Oil Palm Corporation has over 5000 hectares under cultivation at Kwae in the eastern region. Local investments in agriculture are being channelled towards oil palm farming and currently the interest has been generated in rural population so much that a bundle of 1000 young plants ready for transplanting costs ₵5,000.00.

At the Oil Palm Research Station at Kusi, also in the eastern region, artificial breeding of oil palm is under experimentation and field trials, involving the sciences of microbiology (tissue culture), plant genetics (cloning and crossing) and Entomology (insect pollinators). At the moment, large plantations and small holdings use high yielding varieties which start to produce 3-4 years after planting compared to 10 years for the wild growing variety.

It is fairly right to predict that within five to ten years, there could be a boom in the industry which would

The milky wine obtained from the oil palm tree, Palm Wine, contains a large quantity of yeast and can undergo fermentation to produce Ethanol. Poku Adaa, a freelance writer, discusses the potential of producing Ethanol and dry yeast from Palm Wine, to provide an alternative commercial outlet for Oil Palm cultivation, other than direct sale of the fruit bunches.

seek for an alternative commercial outlet in addition to sale of kernels and oil for export and local consumption. There is already international and local demand for Ethanol and Yeast and one can foresee economic returns from using oil palm for wine production being higher than could be obtained from direct sale of oil palm fruit bunches.

Palm wine is the milky sap obtained by cutting an incision at the base of the immature bouquet of flowering of the oil palm tree. The incision is widened to form a casing, from which the exuding sap is drawn by gravitational suction through a hollow bamboo tubing.

The casing is widened on successive tappings as the inner surface of the casing is sliced off each time and the temperature inside it is raised by smouldering dry raffia torches to reduce the viscosity of the sap and allow it to flow freely through the tiny fibrous ducts of the surrounding plant matter. Abstracting through scientific literature at universities in Ghana and Nigeria, it turned out that the fresh sap from the oil palm tree contains sucrose, glucose, lactic acid, sulphur-containing amino acids, vitamin B and large quantities of Yeast. For example, O. Bassil, writing in the West African journal of Biological Chemistry, found that fresh palm wine contains approximately 43 grams of sucrose and 33 grams of glucose per litre of the sap, while the fermented wine contained two types of bacteria and yeast cells.

The oil palm tree has alternating sex life, male and female, flowing alternate in a regular pattern. High yields of palm wine are obtained during the rainy season which coincides with the time of the male flowering. The female flowering is what eventually develop into fruit bunches.

Rural distillation of fermented palm wine takes place constantly to produce local spirits. The wine which is stored for about eight days after being tapped, is boiled in a large closed drum on a wooden fire. A long bamboo or raffia tubing connects the drum through a cold water tank to a delivery unit where the gin is continually drawn off.

The procedure is scientifically crude: the wooden fires afford no temperature control, hence the end product does contain several other chemical substances, mostly aldehydes. The fermentation is not controlled or monitored and because there are no pumping facilities, the cold water tank is only effective during the first few hours of operation. In practice, the water is changed weekly and much of the product is lost with no sufficient condensation of the vapour.

Commercial exploitation of palm wine for Ethanol can be successfully achieved by the setting up of small scale distillation units in rural areas. The basic technology is well developed and only modification of the equipment and method of operation need to be introduced to existing knowledge of palm wine tappers. In the foreseeable future, when solar power becomes operational, heat pumps and solar powered stoves can bring about such type of modification.

In the meantime, a central storage depot can be set up whereby palm wine can be bought and stored and sent to existing distillery units or industries for processing. Ethanol has three types of uses: as a raw material for the drinks industries; as a chemical intermediate for manufacture of other chemicals such as Ethylene and as a future fuel for powering of motor vehicles.

While Ethanol can be produced synthetically, only five developed countries apart from the U.S.A. operate synthetic Ethanol plants with a worldwide total capacity of about 450 million gallons per year. On the whole, 75% of world industrial alcohol are produced through fermentation of carbohydrate crops, mainly sugar cane and grain.

Alcohol production from palm wine affords a shift in raw material base that has a great potential for a country like Ghana and an alternative channel for commercial utilisation of the oil palm tree. Apart from the effects of drinking habits on Ethanol demand, the use of Ethanol as an automobile fuel has the greatest potential. It can be blended with gasoline or used as a pure straightforward substitute for powering motor vehicles.

Ethanol is a renewable fuel which has been proven to be easily employed for the running of internal combustion engines. There is no doubt about the limiting availability of petroleum as a fuel. The use of alcohol as a substitute fuel is a distinct possibility of the future and palm wine as one source of alcohol is a potential offspin that merits serious consideration.

The technology of sugar fermentation is well known and understood and its application to produce alcohol might provide an excellent base for the construction of rural industries. There is little information now on the effect of tapping wine on the yield of oil palm fruit bunches.

However, assuming a boom in the acreage of oil palm under cultivation, the choice of using a plantation for alcohol production or for fruit bunch harvesting will be indicated by the economics of the two outlets.

Besides, stem-standing tapping of the wine can be adapted for young

plantations while felled-stem tapping can be employed for aged trees that have exhausted their capacity to yield fruit bunches. The rate of tapping can be industrialised using similar techniques that apply to tapping of rubber on estate plantations.

However, this potential can be boosted by lots of agricultural research into the economics of alcohol production from palm wine such as the yield of wine per acre of palm trees and the yield of Ethanol per litre of the wine, which information is unavailable at the present time.

Yeasts are a group of natural microorganisms that are encountered in natural processes of fermentation and in several industrial processes. Thus the distinction is made of bakers' yeast, brewers' yeast, wine yeast, etc. Large scale commercial fermentation can be carried out to-day which involve controlled fermentation, concentration of the yeast by centrifugation, filtration and pressing to obtain dry yeast which can be packaged for marketing.

The ultimate usage depends, however, on the type of yeast cells extracted and the source of the sugar used for fermentation. Fermentation is the name given to the transformation of sugars to Ethanol due to the action of yeast cells which do that in order to survive and multiply, and this is achievable in the presence of minerals, sulphur, vitamins and nitrogen. All these ingredients are present in palm wine and there is every indication that industrial production of yeast from palm wine is possible, especially yeast for use in bakeries for leavening of dough.

It is pertinent to note, however, that in order to isolate a large quantity of yeast, the production of Ethanol must be suppressed or limited by either the introduction of air (oxygen) or

not in the fermentation process. More yeast is produced if the presence of air (oxygen) is curtailed. In rural distillation of palm wine, the fermentation takes place in open containers and more alcohol is produced as a result.

The industrial production of yeast falls into the realm of the developing science called Biotechnology. It is the application to scientific and engineering principles of the processing of organic and inorganic materials by biological agents such as yeast and other plant and animal cells. This branch of science is active in many developed countries and one hopes that in future its benefits will enable the rationalisation of exploiting the resource of the sap from the oil palm tree.

The oil palm tree has fibrous roots which penetrate large tracts of land even to adjacent plants and has the tendency to shade out other crops. It monopolises land and degrades land for many years. Mixed cropping with oil palm is not possible after the first season of fruiting. Hence the maximum utilisation of the trees should be adopted for a long term commercial exploitation of the tree. The potential of using palm wine for Ethanol or yeast production is very significant indeed.

Necessity hath no law. Feigned necessities, imaginary, necessities ... are the greatest cozenage that men can put upon the Providence of God, and make pretences to break known rules.

(Oliver Cromwell to Parliament, September 12, 1654).

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HUNGER FOR SALE

By Elizabeth Ohene

For a brief moment, I thought it was an Oxfam advertisement. You know the type of poster that is pasted on the Oxfam shop front doors, guaranteed to melt the heart of the meanest miser.

I had indeed seen similar sounding posters on some Oxfam shop front doors in February this year when the expulsion of illegal immigrants from Nigeria was on "One (or was it two?) million refugees in Ghana, urgent help needed! Come in and give nothing too small!"

I used to stare at these posters in anger, frustration, despair, humiliation and a sense of guilt I would stand there in morbid fascination this minute and then willing it to disappear the next moment. It surely cannot be my Ghana they are referring to. Bangladesh, Ethiopia maybe, probably Vietnam. Was it really so long ago that Ghanaian school children used to collect pennies to help starving children of other lands?

If I give up having one meal a day and donate the cost to Oxfam, would it help the situation, was it obscene to drink a can of beer while there were two million refugees in Ghana.

I am not sure which came first, was it I who refused to look in that direction because I could not bear it any more or was it just that such phenomena have an extremely short life span in the international community and press? Anyway the next time I willed myself to look, it had been replaced with a "Famine in Ethiopia" poster.

Of course, that was infinitely more comfortable, you could sit in the bus and keep your eyes resolutely averted to one side everytime the bus approached the Oxfam shop. Ostrich like attitude? Maybe, but easier to contain your private grief, that way than the public humiliation.

In the meantime those non-Ghanaian friends who summoned up enough courage to bring up the matter, you had to face somehow and be brave. One can get totally paranoid on a matter like this - is it sympathy or a smirk you can see on the face of an old friend?

But you must find your voice somehow. There can be no such beings as refugees in Ghana. You simply do not understand; Ghanaian society is not like your society. Every single Ghanaian being expelled from Nigeria has a home in Ghana to go to. Even those of them who are destitute, each one has a family to go to and the family will not question that it has an obligation to provide him with a roof over his head and everybody will share whatever food there is with him.

The only problem I envisage is transportation and the closure of the borders, if only the regime in Ghana would open the borders there would be no crisis.

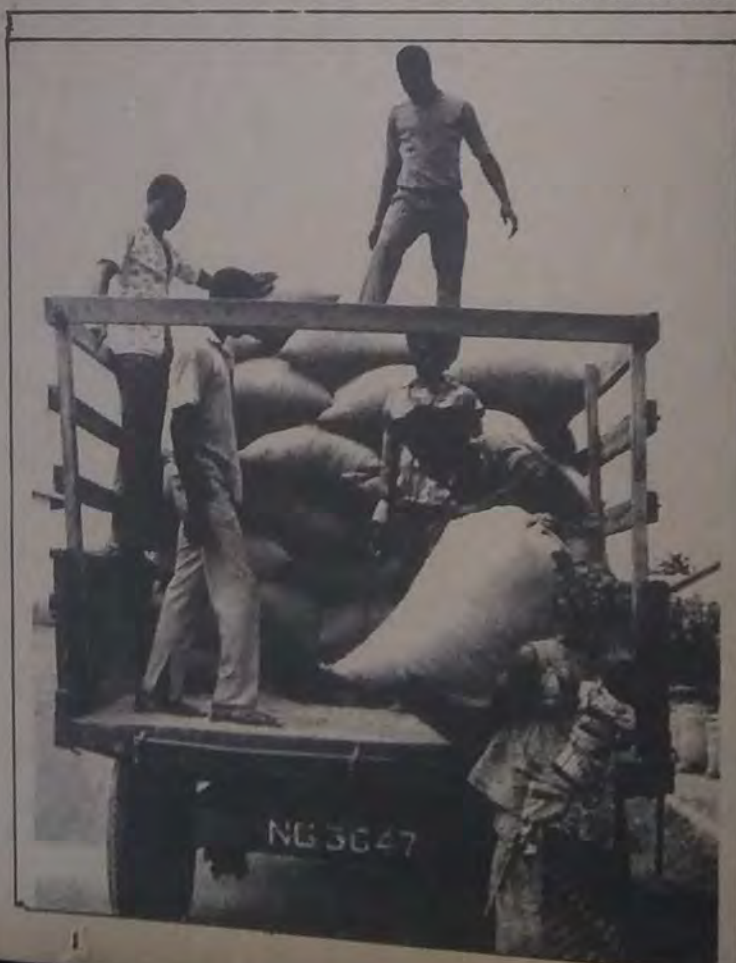
As it turned out one's attempts at "braving it out" turned out to have been an accurate assessment of the situation but it was not a victory.

Ghanaian had entered folklore as examples of miserable specimens of humanity, but nothing was ever going to blot out those images of hungry, exhausted and screaming masses of outstretched hands towards a half loaf of bread being distributed by international relief workers. That look of total hopelessness on the faces of mothers, the accusing and forlorn look in the eyes of the children will never go away.

DESTITUTE

The same emotion that the Vietnamese boat people evoked would come up every time the word "Ghana" was mentioned.

Arguments about whether Nigeria was right or callous, recollections of a similar order made in Ghana a decade earlier were futile. Ghana, Black Star of Africa, refugee, dredge of humanity, soldiers beating up the refugees when they finally made it "home". Just how do the scenes blend?



GHANA A

A man faints by the roadside surrounded by a crowd of people. He is taken to hospital and hospitalized. In the hospital, a chop bar restaurant daily reality for Ghanaian mill the urban areas. Astonishingly, th it.

The present food crisis is a decline in agricultural production squandering of foreign exchange natural inputs in the country. Lieutenant Rawlings' policy to p in the 31 December 1982 resolution.

Nigeria's abrupt withdrawal of aid this year was a further blow to an already short because of the loss of thousands of hectares of land.

US food aid to Ghana has been cut (though US aid through UN agencies in April, after the Ghanaian government backing for the right to security from neighboring countries like Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. These countries now pose an even greater threat to Ghana's security after the attempt last month to remove collaborators from power.

The headlines switched on to something more interesting like war in Beirut, British elections etc, the inner anguish persisted, the frustration mounted. You knew that the publicity about the refugees gave the wrong impression, you knew that the brave editorials in the Ghana press and speeches by Government members about no problems could not be worth

much. Already there were serious food problems. Malnutrition and starvation were words getting current usage in Ghana, an extra million mouths was not likely to make things any easier.

Then one's worst nightmares became a reality. Between March and July this year, most parents had long become accustomed to one meal every other day so that their children could have one meal a day. Very soon "I had a glass of water for lunch" ceased to draw my smiles or gasps; it was too real, too often and too widespread. People started selling their personal possessions to be able to buy a meal, a transistor radio here, a pair of trousers there. It required three and a half days wages to be able to afford one kilo of meat at the government controlled price.

New words entered the Ghanaian vocabulary, a few would help explain the situation. *Rawlings Accordion*: visible skinny rib cages prevalent on old and young. *Rawlings Chain*: hollow necklines. *Rawlings Drop*: the phenomenon whereby skirts and trousers could not be kept up because everybody was half his size. Family heads became beggars — they could not face the hungry cries of their children.

Did these make headlines? No, but the revolutionary rhetoric did and the hunger stories remained in Ghana.

REFUGEES

So what was it that started me thinking of Oxfam shops and international headlines? Yet another headline on Sunday September 25 in *The Sunday Times* of London "Hunger is a desperate daily reality for Ghana's 14 million people". My heart stopped, then I realised it was not a 'Sunday Times' headline, it was an advertisement for the September/October issue of the magazine *New Socialist*.

A closer look showed that it was really an advertisement for the chain shop of W.H. Smith. They said they

had hundreds of magazines, come in and buy some. Of course they had me hooked, I had to get a copy of *New Socialist*; it looked like the hunger of Ghanaians had finally made it to the international headlines.

A similar advertisement appeared in *The Guardian* of Monday September 26, 1983.

I bought my first copy of *New Socialist* and carried it proudly out of my local W.H. Smith. My first anxious look through to the end and there did not seem to be one article on hunger in Ghana. What I did find under the 'Frontline' section of the magazine is reprinted here for the benefit of readers. The short article was by Ms. Victoria Brittain, described by the BBC World Service as "The Guardian's Africa expert."

The sentence about hunger being the desperate daily reality for 14 million Ghanaians does indeed appear, so I suppose I could not lodge a complaint with the Fair Trade Practices Department.

But hunger was not what interested the writer, the most important things in Ghana were two significant long term political projects — the opening of the University of Ghana as a cadre school for workers and Defence Committee militants and National Mobilisation Programme due to start next month.

POLITICAL

The present food crisis is the fault of governments that had preceded the present PNDC. Not one word about the deliberate policy of the PNDC to stop all food imports at the beginning of their regime, a decision taken without any consideration of how the shortfall was going to be replaced.

Nothing about all foodstocks having been sold by heavily armed soldiers and Defence Committee members and the traditional women traders having been chased out by an unimaginative decree.

Or could it be that the readers of *New Socialist* are not interested in the hunger of miserable Ghanaians, for as long as "the revolution" is safe? What is a little problem like starvation among the population if "the urban workers" will begin politicisation of the rest of the people.

Continued on Page 20

AGAINST THE GRAIN

side in Accra. He is quickly busily debating who will take him to, no, groans the victim, 'not (restaurant). Hunger is a desperate million people, particularly in ly, they still make jokes about

is a legacy of the late 1970s production compounded by the change which meant no agricultural era which preceded Flight to power for the second time olution.

n of a million Ghanaians early on food supplies which were ight and bush fires destroying ea and food crops.

ernment was abruptly stopped (ch organisations continues) in ervention accusations of CIA ssidents who threaten Ghana's eighbouring conservative fran- llers and their western backers ous threat since their coup ch they freed many of their

But in spite of the chronic hunger and the crippling effects of the current petrol shortage, militant workers are pushing ahead with two significant long-term political projects.

Legon University outside Accra, which was closed two months ago by workers after reactionary student leaders had called for the overthrow of the government, has been reopened as a cadre school for workers and Defence Committee militants from all over the country.

Secondly, the long-awaited National Mobilisation programme is to start early next month. In a number of areas workers had spontaneously started growing food already (as have the military). Under the Mobilisation programme, urban workers will be offered loans and a year's guaranteed income to move into the rural areas and start farming.

Already many of the returnees from Nigeria have confounded the pessimists by taking enthusiastically to farming. If the urban workers, whose support is the basis of this government's ability to survive western imperialist pressures, can successfully go into the countryside to raise food production and begin politicisation, the Provisional National Defence Council will have cleared yet another hurdle in this revolution.

Victoria Brittain

CULLED FROM "NEW SOCIALIST"

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

AMERICA IN LEBANON

In the wake of the raging anarchy into which Lebanon was thrown as a result of its invasion by Israeli forces last year, the arrival of the present four-nation peace-keeping forces of America, Britain, France and Italy, drew a sigh of relief from men of goodwill for war-battered Lebanon. This was because the international peace-keeping force was expected to guarantee peace and stability in Lebanon and give the new Lebanese Government an opportunity to form a stable government.

One year later, however, that dream now appears a nightmare. Druze militia, a group of armed Lebanese Moslems, have taken up arms to reverse the present balance of power in Lebanon.

Their clashes with the Lebanese army and their other attempts to control parts of the country have resulted in the death of six American marines and a few other soldiers of the international force.

In a move to protect American soldiers in Lebanon, President Ronald Reagan recently, beefed up American military presence around Beirut, the Lebanese capital. He also ordered the marines to take retaliatory measures, including air-strikes and heavy shelling, against Druze strongholds.

Arguably, the American response was to "serve notice to Syria the assumed backer of the Druze militia, that the United States was ready to escalate its fire-power in Lebanon. It was also meant to show American allies that the Reagan Administration is committed to firm actions whenever confronted by any power or group.

This is where lies the new tragedy for Lebanon. America's resolve to defend her troops, ideally, is a rational decision. But the history of American involvement in similar situations elsewhere like Vietnam, makes the line between defensive retaliatory measures and aggression too thin for either comfort or international sanction.

We strongly believe that America's escalation of the Lebanese crisis, will naturally prompt the Soviet Union into more concerted support for her client, Syria, which is a major military power in today's Lebanon. The possible confrontation of the super-powers in Lebanon is dangerous to world peace in general, and a threat, in particular, to all hopes of resolving the Lebanese crisis.

This is why we appeal to all Lebanese-Christians, and Moslems — to swallow their differences and seek a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the crisis. It is obvious that the loser in an East-West confrontation over the current situation in Lebanon are the Lebanese themselves.

To the Americans, we call for a halt to Reagan's military pretensions in Lebanon. An international peace-keeping force that surprisingly includes only the Western powers shows that the West has much at stake in that country. The best way to keep Lebanon under its influence is for the West to encourage peace in that country, and not to give it more wars.

Daily Times Nigeria

ARMS AND THE WORLD

Yesterday arms negotiators were to reconvene in Geneva to continue their talks on medium range missiles in Europe. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries are committed to stationing American missiles in Europe unless the Soviet Union and the United States reach an arms agreement by the end of this year.

The current phase of the talks is the last one before deployment begins and is therefore the most crucial. This phase of the talks must produce some positive result, because not to do so entails a lot of cost to the whole world.

No one needs to be reminded of the enormous cost of the cold war now raging on between the US and the USSR. It is true that these two countries have had an ambivalent relationship since the anti-fascist, anti-nazi coalition broke up after the Second World War but the 1970's witnessed a period of near normalcy when relation between the two countries were characterized by detente and several confidence-building measures.

The election of Mr Ronald Reagan unfortunately changed a lot of things. Of course, before the advent of Reagan the NATO had decided to beef up its missile count in Europe to off-set what it perceives as Soviet superiority in Europe. But Mr Reagan and his team have pushed the issue to limits of dangerous consequences.

At one point, it was almost clear that the Americans did not want any agreement at all, given the kind of concessions they sought from the Soviets. Thanks to peace forces in Europe and other parts of the world, the United States Administration is now seen to be more serious in its pursuit of an accord.

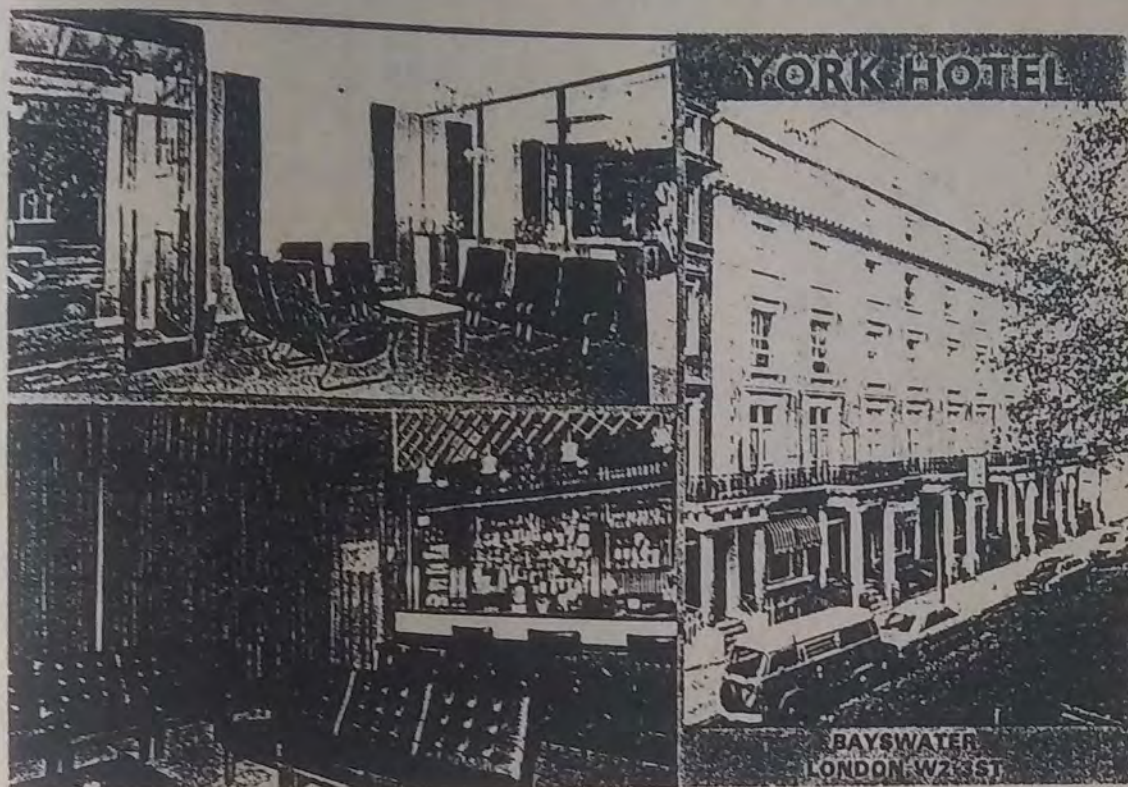
The Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov has given the negotiators a new proposal. He has proposed that the Soviet Union will liquidate and not relocate any missiles that would be removed from the European front. The "PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC" is of the opinion that this proposal has raised the quality of the negotiations by its seriousness and therefore, constitutes a good starting point for the present phase of the talks.

Talks involving these two giant nations on issues affecting their own and their allies' security are bound to be long and difficult but we hope that everyone realizes that what is at stake is the security of the whole world and the survival of human civilization.

Therefore, we of the "GRAPHIC" urge the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States to be both flexible and serious in seeking a mutually acceptable formula on Euro-missiles.

The world needs peace and a Euro-missile agreement will go a long way towards ensuring that the super powers can always talk among themselves and to each other to ensure that peace prevails.

Daily Graphic GHANA



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PAK CONTINENTAL

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

OAU Support**Arab Cause**

The Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity has expressed the OAU's support for the Palestinian cause.

Ethiopian Leader Mengistu Haile Mariam said this in his capacity as OAU chairman, in a message to the United Nations conference on Palestine held in Geneva recently.

It is tragic to note that for nearly four decades, the rights of the people of Palestine have been trampled underfoot in full view of the international community.

UPPER VOLTA**Freeze on contracts****revoked**

The new military government in Upper Volta has revoked its ban order on contracts, business transactions and payments by the state, paving the way for the resumption of economic activities in this sahelian country, one of the poorest nations in the world.

A Ministry of Finance statement advised traders, who are suppliers to the government to accept regular dockets and orders given out and signed by financial controllers and military authorities as obligations of the state.

MALI**DONATION**

The Leninist Komsomol Soviet Youth Organisation has made a donation of sports, photographic and office equipment and three motorcycles to Mali's Nation Youth Union (UNJM).

The presentation took place at the USSR Embassy in Bamako in the presence of Malik Fažilor, Soviet Ambassador and Amadou Daouda Diallo, Secretary General of the UNJM.

MAURITANIA**Soviet ties
strengthened**

An agreement consolidating culture and sports co-operation between Mauritania and South Korea, has been signed in Seoul.

Dr. Diagana Youssouf, Minister of Culture Youth and Sports signed for Mauritania while South Korean Foreign Affairs Minister appended his signature for the Seoul Government.

**PRESIDENT EYADEMA
CONGRATULATES SHAGARI**

President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo has sent a message of congratulations to President Shehu Shagari on his re-election for a second term.

In a special message delivered by his Foreign Minister, the Togolese leader praised President Shehu Shagari for his "realism and pragmatism".

President Eyadema said that as one of the "Pillars" of ECOWAS, President Shagari should use his influence to avoid ideological conflicts between ECOWAS countries as well as threats to peace and security in these countries and Africa.

The President and the Foreign Minister also discussed other matters of interest, such as the issues of Chad, Western Sahara and the negotiations between ACP and EEC Countries.

**Socialist teachers
sacked**

Three hundred socialist-oriented teachers have been given the boot in Liberia. The dismissals, ordered by the Head of State Mr. Samuel Doe have been applauded by the President of the National Union of Liberian Teachers who said the action was long overdue.

He said the decision should have been taken a long time ago because as he put it, the Minister for Education

is aware that the higher education system in Liberia was rotten and needed overhaul.

The teachers leader concedes that replacing the 300 teachers is bound to create problems because of poor incentives offered teachers in the country.

He said a possible alternative is to recruit foreign teachers, an exercise which he said, could be very costly.

NA**TOP CIVIL SERVANTS
ADVISED TO RESIGN**

Principal secretaries and head of state organizations who think that their political views are opposed to the revolution have been advised to resign.

Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, who gave the advice, warned that the foot-dragging and absolute lack of enthusiasm and initiative that had gone on for the past 18 months would henceforth not be tolerated.

Dr. Botchwey, who is the secretary for finance and economic planning was addressing the heads.

He noted that it was disheartening that heads of state organizations could choose to ignore government directives and policies that were in the interest of the nation.

He asked such heads to wake up from the slumber in which they found themselves because the government would not accept their stand.

Dr. Botchwey asked those who deliberately refused to carry out

UGANDA**"Kidnap Rumours
Are Baseless"**

Ugandan Minister of State in the office of the President, Mr. Chris Rwakasisi has lashed at rumours circulating to the effect that children of school age were being kidnapped in the Kampala area describing it as baseless and aimed at disrupting and diverting the people from the main objective of constructing the country.

He told all Ugandans to dismiss the rumour with the contempt it deserves.

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

GHANA

DISSIDENTS WARNED

The Secretary for Information, Miss. Joyce Aryee, has warned Ghanaian dissidents abroad who try to destabilize the country by force that their attempts would be met with stronger force.

Addressing a durbar of chiefs and people of Aflao near the Ghana-Togo border, Miss. Aryee said they are confident that each time the dissidents bring in people to destabilize the revolution, as they did on June 19 this year, "we shall rout them, and next time they make the attempt, we shall follow them across the border in hot pursuit".

\$377.62

Million Approved

Ghana has so far been granted a total of 377.62 million dollars under a standby facility and a compensatory financing facility by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to offset short-fall in its traditional exports.

According to Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, the loan was made up of 250.87 million dollars under the standby facility and 126.75 million dollars under the compensatory financing facility.

The compensatory financing facility had been paid to Ghana since August 3, this year, while the 250.87 million dollars would be disbursed in five instalments of 50.1 million dollars beginning mid-August.

Repayment of the loan would be made quarterly over a period of 12 months.

According to the Secretary the unanimous manner the executive of the IMF approved the loan demonstrated the interest they had in the proposals presented and the mode of repayment.

Allaying fears of a section of the public that Ghana was being pawned, Dr. Botchwey said every needy nation was allowed to state what it wanted the loan for and in which areas.

He failed to understand why Ghana should belong to the IMF, pay its quota and yet fail to benefit from its resources.

We're Ready To Die For Revolution

The Winneba district organiser of the national youth organising commission (NYOC) Mr. E.K. Asare, has said that a revolution is not a perishable commodity but rather an ongoing process.

He advised those who are bent on overthrowing the PNDC to change their mind and join hands with the revolutionary organs in seeking the welfare of the ordinary Ghanaian.

Mr. Asare was addressing 34 student volunteers from Winneba working on the commission's food crop farm after he had inspected the farm.

He noted that the leadership of Ghana's revolution had a strong spiritual resistance, and would be difficult to corrupt.

Mr. Asare said they were prepared to die in their determination to effect changes in the interest of the suffering masses.

He told the volunteers that as followers of the on-going revolutionary process they should be disciplined in order to put the enemies to shame.

HUNGER FOR SALE

It could not be that 'New Socialist' will stoop to the level of capitalist firms in adopting their marketing tactics - why else was the whole magazine, being sold on a passing sentence in an article on Ghana more concerned with militants and politicisation than with hunger - an issue that contained extensive interviews with the candidates for the Labour Party leadership, a dissertation by Mr. Tony Betu on why Labour lost and what it must do to win the next election and an article on the wooing of the Working Class and many more Socialist ideas.

Perish the thought that an attempt was being made to sell "New Socialist" on the empty stomachs and hollow cheeks of Ghanaians. I will blame it all on W.H. Smith, that is a capitalist venture and they are selling their wares and everybody knows that capitalists

are not moralists, they just want to sell their magazines, if there is a sentence in one of them that will make people buy, why not flog it.

It worked on me, I wonder how many others fell for it - the old capitalist ploy.

In the meantime the hunger does persist in Ghana and very soon even the militants who currently get fed first with whatever the leaders leave before anybody else; even they might not be able to shout or politicize. The hunger will get to them.

As for the returnees from Nigeria taking enthusiastically to farming, a check in Nigeria will show that the majority of those expelled earlier in the year, are back with their friends and families.

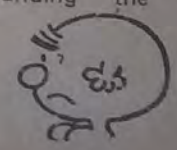
They could not take the hunger or the revolution.

**SEARCH FOR WEAPONS
A BODY FOUND**

A number of unregistered weapons were seized during a special search of houses around Kanda by a detachment of the army and police.

A release issued to the press from the office of PNDC said the thoroughness of the search led to the discovery of the remains of the corpse of a three-year-old child buried in one of the compounds.

It said a woman living in the house where the corpse was found is assisting the police in investigating the circumstances surrounding the bizarre discovery.



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

NIGERIA

"Naira won't be devalued"

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Victor Masi, has declared in London that the Federal Government will not devalue the Naira and "presently has no plan to do so".

The Minister made the declaration while performing the opening ceremony of the branch of the Union Bank of Nigeria in London.

The Minister said: "the necessary and sufficient conditions for devaluation to be operative and to achieve the desired objective is - non-existent".

Mr. Masi stated that an appropriate growth rate was being recorded both in the manufacturing and the agricultural sectors adding that the external reserve situation was now under firm control due to steady and increased oil exports and the sharp decline in imports.

On import liberalisation, the Minister said: "the question of import liberalisation hardly deserve any analysis for one can rightly describe it from the Nigerian angle as nothing short or economic suicide".

Mr. Masi also outlined measures taken by the Federal Government to diversify the revenue base.

These include the establishment of major industries such as the Ajaokuta Steel Complex, the Iwopin, Jebba and Calabar paper mills, the Petrolchemical Industry, the Nitrogenous fertilizer, the Liquefied Natural Gas and the River Basin development projects.

Nigeria, he said, also embarked on "a definite design" to make her self sufficient in food production by the year 1985 through the Green Revolution Programme.

The Minister agreed that the Nigerian economy "has seen accute trouble" in recent times, due mainly to the instability in the oil market but added, "it is certainly not true that the Nigerian economy is declining".

He also enumerated other economic measures taken by the Federal Government which include Incentives for the manufacturing and Agricultural production sectors and for foreign investments.

Speaking on the incentives for foreign investments in Nigeria, the Minister enumerated measures taken by the Federal Government to guarantee their safety.

These include tax relief in a variety of ways, including the granting of the pioneer status which provides relief from income tax during the early years of industrial concerns engaged in pioneer efforts.

COMMONWEALTH CENTRE OPENS IN LONDON

An Information Centre and a resource library which will provide adequate information on all Commonwealth Countries has been opened at the Commonwealth Institute London, by Nigeria's Information Director in Western Europe Mr. Moses Ekpo.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Ekpo said that the Centre had come at a time when the image of Commonwealth countries were constantly being distorted in the United Kingdom.

He said that the new generation of Britons seemed to know nothing about those countries where their parents once lived and worked adding that this lack of knowledge had done a lot in weakening the obvious link between Britain and Commonwealth countries.

Mr. Ekpo expressed the hope that the youths will make good and adequate use of the Centre and thereby enrich themselves about Commonwealth countries which have a long tradition of connection with Britain.

A bookshop specially set up to promote publications by Commonwealth authors was also opened during the ceremony.

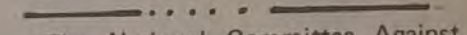
AIR OPERATIONAL LICENCE REVOKED

The Federal Government of Nigeria has revoked the air operational licence

granted to Nigerian International Air Service limited (Hanzar) to operate non-scheduled passenger and cargo air charter services.

This was as a result of the company's flagrant violation of the terms and conditions of the licence granted it to operate its airline within and outside Nigeria.

The Federal Minister of Aviation, Alhaji Musa Habib Jega, who announced this in a statement in Lagos, said that all activities of the company relating to the grant of the licence should be discontinued.



The National Committee Against Apartheid, (NACAP) in Nigeria has been enjoined to step up its efforts to mobilise public opinion to enable it contribute effectively to the early independence of Namibia and the eventual elimination of apartheid in South Africa.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Shehu Musa, made the call while declaring open the new Secretariat building of the organisation in Lagos.

He emphasised that the eradication and elimination of apartheid in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the OAU Charter, were of prime concern to the present administration as they were to previous Nigerian Governments.

Political activities banned

The Benue police command has banned all forms of political activities in the state for two weeks, the command said in a statement in Makurdi.

The statement signed by the State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Aminu Malumfashi explained that any politician or political party supporter flouting the order will be dealt with according to the law.

According to the statement police patrols will be intensified throughout the state to ensure compliance.

SHORT STORY

By Rosaline Nwagboso

BEWITCHED!

The traditional ruler of Aladike, Chief Wadibia, was much loved by his subjects. He was a fine orator and a man of principles. Above all he was noted for his bravery and courage. These attributes earned the chief the respect of the ten titled men who were his advisers; for in Aladike, the land of warriors, bravery and courage was everything.

But there was one thorn in Chief Wadibia's flesh. It was Nze Ntiele, one of the chief's advisers. Only he, of the ten titled men, showed Chief Wadibia disrespect. Not once, Not twice. But all the time.

The history of the quarrel between Chief Wadibia and Nze Ntiele went back a long way. Indeed, they had both inherited their enmity at birth. For their fathers had been feuding long before they were born.

According to legend, Ntiele's father had challenged Chief Wadibia's father to a fight over a young girl. The latter won and the girl later became Chief Wadibia's mother. Ntiele's father felt so humiliated that he vowed never to make peace with Wadibia's father. The enmity between the two men heightened day by day until it reached a point where they avoided each other like the plague. Matters took a turn for the worse when the reigning chief died without an heir and Wadibia's father was proclaimed chief of Aladike.

The enmity between the two men continued and was later passed on to their children — Chief Wadibia and Nze Ntiele who, as events proved, were only too pleased to obliged their forebears. And so Nze Ntiele did not show up when his rival was crowned chief — something considered a serious offence by the title men of Aladike. Ntiele was fully penalized. Not only that, he was isolated by other titled men.

The ostracism was to last for seven years during which Ntiele was not to interact with any titled family of the village. As a result Ntiele had to go to a distant village to marry.

Meanwhile Chief Wadibia had married the most beautiful girl in

Aladike at a very colourful ceremony at which the villagers danced and ate and drank. Unfortunately the chief's wife did not bear him a child the following year as everyone had expected. He then came under pressure to marry another wife who would give

him a son to succeed him. But the chief so loved his wife that he refused to be persuaded by the people. He insisted that he had married the woman of his choice and that when the gods were willing he would get a child.

The chief advisers were stunned.

"She must have bewitched him," one of them said.

"This sort of thing has never happened before," said another.

"Bewitched" soon became the pet word in Aladike. Everywhere people were whispering; "Bewitched! Our beloved chief has been bewitched."

"Our chief's wife," said one woman as she was returning from the market one day with a friend, "must be a witch."

OSTRACISM

"True word," said the second woman. "I have had a glimpse of her, and there is nothing to compare her beauty with. They say you can't even look her in the face because her face glitters. Have you ever seen her legs?"

"She is not real," the first one said. "I hear she is a mermaid. So our medicine man said. But don't tell anyone."

And so, on and on, went the gossip.

Meanwhile Nze Ntiele, the chief's arch enemy, had had a son and he went about boasting how he was going to send his son to school when he was old enough.

"Now we know where the sneer lies," said the oldest man in the village. "Ntiele is the man responsible for the Chief's misfortune. He must have used witchcraft to cast a spell over the chief so he could not father a child."

"I hear he has a live-in witch doctor," said another old man.

"That Ntiele is a wicked man."

This new angle was snatched up like a hot cake. Before the day was out it had spread all over the village and neighbouring ones that Ntiele and his witch-doctor were responsible for the Chief's problem. It was even said that Ntiele had cast such a spell over Chief Wadibia that the chief could no longer see reason. It was the spell, everyone agreed, that had made the chief refuse to marry another wife even when his poorest subjects had at least two wives.

The word "bewitched" returned to every lip once again, except that this time the emphasis was on Nze Ntiele.

"Bewitched" everyone said on their way to the farm, while fishing, and in their market stalls. The village seemed drunk on that word.

Three years passed and Chief Wadibia still had no child. His subjects lost all hope. They stopped worrying and began to mind their own business. But the following year Adamma, the Chief's wife, became pregnant. The story spread like wild fire.

"I knew the Chief would do something," said one old man to another.

"You see, my friend, he has shown that devil Ntiele who is the boss."

Unfortunately, however, Adamma died shortly after child birth. The whole village was deeply moved. They mourned for her like they had never done before. They declared seven market days for mourning. The Chief, on his part, threw all care to the dogs and cried like no man had ever done before in Aladike.

At the same time everyone was raining abuses at Nze Ntiele. They even burnt down his house. In the end Nze Ntiele had to run away from the village.

Adamma's daughter was named after her mother. She was growing up fast and was full of life. She was placed under the care of her grandmother. Chief Wadibia was very pleased with his daughter. He went everywhere with her. He swore to give her the best of life. He promised to send her to school.

As the years rolled the chief began to forget his misfortune. He became cheerful once more except when members of his court who were close to him began to nudge him about taking another wife; then a sad shadow would fall over his face. He would shake his head gently and remind them that he was still mourning. But his advisers were not fooled. For they knew that their chief had no intention of ever marrying again. And indeed many years later chief Wadibia had still not married.

But that was the least of his people's problem — at that time. Their main worry was starvation. Many of them were dying of it everyday. The harvest that year and in the three previous years had been very poor.

HARVEST

One Eke day Chief Wadibia summoned his people. At the final sound of the gong, the villagers began to assemble at the village square.

The Chief, dressed in his full regalia, stood up and addressed them.

"My people," he said, "we have been having very poor harvests in the past few years. Deaths from starvation are occurring everyday. We cannot let this continue. Therefore I am asking all our medicine men to find out how we can appease the gods."

"No," shouted a young voice in the rear of the square. "The gods are not responsible."

All eyes turned in the direction of the voice. The speaker emerged and edged his way through the crowd and stood before the chief.

"Who are you, young man?" Chief Wadibia asked.

"Samuel Ntiele. I want you to know that it is about time we lived up to standard of other villagers. What is responsible for your poor harvest is lack of fertilizer."

"Fertilizer?" echoed everyone.

"Yes," the young man said. "It is called fertilizer and it is sprinkled all over the land and it improves production."

An old man stepped forward. "Are you the son of Ntiele?" he asked.

"Yes," replied the young man.

"Is this another trick of your father's?"

"Leave my father out of this. I have come to help. But if you don't want it, I'll leave."

"Listen, my child, we shall continue to do things the way our forefathers taught us. We are not going to let a brat like you even address us let alone take your advice to sprinkle your er — er whatever you call it on our sacred land. We have had enough of your father and his witchcraft."

The crowd shouted their approval.

Samuel left and returned to his college a few days later. The year that followed that incident was not better than the previous ones. The people of

Aladike came to accept the situation as a curse from the gods.

Adamma, meanwhile, had finished her final year in college but did not come home as usual. Her father was very much alarmed and sent people to search for her. The search party looked for her every where but did not find her. Then one day as her father

MISFORTUNE

was worrying and worrying, she appeared, but not in her usual high spirit. First she was all full of tears for causing her father such heart — ache. Then she confessed to her father that she had married Nze Ntiele's son, Samuel.

Chief Wadibia sank in his chair as she finished her story. When he recovered from his shock, he quietly went into his inner room and later emerged with a long sharp cutlass. With this he headed towards Nze Ntiele's house in the neighbouring village. He shouted Ntiele's name as he went. But to the amazement of passerby, Ntiele also had his cutlass and was calling Chief Wadibia's name and hot-footing towards Aladike.

The two enemies met in a footpath halfway between Aladike and Ntiele's adopted village.

By the time the elders of the village of Aladike got to the scene it was too late.

"Bewitched" said an elder as he stopped down to look at the two bodies lying in pools of blood.

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DUTY FREE



A MOLE IN THE HOME

Yet another man has been accused of spying and put before court in London. Almost every week, the Americans and Soviet governments expel diplomats for "engaging in activities incompatible with their status". It has become a permanent feature to liven up the humdrum business of international politics.

I would normally not even bother to read such stories but for the fact that these frequent reports of exposure of spies in high diplomatic circles, the 'treachery' of the supergrass in other places and double agents all over the place tend to have a rather unwholesome repercussion in some totally unexpected places — like my own home.

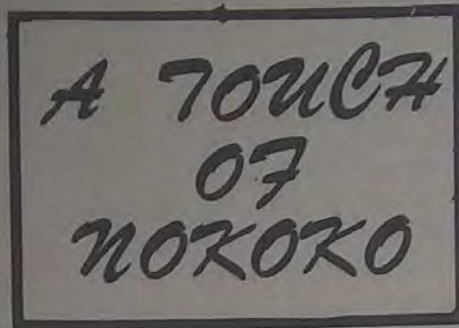
I have read enough spy — thrillers (including the escapades of the indomitable James Bond, Agent 007) to know that in spite of their high and fast life of spies that we are made to believe in films, it is a real jungle out there for them. The undercover agent must be all things to all men he comes into contact with in the course of his job. Apart from the absolute necessity of having at his finger-tip the basic tools of espionage, he must also be suave, have poise and a sixth sense to enable him get out of tricky situations.

That is why people employed in the espionage business are so rigorously vetted. It is a high risk business with serious occupational hazards.

It is therefore always a shock when member of the firm is exposed for spying for the other side. Almost invariably, the enquiries into the background of the fallen member attempt to find out whether he had any weakness of character which could make him commit such a crime against his country.

These thoughts were passing through my mind as I called a family round-table conference (which I do when an issue affecting the survival of the establishment crops up) to find out who has been leaking out vital information to outsiders.

"There is a mole in this house — a very serious state of affairs, indeed. I have called this emergency to expose that treachery" I said, breathing out fire.



"It isn't possible," my wife said, "it isn't bloody likely! I can say without fear of contradiction that the three member staff of this firm are loyal and committed."

"Loyal and committed, maybe, but someone has been grassing on us. Who is it?"

"You better look somewhere else for the culprit. Have you checked the telephone for wire-tapping?" she asked. "You know that these three children went through thorough vetting before they were born."

"How can I forget?" Memories of over two decades came flooding back. "I still maintain that in spite of the fact that those who didn't satisfy the requirements were.....er.....terminated, who changed the rules on payment of bills?"

"Nothing has changed. It is still — The Cheque is in the mail when creditors call," she said.

"Sure? How come, all the creditors have lately been calling at a time when according to the firm's regulations, I'm supposed to be out of town?"

"Simple. They're getting wise to the firm's tricks," she said.

"If you're sure of this then we have to change to code of operations immediately."

"Daddy, I think I know who has been exposing the firm," Tommy, my eldest son suddenly spoke out.

"Who?" we all asked in unison. All eyes zoomed in on him and locked on his face fearing that a mole was about to be exposed.

"The man in trench-coat with raised collar."

"Now, take your time and tell me all about it," I said, "The security of the firm is in serious danger."

By Kofi Akumanyi

"Sometime ago, when I was coming home from school, I saw a man peering through the front door key-hole," Tommy said.

"How, just wait a minute. He could have been an ordinary thief, you know"

"That's what I thought until I realised that instead of scurrying away as a thief would do, he asked me to confirm the family name written on a paper, where my daddy works....."

"Stop right there! You mean you stood there answering questions from someone you didn't know?" I asked shaking with anger.

"He didn't just stand there daddy, what he did next really surprised me"

"What did he do?"

"He walked over to our dustbin in the front garden and poured the contents out."

"Oh, I see. He was probably the dustman," observed, six-year-old Julie.

"Then why did he poke through the rubbish with a stick and jot down observations in his note-book?" demanded Tommy.

At this juncture, I hit the gavel hard on the table forgetting that it is glass topped. The shattering sound brought the seriousness of the situation forcefully home to the meeting.

"I have got the picture now — that is if Tommy is sure about what he is saying" I said. "He was gathering vital information about this organisation which our enemies cannot get through official channels."

"That's why they are looking and eavesdropping through key-holes."

"What about the dustbin? What was he looking for?" Little Eddie spoke for the first time.

"Checking up on our life-style, that's what he was doing. They want to know what we eat and how much of it. From that they can have a fairly accurate assessment of our real income."

"This is really terrible," my wife said, "but I'm happy that we don't have a mole here. It is obviously an outside job. What are we going to do to stop further encroachment on our privacy?"

"Plug the key-holes and burn all our rubbish."

sports

AGE FLATTENS

POISON

The poisonous hooks that catapulted David Kotei Poison to become the first and only Ghanaian boxer to have won a world crown, has been eaten up by age.

That sworn enemy of boxing, flattened the former world champion, in his African lightweight final elimination bout with Bozou Azizan of Togo in Lome. He lost on points.

Poison, who won the world featherweight championship from Ruben Olivares of Mexico in September 1975 and lost it to Danny 'Little Red' Lopez in November 1976, moved to the lightweight division when he failed to make the nine stone weight.

Poison, in his early 30's, has been inactive until early this year when he lost to David Andeh of Nigeria in Lagos.

His defeat by Azizan has dealt a serious blow to his desire to come-back with a bang.

Observers believe Poison's age would not aid any serious campaign in the ring and must retire honourably.

Meanwhile, Bossou Azizan and David Andeh have been billed to fight for the ABU lightweight crown on October 29

Nigeria win 2 gold

The first Commonwealth Amateur Boxing Championships produced two gold medals for Nigeria even though she paraded only six out of the number required for the eleven divisions of the contest.

They were the featherweight and light welterweight divisions in which Peter Kongwachie and Chris Ossai out-pointed their New Zealand opponents. Kongwachie decisioned Bill Meekan while Ossai pummelled Mike Sykes.

A third Nigerian finalist Charles Nwokolo however lost to 20 year old Scot, Tom Campbell in the welterweight division. Campbell took a lot of punishment, especially to the head and was reported to have been examined by the ringside doctor over an eyebrow injury. The split verdict was disappointing to Nwokolo who took the silver to add to the bronze he won at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982.

A fourth boxer batamweight Joe Orewa won bronze as a losing semi-finalist thereby raising Nigeria's medal haul to two gold, one silver and one bronze.

England which entered a full eleven man squad topped with five gold, Scotland with three while New

Zealand and Nigeria had two gold each. Ghana, another powerful boxing Commonwealth nation did not take part.

STARS SHINE

When it comes to African football, the Black Stars of Ghana are matchless.

Of late, the African Champions are increasing their sphere of dominance, stepping on Asian and American soccer toes with impunity.

After a glorious campaign in South Korea, during which the Black Stars conquered Korea and United States, the four-times African champions are taking Malaysia by storm.

The pride of Ghana opened their campaign in the 14th President Cup competition in Kuala Lumpur with a glorious 1-0 victory over the Brazilian representative team.

Galloping centre forward George Alhassan grabbed the only goal of the match after a brilliant run.

Last year, the Black Stars placed second to the Brazilians in the 13th championship in Malaysia.



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AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS:

WEST AFRICA TO SET TREND

After Denmark's dismissal of England with 90 minutes of fleet-flowing football at Wembley on Wednesday, September 21, one is convinced that the days when tradition haunted this crazy game are over.

Before that day the Danes had never stood firm against English manouevres in the football arenas. And despite the vast improvement in the Danes standard of play, football analysts in the British Isles looked at the event from spectacles beclouded by images of the British armada that destroyed Danish resistance in the fight for forts and Castles in the Gold Coast before the Bond of 1844.

That break of jinx is reason enough to be resolute in mind that next year's African Cup of Nation's tournament will depart from tradition. Instead of the usual straight fight between the skills of the Arabs of North Africa and the glory of West African blacks this year's competition will be a West African dominated event.

Of course this is not to dismiss the fantastic rediscovery of Egyptian football, nor belittle Algeria who shocked West Germany in Spain.

Both Egypt and Algeria are through to Abidjan.

Fact is that West Africa seems to have too many men and materials to be rivalled in Ivory Coast.

Out of the eight surviving finalists from all over Africa, West Africa has five representatives. The nations are Cameroons, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, and host nation, Ivory Coast. And with North Africa being defended by only Algeria and Egypt, the Arabs look like breaking before the power of West African football. (Malawi from Southern Africa, are the odd team out).

All the five West African representatives are giants in their own right making the competition a bit one-sided.

Before the 1982 world cup, Cameroons had never made much impact on national assignments in Africa. Apart from club assignment, which

had seen teams like Union Douala Oryx, rising to the top, Cameroons have never lined up in the African Cup of Nations final of finals.

Their showing in the world cup in Spain during which they held champions Italy to a pulsating 1-1 draw, drew with Peru and Poland, suddenly shot them into world class materials.

With N'kono, the man who won the second best goalkeeper's award in the world cup guarding the post, Cameroons have confidence in the rear while Roger Miller, that fantastic dribbler and goalpoacher lead a defence-splitting attacking machinery.

The Green Eagles of Nigeria have minced no words about their determination to win the cup in Ivory Coast. The dismal performance of the Green Eagles in last year's competition in Libya, where they were routed 3-0 by unsung Zambia has infuriated Nigerian football.

The way and manner Nigeria qualified, beating a strong resistance from King Hassan's Morocco with a 4-3 on penalties in Rabat, is enough testimony of great revival in Nigeria.

Until that great victory away from home, the Green Eagles had never won a competition without a massive lead at home. And that is enough booster to see them through Ivory Coast.

The Togolese national team are out for a historic turn-out in Abidjan, one of the least respected sides in Africa, the Togolese have suddenly shot into focus with their two representative teams in the continental club championship doing wonders. The way and manner Agaza disposed of Sekondi Eleven Wise of Ghana with a fantastic 4-1 aggregate win gives credence to the rise of Togolese football.

Ivorians call their national team, the Elephants. In choosing this name, the originators obviously were guided by the strength of the biggest animal on earth.

Unfortunately, the Ivorians have



★ Skipper Stephen Keshi

not succeeded in bullying their way through African soccer like the elephant does over other animals. They are however optimistic of their chances next year, when they will be performing before their home fans.

With proper control of their home grounds, the Elephants hope to topple all opposition in this competition which opens in West Africa's most beautiful city, in March 1984.

Whatever be the case, one name that will be in focus is that of the five letter word spelling G-H-A-N-A. It is a name that has come to be almost synonymous with the fortunes of African football.

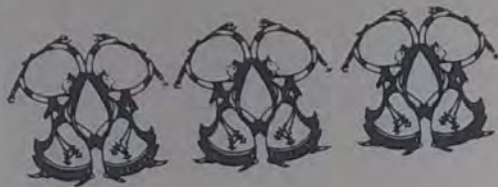
Four times champions and losing finalists on two occasions, the Black Stars of Ghana are almost a myth in African football.

With abject poverty and hunger the only thing Ghana can pride themselves with is football which flows like a sweet wine. And to talk about football is to exhaust all that matters in the country at the moment.

With victories in all events the Black Stars have competed on the continent within the last two years, the Black Stars are the side to beat in Abidjan which gives West Africa every hope of swaying the scales in their battle with the Arabs of North Africa.

By Ebo Quansah

TALKING DRUMS



WELCOME TO TALKING DRUMS!

A new weekly magazine which has been on the newstand from September 8, 1983. We report news and events and create a forum for a reasonable discussion of the problems of the West African Region which are usually written off with simplistic explanations in the Western media.



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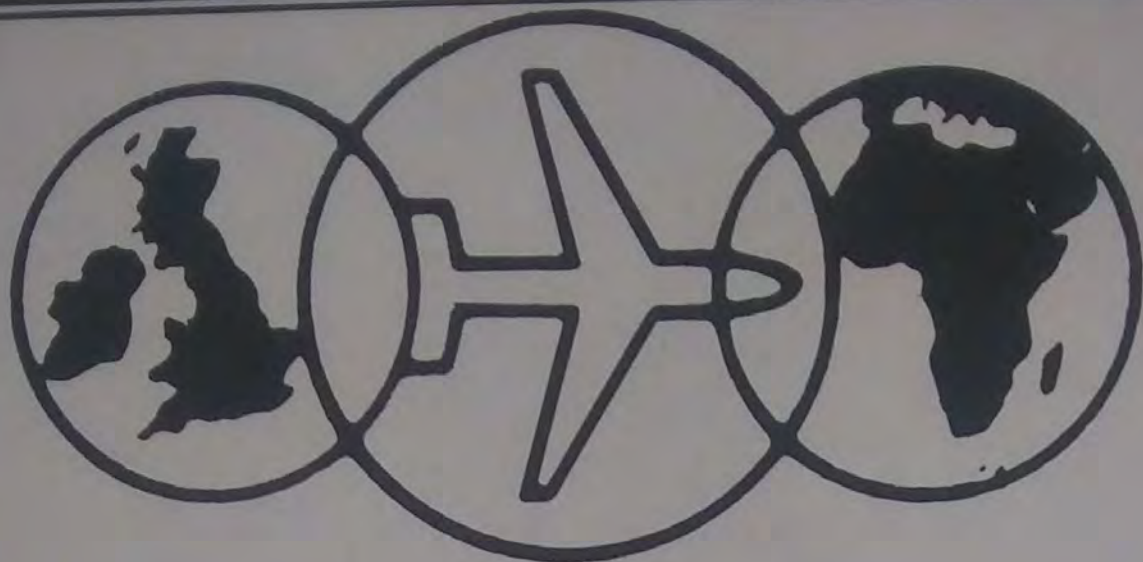
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