

# TALKING DRUMS



THE WEST AFRICAN NEWS MAGAZINE

Published Weekly

March 17, 1986



- LONDON WARMS UP TO AFRICAN PERFORMING ARTISTES
- SPIRITUAL REVIVALISM SWEEPS ACROSS WEST AFRICA

Recommended Prices:  
U.K. 50p; Ghana C45;  
Nigeria N1; Sierra  
Leone 1.75 Leone;  
Liberia \$1.75; The  
Gambia 2.50 dalas;  
CFA countries 400  
francs; USA/Canada  
US\$1.75; West  
Germany DM3.

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

**VOL 3 NUMBER 22**

# **CONTENTS**

**MARCH 17, 1986**

**COMMENT**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**A STRANGER'S BRITAIN**

*Looking at the natives in their natural environment.*

**UGANDA:  
TRAPS AHEAD OF YOWERI MOSEVENI**

*While the swearing-in of the National Resistance Army leader, Yoweri Museveni as the new President of Uganda has brought fresh hope to the trouble-torn East African country, Ebo Quansah, the writer, pleads with the new man to seriously consider the problems of other African leaders in order to avoid falling into the same political traps.*

**GHANA: WHY THE KILLINGS GO ON**

*Rumours of secret executions persist in Ghana today reinforced by the recent mysterious death of a Catholic priest, Reverend Charles Kukah, outside Accra. Our special correspondent explains the modus operandi of official hit-squad operating in the country.*

**RELIGIOUS REVIVALISM —  
THE AMERICAN INVASION OF AFRICA**

*Poku Adaa reports from Accra of a phenomenon with a wider implication for Africa in general — the influx of American Evangelists and local religious groups which are furiously competing for the winning of souls for Christ.*



**COVER PICTURE**

• *Guinea's Mory Kante*

**4 FIGHTING AIDS 2: ROLE OF MEDIA  
IN NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT 14**

*In an article last week, Kweku Kpatapka Gyampo attributed the spread of Acquired Information Deficiency Syndrome in Ghana to detrimental government policies aimed at stifling debate. Capt (rtd) Kodjo Tsikata, PDNC member, in a speech at the 25th Graduation Day of the Institute of Journalism last month gave the official view on the ever-widening information gap.*

**7 COMING TO GRIPS WITH LIFE IN THE UK 17**

*Natives and foreigners who live in the UK have different views on what makes the country tick. This article examines the life of foreigners, particularly students.*

**9 A TOUCH OF NOKOKO 18**

*'By by you go grow' — a letter to my son.*

**9 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY 19**

*Editorial comment from West African papers.*

**11 MUSIC AND ARTS SCENE 20**

*The chilly spring weather has warmed somewhat to a number of music activities from a number of celebrated African groups performing in various festivals in London. There is also African records review, etc.*

**11 PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS 22**

*News tidbits from West African countries.*

**SPORTS 26**

Published weekly by Talking Drums Publications Ltd.  
Madhav House, 68 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2HU  
Telephone: 01-482 2165  
Typeset by Paragraphics Ltd, 2-4 Rufus Street, London N1  
Telephone: 01-739 7821/2  
Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.  
Editor ELIZABETH OHENE

Printed by Essex Web Offset Limited (T.U.) at  
Printing House, Magnolia Road, Rochford, Essex.  
Telephone: Southend (0702) 546333.

# COMMENT

## JUDGE NOT THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED

At which point is it reasonable to judge the performance of a government? Four years, eighteen months, two months or do you take a look on the very day they assume power and decide that they would never make it?

Since the customary three, four or five years that make up the life of a government under a constitution do not seem to count for very much in our part of the world and the people normally don't get a chance to make their judgement at the polls, it would be a good idea to try and agree on a reasonable time table within which a government can be judged.

Barely two months after President Babangida had assumed power, the plotters had started "their evil machinations" and this was supposed to be proof that their motives were selfish and had nothing to do with the good of Nigeria.

It is probably impertinent to ask now at what point the December 31, 1983 coup was plotted or, for that matter, the August 27, 1985 one. At what point was it recognised that General Buhari had to go or that ex-President Shagari was a disaster for Nigeria? The point might be made that it was the patriotic day of Maj-Gen. Abacha and his colleagues to have spared Nigeria the agony of the 19 months of the Buhari rule or at least to have limited it to six months or whatever the period was that they considered his rule to have been acceptable.

After the civilian government was overthrown, it was widely reported that billions of Naira had been stolen by the politicians. Some might wonder whether the country might not have saved a few more billions if the coup which ousted them had been staged a year or two or three or even four years earlier and thus preventing the looting altogether . . . It does not take very long to realise that this line of thinking can be carried to the ridiculous.

Over in Ghana, the last two constitutionally elected civilian governments lasted for about two years each and by the end of that period, Acheampong and then Rawlings had decided Busia and Limann were irredeemable and booted them out of office. Obviously if the same criterion had been used on Acheampong and Rawlings, the results would have been very revealing.

Two years into the Acheampong regime, the economic situation was "good" (at least compared to what Ghanaians have later learnt to endure) thanks to the bumper harvest that he inherited. However, by the time his colleagues ousted him from power another five years later, he had completely destroyed Ghana in every way imaginable — the economy was destroyed, every sphere of life had deteriorated to alarming proportions that nobody could have imagined at the beginning of the Acheampong regime. Obviously, if Acheampong had been overthrown two years after he seized power, Ghana would have been saved a lot of headaches and yet one can envisage that his apologists would have been able to claim that his was a "golden age".

Perhaps it is worth recalling that when he staged his coup he told the whole world that he had started the plan for the coup within six months of Busia winning the elections; in other words, the coup had nothing to do with the performance of the government he had overthrown.

There is the theory that the second Rawlings coup of December 31, 1981 had nothing to do with the

performance of the Limann Administration, because he had determined to stage a coup anyway and his handing over of power to an elected government had all been a big charade. According to this theory, the plot to overthrow Limann was germinated even before the hapless man had assumed power and thus the two years he stayed in power was of no significance really because that just happens to be the amount of time it took Rawlings to complete his plans to stage the coup.

Two years into the Rawlings regime, things could not have been any worse in the life of any country with widespread famine, political murders and the collapse of all infrastructure. If his performance had had to be judged at the end of the same period that he had allowed Limann, there is no doubt that the general consensus would have been abject failure.

However, having held onto power and lasted into his fifth year now, and with the reappearance of food and goods on the market, he has been able to improve on his "performance" and an evaluation today would be very different from the report card he would have got in 1983.

The lesson seems to be that the present trend of performance of a government being evaluated by a group of army officers is less than satisfactory. In spite of the brave claim that is being made by the top brass of the Armed Forces today that a coup needs the support of the people to succeed, the fact remains that in practice, that is not really true.

Very few people in the West African region are willing to challenge soldiers, especially the gun-totting variety that are common on our streets and all that is usually needed for a coup to succeed is to get enough officers in strategic positions to support the plot or to promise them the ministerial positions that they crave. Or, as has happened in Ghana on occasions, all it needs is for a few determined soldiers to shoot their way into the radio station and the rest of the soldiers will fall in line after a few days, the civilians will also follow.

We would like to suggest that it is not the time span after which a government assumes power within which a coup plot is hatched that should determine whether it is acceptable or not; the evaluation of the performance of a government ought not to be the preserve of soldiers or any exclusive group. That is a right that should remain with the people. When any group of people arrogate to themselves the right to evaluate and deliver their judgement on a government, then we cannot help but get into the never ending syndrome of coups.

It is refreshing to note that the soldiers themselves — in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia are now loudest in proclaiming that there have been too many coups and that stability is needed for any development to take place. That is a message that should properly be addressed to those offering the advice.

Unfortunately, these protestations will only attain some legitimacy when they themselves disclaim the right they have conferred upon themselves to be the ultimate arbiter of public competence and morality and when they receive their own power from being elected by the people.

Otherwise it makes it difficult to appreciate why they should not be judged by the same yardstick that they had used to measure their predecessors.

## Rawlings' weight

Obesity appears to be a worrying problem for Ghana's heads of state. The wife of a former president of Ghana once told the nation in a publication in a local daily newspaper that her husband liked palm soup and 'nkantomire' (Spinach) very much, apparently to forestall gossip about prosperity and 'chopping' in case the president started putting on weight.

Flt-Lt. Rawlings, leader of the 'revolution', is reported to have explained to the world the reason why he has put on weight. During the opening of the congress of the African Trades Union Unity (OATUU) on February 6, 1986, in Accra, he said that he had drastically cut down the number of cigarettes which he smokes, and no longer inhaled the smoke at all. He added that the advice was given to him in China during his visit six months ago (*Talking Drums*, February 24, 1986).

In Cape Coast, Sekondi and Makola markets in Ghana, there are prosperous traders who are very fat. If a reduction in or abstinence from smoking can induce obesity according to Chairman Rawlings' prescription from China, why is it that the workers, light smokers and non-smokers, keep on losing weight?

After four years of progressive devaluation on cumulative basis for a 'trans-Atlantic' economic recovery programme in Ghana which has now ended without any recovery in the country, the people of Ghana are no longer tightening their belts, because there is virtually no abdomen for the purpose, yet the 'revolutionaries' have been putting on weight in arithmetic progression.

In line with the PNDC's policy of 'conscientizing the people', I think it would have been logical if Rawlings had rather said that he ate 'waakyi' (mixed rice and beans) or 'yokegarri' (garri and beans) very often to increase his weight, as his reason for the development of obesity is ludicrous.

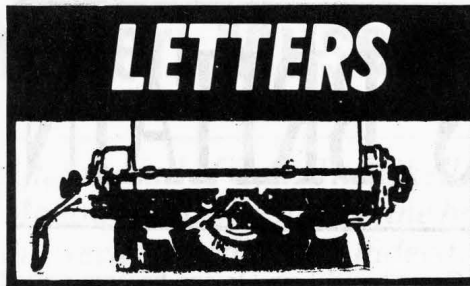
The end of a professional magician finally comes when his spirits abruptly abandon him. He then runs away from the stage to avoid being beaten up by the spectators for deception as nothing happens by his incantations, no matter how loud he conjures.

The PNDC members and their cohorts are currently seeing the demise of their 'revolution' and are terribly agitated. In a situation like this people are driven to resort to foolish antics that deceive no one.

*Kwesi Hammond, Amman, Jordan*

## Show of toughness?

The news of the execution of ten military men convicted of conspiracy to overthrow the AFRC in Lagos last week March 5, 1986, came as a great shock to me and, I



am sure, many Nigerians, especially considering the fact that the tribunal which tried them hardly had the ink dry on the judgement paper and the appeals were yet to be heard.

The haste in which the executions were carried out suggests that the AFRC wanted to get them out of the way before international pressures for clemency began to flood in.

And yet General Babangida is well-known for his genial smile that some people had mistaken for lack of resoluteness and firmness. In this context I think your COMMENT (March 10, 1986) headed "The contradictory smile" was very prophetic as the president has unequivocally proved that even though he is prepared to allow debate on all issues affecting the welfare of the state and relax the draconian decrees imposed by the previous regime, when the security of his own government is threatened from within or without, he takes the final decisions and acts swiftly.

*Salami Ajuko, London*

## More than meets the eyes, sir

Re: Educating Ghanaian children in Cuba: countering some popular misconceptions. I have read the article by Mr Emmanuel A. Annor carefully and congratulate him for his well-researched piece on the Cuban education system.

However, without holding any brief for Mrs Owusu-Appiah of Germany, whose original letter provoked the reply, I still hold the view that there are quite a number of things wrong with sending hundreds of children to Cuba, the economic situation prevailing at the time notwithstanding. For one thing, the selection of these children was not competitive in the sense that no examinations were conducted to ensure that the material was of good quality. One can imagine the problem this may cause in the future when, like SOME of the Eastern-trained Ghanaians in the 60's who got scholarships because of their parent's party connections, they faced problems on their return home.


Secondly, if the Cuba education is as good as Mr Annor claims it is, why is it that a separate school has been set up for them instead of mixing with regular Cuban children? These and many other question marks over the whole project lead some of us to think that the

government accepted the offer with the knowledge that the children are in Cuba for something more than academic pursuit.

*James Aduhene, Chingford, London*

## Air Travel News


West  
Africa



*REDCOAT now brings its very own low cost  
AFRICA BULGE specialist air travel service*

**FREETOWN ... Sierra Leone**  
**MONROVIA ... Liberia**  
**ABIDJAN ... Ivory Coast**  
**ACCRA ... Ghana**  
**BANJUL ... The Gambia**  
**LAGOS ... Nigeria**

*Today, a call to REDCOAT ensures swift  
economic air travel to our highly  
specialist destinations*



**REDCOAT**  
Air Travel

10-12 High Street, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7AY  
tel: (0293) 774141 telex: 87337

## VIDEO SCENE EXPORT CENTRE



**21-23 BEDFORD HILL, BALHAM  
LONDON SW12**  
Tel: 01-675 6062/01-673 3272

TROPICALISED TVs AND VIDEO RECORDERS AT DISCOUNT PRICES +  
CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES IN OUR LUCKY INVOICE NUMBERS DRAW

<b>VIDEO RECORDERS (Video Lok/Alarm Now In Stock)</b>	
NATIONAL NV450 VHS R/CONTROL New Low Price	£280
NATIONAL NV730 VHS R/CONTROL 4/8 hrs New Low Price	£355
PANASONIC NV830 VHS R/CONTROL Hi Fi Stereo	£375
PANASONIC NV870 VHS R/CONTROL Hi Fi Stereo New Model	£515
PANASONIC NV630 PX VHS R/CONTROL Dual System	£475
JVC HRD120EM VHS R/CONTROL Dual System	£345
JVC HRD150EC VHS R/CONTROL New Slim Line Model	£345
JVC HRD725 VHS R/CONTROL 4/8 hrs Hi Fi Stereo	£615
SHARP V471 VHS R/CONTROL (7 system)	£425
<b>SPECIAL PACKAGE DEAL TV &amp; VIDEO:</b>	
PANASONIC TC211 20" COLOUR TV +	
PANASONIC NV370/VHS VIDEO	£475
PANASONIC 26" RIC COLOUR TV +	
NATIONAL NV450 RIC VIDEO	£565
<b>UK &amp; AFRICA SPECIAL:</b>	
JVC 20" 7 System TV + SHARP 7 System VIDEO	£730
<b>COLOUR TELEVISIONS:</b>	
PANASONIC TC430 14"	£175
PANASONIC TC431 14" R/CONTROL	£195
PANASONIC TC211 20"	£240
PANASONIC TC212 20" R/CONTROL	£275
PANASONIC TC2255 22" R/CONTROL	£295
PANASONIC TC 2633 26" R/CONTROL Special Price	£295
JVC 7755CB 20" R/CONTROL (7 system)	£349
JVC AV20ME 20" R/CONTROL (9 system)	£465
SONY KV1614 16" R/CONTROL	£260
SONY KV2062 20" R/CONTROL	£295
SONY KV2064 R/CONTROL Stereo	£345
SONY KV2215 22" R/CONTROL	£350
SONY KV2762 27" R/CONTROL	£355
SONY KV2764 27" R/CONTROL (stereo)	£395
SONY KV2730 27" R/CONTROL (stereo)	£445
SHARP 21" COLOUR TV R/CONTROL Stereo (11 System)	£375
<b>ALSO AVAILABLE: PORTABLE VIDEOS, VIDEO CAMERAS, ALL-IN-ONE UNIT VIDEO CAMERA, SW1, SW2 RADIO-CASSETTES, TVs AND VIDEOS TO USE IN U.K. AND AFRICA WITHOUT CONVERSION</b>	
Fridges, Fridge-Freezers, Chest Freezers, Gas & Electric Cookers AIR AND SEA FREIGHT ARRANGED AT LOW COST	
<b>WIN</b>	
1ST PRIZE - 22" Panasonic Colour TV	
2ND PRIZE - Sharp VC371 VHS Video	
3RD PRIZE - Hitachi TRK7620 radiocass	
<b>IN OUR LUCKY INVOICE NUMBER DRAW</b>	
To qualify: Buy goods worth £500 and over during September '85 - March '86.	
<b>DRAW TO TAKE PLACE ON 31st MARCH '86</b>	

# STRANGERS' BRITAIN

## Victim grabs thieves' cash

Two bungling thieves tried to rob a post office — and lost their own money.

They strolled up to the counter, brought out two £50 notes and asked for change.

One speaking in broken English tricked the clerk, Mrs Rita Patel, into opening a security window and then tried to grab the money inside.

But Rita was too fast for him. She held on to her money and snatched the £50 notes too.

They fought a tug of war over the cash until the robber gave in and asked for his £100 back.

Rita refused and told him: "You tried to rob me, I'm calling the police."

The robber, a smartly-dressed Asian man, and his accomplice, a teenage girl, fled from the post office in Tatling Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

Rita handed the £100 to police. An officer said later: "Needless to say, the robbers haven't come to us to try to claim it."

## Thief caught on camera

A bungling thief took his own "wanted" photographs.

Matthew Roe-Barnett, 17, asked a taxi-driver to pick him up at a store in Chichester, Sussex, so he could rob him.

While he was waiting, he decided to kill time by having his photographs taken in an automatic booth.

Then, when he saw the cabbie looking for him in the store, he dashed out, stole £48 takings from the taxi and fled.

But the cabbie found the photographs he left behind — and the police put them on TV.

Roe-Barnett, of Old Shoreham Road, Hove, Sussex, was sent to a detention centre for two months by Chichester magistrates.

## Girl raped by killer stepfather

Pretty teenager Karen Onions was raped by her demented stepfather after he killed her mother and brother.

Brunette Karen, 17, woke from her sleep to find drunk barman David Onions strangling her.

But after choking her unconscious he became sexually aroused and raped her.

Sobbing Karen watched from the public gallery as Newcastle-upon-Tyne Crown

Court heard how Onions became crazed when his wife Margaret, 42, taunted him about sex.

He strangled her as they lay in bed — then decided to wipe out the rest of the family before killing himself.

Onions, 24, battered his 11-year-old sleeping stepson Terry with a hammer — then crept into Karen's bedroom.

Onions, of Old Durham Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was jailed for life after admitting two murders, attempted murder and rape.

## Killer is the new minister

A man jailed for murder in 1979 is taking over as minister of two churches.

The Rev. James Nelson, given parole after serving nine years of a life sentence for killing his mother, became a Church of Scotland clergyman in 1983.

Congregations in Chapelhall and Calderbank, Lancashire, voted overwhelmingly to accept him as minister.

## 40 pints kills a boozer

A shop-keeper died after drinking the equivalent of 40 pints of beer in a mammoth binge.

Bhimbo Keshwara, 31, was more than ten times over the drivers' alcohol limit when he collapsed at a police station.

A pathologist said at the inquest in Walthamstow, North London: "It's difficult to see how he was ever alive with that level."

Keshwara, of Chingford, East London, called a minicab after a night of boozing.

He downed half a bottle of vodka in the car and passed out.

When the driver could not find Keshwara's home he drove him to the police station.

Verdict: Misadventure.

## Two pee on beer

Two boozers have been banned from their local for peeing in the beer.

When nature called on a trip round a brewery they just couldn't wait . . . so they watered down a 10,000 pint of best bitter.

Horried bosses had flushed all the contaminated beer — worth £7,000 down the drain. The disgraced duo were among 80 regulars from the Cambridge Hotel, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, who went on a courtesy visit to Sam Smith's Brewery in

Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

Unfortunately, they supped too many samples of the brewery's famous ale for comfort. Landlord Tony Bevington, 32, says he won't have the pair back in his pub. The brewery's personnel manager, director Bryan Askew, said: "There were some high jinks from a couple of the visitors, but the matter is now closed."

## Bells are ringing for 999 bride

Panic-stricken bride Helen Hayes called out the fire brigade when her car got stuck in the snow two hours before her wedding. The gallant firemen responded by beating the drifts in a Land Rover to collect her from her home in Brightstone, Isle of Wight.

Then they whisked Helen and bridesmaid Helen Dabell off to the brigade's Newport HQ where they changed into their wedding clothes.

Finally a fire engine delivered them at the town's register office in time for the ceremony.

Grateful Helen, 22, said afterwards: "It was rather romantic and I can laugh about it now — but it was not so funny when I realised I might never get out of the house."

## Breaking up

On a short tube journey last week I logged the following:

Pay phones out of order: four out of six. Ticket machines out of order: eight out of ten. Lifts out of order: two (newly-installed) out of two. Escalators out of order: one out of two. Passport photo booths out of order: one out of two. Chocolate machines out of order: two out of three. Public clocks out of order, two out of three.

Is England coming apart at the seams or was this an off-day?

*Keith Waterhouse — Daily Mirror*

## Ripper goes for Japanese cars

A tyre-slasher with a yen for Japanese cars is leaving drivers with a sinking feeling. He is causing havoc deflating Hondas, Datsuns, Mazdas and Nissans. One driver was forced to spend over £500 on new tyres. Others have traded in their cars for British or European models.

The rippers worst attacks were after TV showed the Japanese prisoner of war film, 'Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence'. "Several cars were done in that night," said hotel manager, Alan Brokes, whose Mazda has been slashed *four* times.

The ripper has struck in Oxten and Cloughton, Birkenhead.

# Traps ahead of Yoweri Museveni

by Ebo Quansah

In societies built on conscience, leaders are elected. In Africa, they are self-imposed. Mr Yoweri Museveni's rise to the high office of President of Uganda owes its origin to the success of his guerrilla forces of the National Resistance Army over the Ugandan National Liberation Army.

The euphoria of liberation from the tyranny that has been the lot of this East African nation appears to have overshadowed the basic fact that the new Head of State could locate his constituency only in the barrel of the gun.

The freedom perceived by the people to have replaced the torture, rape, murder and all kinds of atrocities committed by previous Governments has influenced the people to welcome Mr Museveni with such reverence that could only be compared to the Biblical welcome of Moses' delivery of the Israelites.

The western media, noted for their expert exposures only when third world dictators are overthrown, have made much fetish of the modesty of the new leadership and given all sorts of reasons why Mr Museveni is the only person capable of leading Uganda to the promised

*After the fall of Gen. Tito Okello's government and the advent of Mr Yoweri Museveni onto the hot seat of Ugandan Presidency, the western media and, indeed, African media are enthusing on the return of peace to the embattled nation. This writer reminds the new leaders of the obvious pitfalls that confront him.*

land. Ironically, the same media had given enough cause, six months earlier, to believe that Gen. Tito Okello's coup was the best medicine to cure the ills of Uganda.

The *Guardian* of London, in a despatch from Kampala harped on Mr Museveni's decision not to sleep on a bed in the Government House because it was extravagant. Instead, said the paper, the President had 'ordered one from a local carpenter'.

Without any corresponding analysis, the paper leads the reader into the conclusion that the decision to go 'local' is a symbol of modesty. (In Africa, it is not uncommon for local products to effectively compete with imported goods in prices).

Profiling the President under the caption "Yoweri Museveni — Guerrilla who ended a nightmare", *The Observer* of Sunday, February 9, wrote: "In the main street of Kampala one day last week an old man was knocked down by a car. Two young soldiers, their AK47s slung across their shoulders, sprinted along the pavement. When they found he was not badly hurt, they lifted the old man to his feet and helped him to a wall where he could sit and get his breath back.

"In a country where soldiers have for so long stood ONLY (emphasis mine) for murder, rape and pillage, such an incident still causes amazement." The paper added that anytime Museveni's forces raided a bank during the guerrilla warfare, they left an IOU.

"Even the bankrupt economy does not daunt him because Uganda is naturally so lush and productive." Summing up his hopes and aspirations, Mr Museveni is quoted in these words: "All this country really needs is a good general manager. That and the extermination of corruption."

Like all ideologues, the President believes that politicising the population is the only path to the goal. "It is a matter of raising political consciousness."

This article aims at drawing attention to the various traps ahead of Mr Museveni, in particular, and African heads who are easily taken in by initial adulation into abandoning their set goals.

Footballers would tell you that the greatest temptation on the field is playing

to the gallery. Sweet, flowing football with square passes is pleasing to the eye and therefore any teams that indulge in such acts are more likely to receive the approval of the crowd than those that do not.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to get anything meaningful by way of goals which are all the game is about, from merely pleasing the crowd. Likewise, in real life, attempting to please has the tendency of producing a negative effect. In Africa, it is not uncommon for leadership to denounce previous rulers' lifestyle only to employ security as reason enough to pursue a career that pales those of the predecessors into insignificance.

When the late Kutu Acheampong overthrew Ghana's Second Republic Prime Minister Kofi Abrefa Busia in 1972, he

## SPECIAL AIRFREIGHT TO WEST AFRICA AND SHIPPING NEWS

UK PENCE

CITIES	PER KILO
ACCRA	1 00
LAGOS	95
KANO	95
PORT HARCOURT	1 20
ABIDJAN	2 40
BANJUL	2 40
FREETOWN	2 40

Count on our reliable shipping services by air or sea.

More and more people are using our shipping services to Ghana, Nigeria and all West African countries. We are principal shipping agents for most of the Ghanaian and Nigerian institutions and other foreign governments in the UK.

We also offer groupage container services to all West African ports.

CONTACT THE EXPERTS NOW!!

ATWIMA  
SHIPPING CO LTD

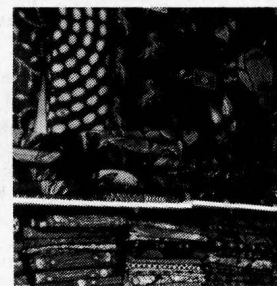
38 DRUID STREET,  
LONDON SE1

TEL: 403 1728 or 403 2377  
AFTER WORKING HOURS  
TEL 539 2409

## RAMAR

55 Bedford Hill, Balham, LONDON SW12  
Tel: 01-673 8130

THE MOST POPULAR  
AFRICAN SHOP IN BALHAM



Specialists in Dutch and English Wax Prints; Java, Brisi, Motors, Mazins, Siasaka, Duku, African Carvings, Afro Shirts and Tops, African Records.

We also have in stock:  
African foods (Akrante and other bush meats), Fish, Gari, Yam (Pona), Snails, etc.  
Fashion Jewellery.

Come and see for yourself!

Opening Hours:

9am - 6pm Monday-Friday

9am - 1pm Wednesday (Halfday)

3 minutes walk from Balham Tube Station

decried the former Oxford University professor's two-man motorcade and chose to ride in his worn-out Datsun car. Later, when the 'security of the state' became paramount, the Colonel found it necessary to move around the country in a motorcade about a quarter of a mile long of the latest models of Benz and Peugeot cars.

On the day of his coup of December 31, 1981, Flt-Lt. Jerry Rawlings saw the Castle, Ghana's seat of Government as a sanctuary where a few people, isolated from the problems of the nation sat, put on weight, and created more problems for the entire population. Today, Rawlings not only lives at the Castle, fewer people are deciding for the lean and hungry populace who bear the full weight of his IMF/World Bank inspired Economic Recovery Programme.

In Liberia, Master Sergeant Doe sounded musical in people's ears when he pointed to the dominance of the Americo-Liberians in local politics to justify his bloody coup of April 1980. Today, Liberian law is the gospel according to Samuel Doe. Needless to say, the average Liberian is worse off than before.

Eyadema, (Togo), Mobutu (Zaire), Mengistu (Ethiopia) are but few of the African heads who took power promising by example to lead the people into improved economic life only to end up out-doing kings and barons in their extravagance while the problems for which they sacrificed human lives continue to multiply. Admittedly, the worsening of the economic problems might not have been entirely the fault of the new leaders, but much could have been averted.

Uganda's problems are too enormous to be dismissed in simple terms. With those he drove out of Kampala regrouping in the north, Mr Museveni might definitely be aware that the war is far from over. No one would want it but it is unlikely for Uganda to follow the trail of Chad, where civil warfare has charted the people's path for the past decade.

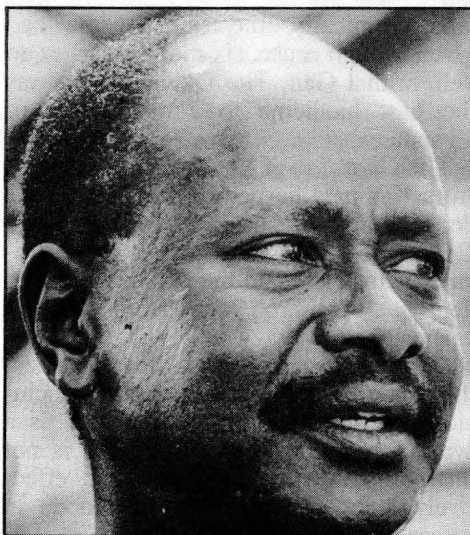
Even if the President is able to avert civil war, tribal sentiments that have fragmented a united nation, is too formidable a task to allow the president enough time to indulge in frivolities like which type of bed to sleep on.

If there is any philosophy worth recommending it must be George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The fourth in the original seven commandments spelling out the spirit of *Animal Farm* was unambiguous: "NO ANIMAL SHALL SLEEP ON A BED". Having tasted the sweetness of power the pigs found it necessary to add "... WITH SHEETS" to the original clause to justify their new life-styles.

In Africa, as in all third world countries, post-mortem always takes precedence over symptoms. And when the time comes for the judgement of his administration, Mr Museveni would discover that the index might not be the

kind of bed he slept on or whether he slept at all.

The weight of the judgement would depend on the quality of life of the ordinary man. There is every assurance that when it comes to such evaluation, the western media currently singing his praises would never be outstaged. Assigning reasons for his downfall would be as religious as has ever been.



• Museveni: ninth Head of State since Uganda's independence — the President who waged war against three of his predecessors.

---

**Footballers would tell you that the greatest temptation on the field is playing to the gallery. Sweet flowing football with square passes is pleasing to the eye . . . unfortunately it is very difficult to get anything meaningful by way of goals which are all the game is about.**

---

That Mr Museveni is a popular figure is never in doubt. One other certainty is that the popularity owes its genesis more to the atrocities of the past than any charisma the new president could command. As a political science graduate, Mr Museveni could obviously interpret the sound thrashing the political party he helped form to contest the 1980 elections in its right perspective. The fact that he himself fared badly in his own constituency should give him an idea of his public rating.

If he should have an enviable place in

Ugandan history, Mr Museveni should not abandon his decision to return the country to constitutional rule in the near future.

Very soon, he would start to receive delegations of chiefs and local leaders urging him to declare himself life president. Such pleas are normally buttressed by the need to ensure continuity in nation building. If and when the President is bombarded by such request, he would realise later that the decision to agree to their plea is the first step towards a permanent exile.

So far there is everything to say about the discipline of his guerilla forces. But how far they could go with this kind of comportment would depend on the type of education available to them in peace time. Unless they are super human, it would be difficult to perceive them playing the samaritan role without proper training.

With the war ending and nothing much to do, the guerrillas might find their patience running out and turn to atrocities as their means of retribution on a population whose future they themselves have secured. Every effort should therefore be made to integrate those who qualify into the mainstream of Ugandan Armed Forces.

After his success in the physical combat, Mr Museveni is being tempted to believe that the economic war would also be easy. Economic wars have defied conquest in Africa since the dawn of self-Government. The late Kutu Acheampong, a Colonel who rose to five-star General in the course of his reign, could not capture the "commanding height" of the economy until a palace coup bungled him out of power.

Ghana's first President sought the political kingdom en route to economic salvation. With all his charisma Dr Nkrumah never reached the economic heaven he envisaged.

The Ugandan economy is bruised and battered. Years of civil strife has left vital sectors of the economy not attended. Like Ghana, Uganda is a one crop economy deriving most of its international revenue from coffee exports. Unless there is a genuine attempt at diversification the future will be bleak.

As an ideologue Mr Museveni seems to place much emphasis on the politicisation of the people. Educating the people to be aware of their civic responsibilities is a pre-requisite to effective government. The danger, however, lies in using ideology as the basis for dividing the people.

If Mr Museveni persists in seeking the political kingdom in the hope that like Dr Nkrumah, "all other things shall be added unto it," he would discover too late that like the ex-Ghanaian Head of State, not only had he missed the economic salvation, but that the entire kingdom of Uganda for which he spent five years in the bush, had slipped from his grasp.

# Ghana: why the killings go on

The PNDC accepts abduction, murder and executions as extensions of its policies by other means. Chairman Rawlings presides over a particularly violent regime. To anyone familiar with his views and the ideas of the key people around him, this should come as no surprise. They all believe in the use of violence as a means of coercive control.

Before he seized power in December 1981, Rawlings often stressed the need for any government he led to kill as many Ghanaians as possible; not only to rid the regime of actual and potential critics but also to create a climate of fear which would allow him and his cronies to do as they pleased.

Therefore when he overthrew the civilian government on 31st December 1981, one of his first actions was to set up special squads under the late Warrant Officer Kingston of Airforce Station, Accra, to eliminate Military Intelligence personnel, soldiers and civilians suspected of being "enemies of the Revolution" and people unfortunate enough to have incurred Rawlings and some of his powerful supporters displeasure. In the early days of the Rawlings revolution, the order "Send him to Kingston" was the

*Following the mysterious death of Catholic Father Charles Kukah and the speculation as to the motives for his death, our Special Correspondent explains the modus operandi of the official hit-squad in Ghana today.*

pre-arranged signal that whoever it was, was to be sent to the airforce base to be killed by Kingston's men.

It was one of these squads under a Sergeant-Major Konu of the Recce Regiment which went to the headquarters of the First Brigade to abduct Major Nangtoma, kill him in an armoured car and then dump his body on the road to the Airforce Station, Accra, from Arakan Barracks. Until his own rather mysterious death, said to be at the hands of other soldiers, Kingston was the chief executioner of the PNDC.

This article is not designed to call names (that will come much later) but to describe in general terms the reign of terror which Rawlings and his minions have created in Ghana.

After Kingston's death, the special squads were reorganised and placed directly under the Operations Branch of the PNDC Headquarters. Extra men and women were recruited from the Armed Forces, Police and the civilian population. The criterion for admission into these groups was proven loyalty to Rawlings and Kojo Tsikata. There were indications to suggest that only Rawlings, Kojo Tsikata and the Chief Operations Officer at the PNDC Headquarters, could authorise their "special operations".

Armed with their AK 47s and machine pistols, they killed and spread fear throughout the country. It was from one of such groups that the men who kidnapped and killed the judges and the retired Army officer came. They could be easily identified as they made no attempt to hide what they were doing.

This was soon to change. Following the enquiry which probed the abduction and murder of the judges, the activities of these groups came under increasing criticism; especially from the group of Ghanaians who had been invited by Rawlings to join his government to save the sinking ship. They argued that the PNDC would not obtain the assistance it urgently required then if the murder squads were allowed to operate so openly. There were also signs that members of these squads were not as professional as their bosses desired. Their handiwork was easily traceable. Rawlings and his cronies therefore decided that:

●The level of activity of the groups should be scaled down until the deal with

the IMF was secured.

●Members of these groups should be re-trained locally and in such places as Libya and Bulgaria.

●Foreign assistance should be sought from East Germany and Libya in the running of their operations.

●Until further notice, the PNDC was to make friendly noises about reconciliation and the need for discipline; and be prepared to sacrifice a few of their own zealots, if the need arose.

●The new operational policy of the special squads should be to concentrate operations against the less well known rather than prominent Ghanaians; therefore unlikely to attract attention and create the kind of problems which might prejudice the PNDC's ability to obtain the

## AFRO-CARIBBEAN STORES (Cosmetics)

484 Kingsland Road,  
Dalston Junction, London E8.  
Tel: 01-249 4183

**We are just open to cater for your popular requirements.**

You cannot miss us. We are five minutes' walk from the Dalston Market on the main Kingsland Road towards Liverpool Street.

We are specialists in all kinds of cosmetics, hair products, Dutch and English wax prints, Java, Brisi, Siasaka, Duku shoes, bags, pants, plaits.

We are both wholesalers and retailers.

Come and see for yourself.

Opening hours: 9.30am - 6.00pm  
(Monday-Saturday)

Also K&D Transport and Removals.  
Tel 01-249 4183 (daytime)  
01-552 2645 (after 6.00pm)

Quality Tropicalised  
Products at  
Discount Prices  
All sets correspond to

Ghana's TV requirements

### COLOUR TELEVISIONS

Sony KV2732 27 Stereo 2 Speakers Infra r c	£455.00
Sony KV2764 27 Stereo 2 Speakers Infra r c	£375.00
Sony KV2762 27 Infra r c	£360.00
Sony KV2215 22 Infra r c	£345.00
Sony KV2064 20 Stereo 2 Speakers Infra r c	£345.00
Sony KV2232 22 Stereo 2 Speakers Infra r c	£395.00
Panasonic TC2648 26 Stereo Infra r c	£359.00
Panasonic TC2645 26 Infra r c	£330.00
Panasonic TC2245 22 Infra r c	£285.00
Panasonic TC223 20 Infra r c	£265.00
Panasonic TC1647 16 Infra r c	£205.00
Panasonic TC431 14 Infra r c	£190.00
Panasonic TC430 14 Touch Tune	£170.000
JVC 7755 7 System 20 Inc UK Infra r c	£345.00
Sony KV2062 20 Infra r c	£290.00

### VIDEO RECORDERS

Sharp VC481 Front Load Cord r c	£240.00
Sharp VC482 Front Load Infra r c	£295.00
Panasonic NV430 Front Load Infra r c	£320.00
Panasonic NV730 4 8 Hour 2 Speed Infra r c	£335.00
Panasonic NV830 Hi-Fi Stereo Infra r c	£395.00
Panasonic NV850 Hi-Fi Stereo Infra r c	£465.00
Panasonic NV630 Multi System Infra r c	£495.00
Panasonic NV180 Portable and VVET 180 Tuner	£595.00
JVC HRD 120MS Multi System Infra r c	£395.00
JVC HRD 150 VHS Infra r c	£335.00

★ ★ STAR BARGAINS ★ ★ STAR BARGAINS ★ ★  
Sony SLF30 Slimline Beta Infra r c Video £315.00  
Sony SLT30ME 3 Sysateme Beta Infra r c Video £395.00  
Philips VHS UK EXP. Multi System r c Video £435.00  
Sanyo 20. Colour Television Infra r c £259.00  
National NV450 VHS Infra r c Video £260.00  
National NV250 VHS Front Loading Video £235.00

Buy with confidence. we will match any genuine price offered.

We have tropicalised fridge freezers — gas electric cookers — Honda generators — pressure kerosene stoves and lanterns — electric fans — food mixers. Voltage regulators from £25.00

### HI-FI GENERAL

39-43 Bedford Hill, Balham, London SW12  
Tel: 01-673 5694 5, 01-675 5027

Nearest Underground (Tube) Balham Northern Line





assistance it required. It was however obvious that if Rawlings and his cronies were sufficiently riled, they could order the murder of any prominent Ghanaian they perceived to be a threat.

During the period of reduced activity, Rawlings and his gang intensified their efforts to recruit foreign gunmen to deal with Ghanaian dissidents abroad. But approaches to the Libyans, Cubans, East Germans and other countries in the Soviet Bloc did not appear to yield the results desired; presumably because they were not prepared to do the regime's dirty work for them. The East Germans and the Bulgarians, however, agreed to train and help advise the security machine Kojo Tsikata was creating at considerable financial cost to the country. But action by the PNDC against dissidents abroad should not be entirely discounted. It could come if the regime is under considerable internal pressure; and might well be carried out either by trained Ghanaians or hired guns.

Once the deal with the IMF was secured and the Paris Club committed itself to assist Ghana, the abductions and killings resumed with ferocious intensity. The victims were seized at night or at places where their seizure would not excite comment. They were taken to one of the designated execution grounds scattered all over the country and simply done away with. Or they were abducted from the prisons or their places of detention and shot. Lately the modus operandi seems to be to take the unfortunate man or woman to a remote place in Ghana, kill them and leave them to rot there.

To deflect undue attention from the activities of the murder squads, the PNDC would, from time to time, announce the death penalty for Ghanaians for serious criminal offences. This was usually followed by reports of attempted coups, the arrest and the execution of suspects. What the outsider did not know was that these announcements were often the signal for the kidnapping and the murder of Ghanaians targeted by the security machine. The purpose of these announcements had a two-fold objective: to create the feeling abroad that executions and murder were the norm in Ghana; and to discount reports of secret killings so as to prevent a noisy foreign press from poking its nose into what was happening in Ghana.

Paid apologists of the PNDC were then used to peddle the line that executions were the sort of thing to be expected in Ghana anyway.

Because Rawlings and his cronies have sanctioned kidnappings and executions, some of their more powerful supporters have taken the law into their hands. Soldiers who see their superiors routinely despatch Ghanaians to the world beyond, have also done so; knowing that if they

are lucky and have the right connections, they will not be punished. Of course occasionally a few have been sacrificed for public relations purposes.

Estimates of the numbers of Ghanaians who have been killed vary. One puts the figure at 3,000 but I prefer to accept the figure of 5,000 which a reliable source has claimed as a realistic toll. On the basis of what is happening, this figure could be a conservative estimate.

Various places all over Ghana have been identified as locations for executions. A sample of some of these places in the Accra area is set out below to give readers an indication of the extent to which the Rawlings regime is prepared to go to kill its own people:

- Airforce Station.
- Taungup Range — behind Burma Camp.
- The vast area between the Airforce Station and Arakan Barracks.
- The area behind Recce Regiment.
- The Labadi and Black Star Square beaches.
- Michel Camp.

There are reports too suggesting that secret killings also take place in the Castle, Osu.

---

**The sad part of this whole affair  
is that there are families in  
Ghana today who do not know  
where their relations are,  
believing that once they do not see  
them, they have fled the country.**

---

Very often those who are killed are taken to be buried in prison cemeteries. For the Accra area, Nsawam Prison cemetery is a convenient location. In the early days of the "revolution", the dead were sometimes buried behind the Military Hospital. When tongues started to wag, this was stopped. Many were dumped into the sea but the Atlantic Ocean had a way of returning bodies to the shore. Some were also caught in fishermen's nets.

When this happened, the dead were taken to mortuaries and certified as drowned. The families were notified to collect the bodies. If this was not possible, the mortuaries were simply ordered to make arrangements for burial. Recently the victims have just been left in some remote bush to rot.

The sad part of this whole affair is that there are families in Ghana today who do not know where their relations are, believing that once they do not see them, they have fled the country. They will only know the truth when the pervasive climate of fear is removed. There seems to be a

conspiracy of silence, for the moment, in the country.

But there is another shameful aspect to this situation. It is the role of the diplomats representing the donor countries. It is one of acquiescence. Some have even been reported as claiming that the repression is the only way of getting the country going. This attitude is an intriguing echo of the kind of support Obote received when he accepted to work the IMF Model, even when it was evident that he was massacring his countrymen. It was only when he fell that the gruesome stories which had floated around for some time and which diplomats had described as exaggerated, began to emerge.

Which leaves one wondering whether the moral posturings of accredited representatives of the same countries elsewhere have no relevance in Ghana or in Africa. The answer must be yes if a comment attributed to a British diplomat in Uganda is true, that "This is Africa. Things are different. You cannot apply human rights standards here." But then they never learn. Just as Obote failed to create prosperity in an atmosphere of fear, so has the PNDC. Meanwhile the silly charade in which Rawlings and his blood-thirsty crew are praised as reformers, goes on. It has gone on for so long that people you expect to know better are beginning to believe this obvious propaganda.

The abductions and killings, however, do not stop; and the PNDC gets away with them. It has been lucky in this sense. But this cannot hold forever. One of these days its goons are going to make the sort of mistake which will blow the whole lid off its darker sides. And who knows what will happen? Perhaps then the donor countries may realise that they are providing the regime with blood money and be persuaded to condemn its actions at least.

## MEETING CAN

there will be a general meeting  
of the Confederation of African  
Nationals (CAN) at  
**INTERCHANGE,**  
**15 WILKIN STREET, LONDON NW5**  
(off Prince of Wales Rd)  
*Next to Kentish Town West British Rail Station*

**TIME: 4pm**

**DATE: Saturday, March 15, 1986**

**AGENDA: African women in black  
community fund raising for proposed  
community centre**

**Contact: 01-267 9054/01-482 3828**

Buses: 27, 53, 134, 214, 46, 24

# Religious revivalism — the American invasion of Africa

By Kwame Poku

In his famous compilation of his 1979 BBC Reith Lectures, *The African Condition*, Professor Ali Mazrui originated the concept of 'Religious Counter-penetration' and defined it as the capacity of evangelists and missionaries from Africa and Asia to intensify their preaching and evangelisation missions in western countries as a concrete attempt not only to reverse but also avenge the centuries of penetration and infusion of alien religions and cultures into the souls of African people. He lauds the Unification Church of Moonies for being in the vanguard of such religious counter-penetration into the citadels of western Christendom.

Of course, the Aladura Church and hordes of the Pentecostal religious groups have been following the trail of the Moonies to transport brighter lights of Christ's salvation to the morally decadent cities of Europe. And would the trend continue?

Professor Mazrui and all those who share his optimism "to pay them back in their own religious coins" may not have the grand opportunity to revel in such appeasement for long because of a new wave of counter-exodus, a kind of religious revivalism that is sweeping across the Third World and in West Africa in particular.

The invasions are from America and Western Europe. The number of American evangelists who have been trooping in and out of Ghana, to cite only one country as an example over the past year, has increased considerably.

Their activities are reminiscent of the 19th century American spiritual campaigns for repentance and conversion to the way of Christ. Open air crusades, seminars, conversions, congresses, caucuses, Christian "explosions" etc, have characterised this neo-colonialism of religious fervour. They are aided effectively by modern audio/visual gadgetry of video tapes and screens, cassette recordings, powerful public address systems, satellite transmissions, enormous literature, and extensive advertising interlaced with their spicy preaching, hymn singing and effusions of the rewards of penitence, humility and salvation. They are a type of spiritual metamorphosis that are being imported from abroad with the capacity to strike a double blow at both traditional religions and orthodox Christian religions.

It is pertinent to record that such religious revivalism began with the rapid mushrooming of independent and penta-

*The number of American evangelists trooping in and out of Ghana and other African countries in recent months on gospel mission has multiplied greatly. This writer discusses the background to this phenomenon.*

costal churches to which thousands of people flocked to "taste the new power of God". It has produced a direct and formidable challenge to the orthodox churches with their fast-running assimilation into the religious life of many people.

**It is pertinent to record that such religious revivalism began with the rapid mushrooming of independent and pentecostal churches to which thousands of people flocked to "taste the new power of God". It has produced a direct and formidable challenge to the orthodox churches with their fast-running assimilation into the religious life of many people.**

The success of these new gospel centres stemmed from the way in which the monotony of church worship so endemic in the older churches was eliminated through the introduction of danceable music and use of indigenous musical instruments in worship to which many ordinary people would identify.

The total effect has been a massive spiritual revival sweeping across the

country and certainly in other African countries as well. They offer a new quality of social life with an inherent effective mechanism for sustaining the adherents' enthusiasm for participation.

However, for anyone to belong to any of these new churches, was expensive as members were taught to shed material acquisition and to donate their harvest to God's work. Open-air crusades, camp retreats and convention congregation of thousands of followers were an easy way to accumulate donations. Most often than not, huge amounts were embezzled by so-called spiritual leaders.

There is the popular story of how the leader of a spiritual church in the country sold over ten thousand calabashes of water in a purpose-built pool as 'Holy Water' at one cedi per calabash at a single night's session!

For a time the majority of people became sceptical about the new spiritual leaders as cases of adultery, rape, open extortion and facade of pretentious spiritual healing spread and the tempo of the rediscovery of African Christian worship slackened. It was at this point in time that the introduction of flamboyant missionaries from overseas to strengthen the local evangelisation teams began and the influx has been overwhelming corresponding to a soaring of local faithful followers.

Now, some local groups are exhibiting signs of affluence with fleets of cars and the construction of big 'temples' signifying the multiplication of the infection.

## WORRIED AND DEPRESSED?

Are you unhappy with your marriage, separated from your loved ones, problems with luck, marriage, examinations, job, or any other problems?

Let "KUMAR" leading Indian Spiritual Medium who has helped thousands of people all over the world in the past 20 years help and advise you with the combination of Psychic and Occult art.

Ring: 01-802 0457  
for appointment at:

# KUMAR

289a HIGH ROAD  
TOTTENHAM  
LONDON N15

(nearest Tube Seven Sisters)

Usually the evangelists from America are in league with local gospel centres and the 'crusades' last for five or six days with some lasting up to a fortnight. It has no doubt become big business due to the huge amounts of donations that pour in daily. The interesting aspect is that each occasion promises "all cripples to walk, all blind to see, all deaf to hear, all demons to flee, all barren women to get rid of the stigma", etc, etc.

As it was intimated at the beginning Ghana has witnessed a proliferation of such 'Foreign Christian visitors' in recent months and here are a random sampling of the activities of these 'crusades'.

From October 29 to November 2, 1985, it was a 'Miracle Healing Crusade' led by the Very Reverend Reinhard Bonnke, founder and leader of Christ For All Nations, the man with the largest, 34,000 seater, Gospel Tent in the whole world, in association with the Ghana Pentecostal Church.

From November 6-8, "A life changing seminar" dubbed "World Explosion '85" was launched by the leader of the Calvary Christian Centre of Sacramento, California, Pastor Phillip Goudeaux, in collaboration with the Jubilee Christian Centre of Pig Farm, Accra. The Frontier Evangelism Mission of Reverend Tommy O'dell held his 10 days of miracle healing fiesta at Sunyani from December 3-12.

The Rev. Dr Charles Rodgers, "The World Renowned Evangelist" from the USA accompanied by his team of Pastors, Jimmy Scott, Thomas Pecker, Mart Freer, and Fay Rodgers, in association with the Living Waters Christian Centre, Kaneshie, Accra, billed their mammoth crusade for December 8-12.

The crusades for Christ Ministries in Ghana Incorporated held their *Super '85 Miracle Crusade* with Evangelist Pastor Mrs Thelma Malone of Philadelphia which lasted for nearly one month in October 1985.

At the action '85 *All Believers Christ-mas Convention*, the Action Faith Ministry (AFM) of Ghana hosted the Rev. Bobby Jean Merck Evangelistic Ministry, USA, Rev. Michael Bassett of

Hampstead School of Faith, UK, and Rev. Dr Tunde Joda of Lagos, Nigeria in a nation-wide tour of evangelism from December 24 to January 3.

According to sermons attributed to the Rev Duncan Williams, Head Pastor of AFM, "this Christmas convention under the theme of Exercising the Kingdom-power is a way of giving life to the word of God and ministering his spirit..."

---

**The great Christian Commission Movement in Ghana organised their Expo '85, a "World-wide Satellite Conference for Evangelism" at Legon from December 26-31, Reports say it was the Gospel Crusade *par exemple* which used a giant-sized video screen beaming the word of God from the USA by satellite featuring American preachers Billy Graham, Luis Palan, Bill Bright, simultaneously preaching to an audience of over 600,000 in 90 locations around the world.**

---

The great Christian Commission Movement in Ghana organised their Expo '85, a "World-wide Satellite Conference for Evangelism" at Legon from December 26-31, Reports say it was the Gospel Crusade *par exemple* which used a giant-sized video screen beaming the word of God from the USA by satellite featuring American preachers Billy Graham, Luis Palan, Bill Bright, simultaneously preaching to an audience of over 600,000 in 90 locations around the world. The huge audience at the Legon centre received them loud and clear and

interlaced this with a festival of soul-inspiring music and sermons from local preachers.

In a super watch-night service on December 31, titled 'Christofest '85', the Youth Ambassadors for Christ Association, supported by the World Gospel Supremo, T.L. Osborne and his Miracle Team from America turned the Orion Cinema Hall in Accra into an auditorium of excitement, thrills, feet-stamping and tongue-wrapping as the crowd surged and thronged unbelievably to the last minutes of 1985 with what a devotee of the YAMCA described as "an upliftment challenging and holy spirit powered programme of inspiring contemporary Christian music, drama, testimonies and messages of God's word".

The spiritual sweep is indeed phenomenal and the influx of American evangelists is very over-whelming. According to Pastor T.T. Barbor of a Pentecostal Gospel Mission in Accra, the religious genes in Ghanaians are manifesting themselves visibly. The thirst for the 'Word of God' is at an all-time high and the new generation of American preachers are reliving the spiritual revival of the forties launched by their fore-father's. "The Black diaspora bridge between African and Black Americans is being built through successful collaboration between evangelistic missions" said an Afro-American preacher of the Abundant Life Ministry based at the University of Ghana campus, Legon.

In fact, the vogue of spiritual re-birth is seeking roots in the university campuses and actually through the whole country. There are according to recent reports, nearly fifteen different groups on Legon campus alone. Called 'Born Again Christians', they spread their gospel through music, film shows and slide shows and mountains of American biblical literature and tracts. In adjoining communities, for instance in Madina near Legon, evangelistic work takes the form of personal witnessing and fellowship circles and teachings in tro-tro vehicles, bus stops, market places, hospitals and work places.



### J.M. GANDHI FIRST INDIAN

To combine the powers and secrets of astrology, palmistry, tarot and occultism to give you a more complete reading and service. Let him help you solve your problems. **Also specialising in personalised talismans.** for appointments phone between 10am-8pm.

01-965 9541



34 Brentmead Gardens,  
off Twyford Abbey Road,  
London NW10 7DS  
Near Hanger Lane Tube Station



**ADVERTISE  
IN  
TALKING  
DRUMS  
PHONE: 482 2165**

It is widely believed that there are no less than 2,000 different Christian groups or churches throughout the country. There is, of course, a stiff competition among them in the "winning of souls" and some of them go to a lot of trouble to offer fantastic promises to their adherents and the public. For instance, the Deeper Christian Life Ministry regularly organises "retreats for miracle healings, where sinners are transformed into saints and prepared for entry into heaven in grand style".

During a recent Ghanaian Broadcasting Corporation Television discussion programme, 'Talking Point', the panelists agreed that the recent severe economic and social difficulties in peoples' lives helped to heighten the crave for search for spiritual succour and deliverance and that the increasing number of the spiritual centres indicate a remarkable upturn in the whole evangelisation crusade which fulfill biblical exhortation to "all disciples to go to all corners of the land to spread the world...".

On the same programme, the Ghanaian Secretary for Culture, who is responsible for religious matters, admitted that "Government is not so much concerned with the numbers of such churches or groups as with how they practise their cults, referring to fanaticism and power

struggles therein which can trigger sectarian unrests and threaten state security and peace".

He added that the recent examples of religious squabbles were within the National Council of Pentacostal Churches, the Methodist Church and the

Islamic and Muslim associations and assured the nation that freedom of worship will be maintained as long as the security of the state is not breached. No doubt the springing up of such churches and religious groups has had a far-reaching impact on the social life of the community.

One such proof is the profusion of gospel music in the country to the extent that now military and police parades are accompanied by gospel music brass bands. Said an official of the Tema-based Evening Light Message Tabernacle during their recent Believers Convention '85: "The public love gospel music for such music is the only vehicle carrying the new breed of independent churches and groups along."

It appears the Mazrui theory of Counter-penetration is working the reverse direction . . . History may be repeating the Bible Crusades of the 18th century. Another era of colonialism using the Bible? Perhaps it may be worthwhile for the Ministry of Culture and that of Internal Affairs to seek tighter collaboration with Consular officials of Ghana Missions abroad, especially in the United States of America, to scrutinize the number of American evangelists who have been trooping into the country on a mission of the word of God.



# When price and service are right to West Africa it must be OT Africa Line.



CONTAINERS, GENERAL CARGO & RO RO

To Abidjan, Douala, Lagos/Apapa, Lome, Monrovia, Takoradi and Tema.

Frequent sailings from Felixstowe/Immingham, Hamburg, Le Havre, Rotterdam and Zeebrugge.



Full details from our Agents:

Antrak Liner Services, London 01-283 6106  
 Antrak Liner Services, Birmingham 021-236 5046  
 Antrak Liner Services, Manchester 061-941 5921

John S. Braid & Co. Glasgow 041-445 2525  
 Campbell McCleave & Co, Belfast 0232 233009  
 Liner Shipping Agencies Ltd, Dublin 745611

Line Manager:  
 African Ro Ro Express Ltd  
 London. Tel: 01-283 6106  
 Telex: 889084

# Role of media in national advancement

This century in mankind's history has seen different kinds of explosions, from the atomic bomb through to the population explosion. One particular explosion that is a key part of our experience today is the communications explosion.

Technologies more powerful than our traditional village gong gong have made the word of those who control them influence the whole globe.

The interest of those who control these powerful tools is, of course, to maintain their power and dominance, and reap the benefits of continued prosperity and luxury, whatever is happening in other parts of the world.

And there is a danger that communications practitioners, even in countries like ours, can become drawn into the network of these technologies, and simply become, sometimes unconsciously, cogs in the great wheel of those who dominate these technologies.

They can become tools of the powers that be, regularly transmitting the messages of the powerful and thus participating in the protection of the *status quo*.

In the meantime, we live in societies in the so-called Third World where basic battles for survival, for upliftment from degradation of illiteracy, poverty and disease are being waged.

The anguish of that degradation is often only passively conveyed through the images of helpless starving people in refugee camps waiting for charity from the powerful.

Historically, our societies provided enormous resources for the economic progress that carried forward technological advances such as have taken place in the field of communications.

Yet we are largely at the receiving end of the impact of the communications explosion. The voices of the mass of illiterate poor peasants of the deprived people throughout the Third World, whose resources have created luxury in other continents, are barely heard through the powerful communications systems of today.

Even access to basic instruments of communications such as the newspaper, the radio, is unavailable to them, whether because of language barriers or because there are no batteries for their radios.

Ours is a country which is predominantly illiterate, the social and economic conditions of the majority of our people, in both town and country, remain anything but satisfactory; much still has to be done to encourage the

*Last week, Kweku Kpatakpa Gyampo attributed the attack of AIDS-2 (Acquired Information Deficiency Syndrome) in Ghana and Third World countries in general to successive governments' policy to suppress information and debate. Captain (rtd.) Kojo Tsikata, in a speech at the 25th Graduation Day of the Ghana Institute of Journalism last month, gave his views on why the information gap is widening.*

creativity of the vast masses of our people, particularly those in the rural areas for whom the 31st December Revolution has provided the opportunity to break out of a culture of resignation and submission.

---

**Rather under the guise of this demand for professional neutrality and so-called balance, a subtle attempt is being made to ensure that the press remains an instrument for protecting the *status quo* for depriving the poor, the hungry...**

---

One of our Third World leaders portrayed "this tragic paradoxical essence" of our times as the "paradoxes of a society which has mastered the technologies for surrounding us with artificial satellites (some of which are used for communications, as you know), for placing men on the moon and investigating the rings around planets; but which seems incapable of mitigating the hunger that day after day strikes down one-fourth of the inhabitants of its own planet and agreeing upon an efficient system to prevent disaster in the prices of the underdeveloped countries' commodities" — disasters such as can make a country's export earnings only available to pay debts and unable to meet the basic needs of its people.

Our current experiences in Africa, in particular of drought, famine and economic instability must make the urgency of transforming these conditions very obvious.

We are faced with real human conditions which we are all part of, whether we are journalists, diplomats, engineers, lawyers, doctors or workers.

As human beings above everything else we cannot just be intellectually aware of them and indulge our minds in pure contemplation of conditions which cry out for action to overcome them.

Yet there are those who will say that the press for instance has no particular responsibility faced with these conditions; that however caring journalists may be as human beings, they have a professional role that they carry out and they must be allowed to carry out this role in glorious isolation from everybody else, especially from governments.

No matter what a government's efforts are, the press, according to this view, is required to see freedom as consisting of attacks on government; for a journalist to see anything constructive about government policy and to say so is high treason and regarded as being unprofessional.

I believe that such separation of a man or a woman as a journalist, from a man or woman as a human being experiencing the conditions of his or her society and responding in a human way to those conditions is an extraordinary deception.

Rather under the guise of this demand for professional neutrality and so-called balance, a subtle attempt is being made to ensure that the press remains an instrument for protecting the *status quo*, for depriving the poor, the hungry, the diseased of the solidarity of one group of human beings who can use their skills in communication, their vocation to contribute to the liberation of the suffering to the construction of a new society.

A barrier of professionalism is proposed by our eminent professors against the troubling currents of the human condition and the demand for transformation. In my view journalists must be a part of the dynamics of the society, not a breed apart.

Let me emphasize that I am not imagining that journalists will save the world, or that by themselves they will create a new order of humanity.

No one is better prepared than the oppressed to understand the terrible

significance of an oppressive society, and no one is better prepared than the oppressed to wage the battle for liberation; but in the measure that the journalist reflects and takes note of what is happening before his eyes, the struggles of the oppressed and becomes a mouthpiece of these human aspirations, he participates in the great humanistic and historical task of liberation.

And I would add that he exhibits that very human trait of love for his fellow men which Christ, one of the great revolutionaries, himself preached and died for.

To refuse that love of humanity, in the name of press freedom, to cross over to the other side of the street upon seeing the wounded man lying helpless, and to become a mouthpiece of those who inflict the wounds, is in my view, both inhuman and unprofessional.

That is why I would urge the members of this institution not to forsake your very humanity or a veneer of professionalism to be manipulated by more powerful forces against your own society.

It is sad that journalists are often the tools of foreign intelligence organisations, conspiring against attempts to establish social justice in their own societies.

**Yet in our ignorance we can even make heroes of such elements on the false basis that they were victims of government action when the reality is that they have become tools of powerful foreign governments against less powerful nationalistic governments struggling to improve the lot of the common man.**

Of course a critical spirit to establish bodies, whether governments or churches or journalists' associations, is valuable to enable us to peel off some of the layers of deception that are designed to protect certain interests.

But a journalist who ignores important positive elements of government policy which will contribute to the welfare of the society simply in order to be critical of so-called "Government" is not being sincere.

In fact, we often find sadly that journalists refuse to acknowledge the worth of the government's actions simply because of a fear that they may be labelled pro-government.

The complex experiences that we are going through as a nation demand from journalists a high degree of perceptiveness about the various social forces that are at play, and a clear recognition that the journalist's contribution will be part of the whole current of forces.

It is of course open to a journalist to take the easy way out: to use the media simply to reproduce the images that a small privileged and well-connected social group wishes to project onto the whole society, to sell himself or herself to those who pay and twist the truth in order

to help such people, or to say only the safest possible things in order not to offend authority.

I urge you to develop a greater sense of responsibility, and also greater foresight so that you do not discredit yourself before the people and limit your capacity to influence the society by taking the easy way out.

Since independence, enormous resources have been devoted to the training of journalists because of recognition of the value of a journalist whose principal commitment is to the nation, its people and other peoples the world over, especially in the Third World who struggle along with us to achieve a just and dignified existence.



A journalist with such a commitment will investigate and present consistently the many aspects of the actual living conditions and concerns of the people.

He will try to present ideas which will help to explain objectively our condition, and also help us in the human demand for transformation that I earlier spoke of.

He will help us turn our ideas into a material force for social transformation.

I am sure that in the course of your training here you have been introduced to the works of the fathers of our anti-colonial struggles particularly those of our immortal First President and Founder of this Institute, Kwame Nkrumah.

I urge you to study their works deeply not for the sake of passing examinations which you have already done, but to help you build upon the foundations that your course has given you.

I believe that the observations I have made are relevant not only to the new graduates, but also to those who are already practising the profession of journalism.

I understand that the Institute is

organising refresher courses for journalists already in the field. This is a very good idea, and I would only like to suggest something for you to consider in both your refresher and regular courses.

Very little journalism tackles the complex issues of the economy in a way which makes things meaningful to ordinary people.

This probably has to do with our educational system. I would urge that the Ghana Institute of Journalism gives thought to improving substantially the quality of economic journalism in this country.

Finally, may I say that whether progress will be achieved in our nation-building or whether we will remain the mere tools of

foreign interests will depend significantly on the contribution of those who wield the powerful tool of the pen.

## AGONA FANKOBAA KUW EASTER GRAND DISCO

at

PEABODY HALL, CLAPHAM ESTATE  
ST JOHN'S HILL, CLAPHAM JUNCTION  
LONDON SW11

on

SATURDAY MARCH 22, 1986

6pm - 11pm

INEXHAUSTIBLE BAR

TICKETS £2.00

BUSES: 37, 39, 45, 49, 77, 156, 170 & 295



# QUEEN OF SHEBA HAIRCARE BEAUTY PRODUCTS



## Queen of Sheba Queen of Sheba Detangling Gel Conditioner:

A break-through in the Hairdressing industry. It conditions the hair and the scalp especially for natural and kiddy hair. It softens the hair giving it good sheen and 24 hours easy comb. Good for the entire family.

### KENEURO CO LTD

13 GOLDHAWK ROAD, LONDON W12 8QQ.

TELEPHONE: 01-749 3245/01-743 0672.

TELEX: 916336 C BROWN G

# Subscribe to TALKING DRUMS

and be informed on current developments  
in the West African sub-region.

I would like to subscribe to **TALKING DRUMS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHEQUES/MONEY/POSTAL  
ORDERS PAYABLE TO:

TALKING DRUMS PUBLICATIONS,  
Madhav House,  
68 Mansfield Road,  
London NW3 2HU

TELEPHONE: 01-482 2165

UNITED KINGDOM	52 weeks	£28.00
	26 weeks	£14.50AIR MAIL
EUROPE AND EIRE	52 weeks	£39.00
	26 weeks	£20.00
USA, CANADA AND S. AMERICA	52 weeks	\$95.00
	26 weeks	\$50.00
AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST	52 weeks	£50.00
	26 weeks	£26.00
AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND FAR EAST	52 weeks	£52.00
	26 weeks	£29.00
OTHER COUNTRIES	52 weeks	£52.00
	26 weeks	£29.00

# Coming to grips with life in Britain

By Ngozi Agbo Chigbo

Occasionally, I get requests from relatives and friends in my home country asking me to buy them one thing or the other. Such requests are made with the notion that the cost of living in Britain is much, much lower than wherever they are.

It is therefore not surprising that Britain has been described by many as not only a land of enormous knowledge, but also a land of milk and honey. And given the chance, such people would want to come and live here, at least for a greater part of their lives.

For those of us who have had the opportunity of being in Britain, our opinions about life here vary from person to person. To some, it is a matter of survival. Others believe that life is not an easy-going affair. While a few see life as normal.

Some Africans and West Indians resident here do not contemplate going back to their roots. Their sufferings and struggles to survive notwithstanding, they prefer living in Britain to their home countries for a variety of reasons. Many of them are, for instance, ashamed to go back to their countries because they have failed to achieve success for their period of stay in Britain.

Many residents here refuse to open up to the realities of life, and have always given their fellow men and women in their home countries the impression that they have achieved the Golden Fleece, and therefore have no problem settling here comfortably. They would want the high opinions created about them to remain untarnished.

But it is not true that life is an easy-going affair for the large population of Blacks and Asians in this country. Ask those of them who have spent donkey years hatching and raising families. Contact the students who for years have spent large sums of money acquiring degrees and diplomas, some of which have no end. Chat with those who reside forgotten in the inner communities, confused about their future.

The bitter truth is that Britain is a desolate place for any African or Asian. On the doors of every house in Britain there is a look of solitude and absolute loneliness, such that one is bound to sit down for a while and rethink the reasons for being here.

There is a feeling of nostalgia. The European culture of individualism and exclusivism is totally alien to those of us who are Africans. At home, we were always together with our extended families sharing problems. Over here, we find ourselves occupying empty rooms

*Natives and foreigners who live in the United Kingdom have different views on what makes the country tick. This article looks at the life of foreigners in the UK.*

with no one to talk to or play with. Our nearest companions in Britain are books, television and radio. But one cannot be reading, watching television or listening to the radio all the time. We occasionally need the company of parents, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. To substitute for the above, some find themselves in vulnerable positions which often ruin their future.

On arrival in the United Kingdom, its beautifully cold weather slaps the cheeks and bids one good-day as one moves through its cities. As in any other country, problems abound — unemployment, inflation, accommodation, racism, travel fares, boredom and desperation to be a better human being. But among all these problems is the problem of a "stay permit" by the Almighty Home Office.

Yearly, residents, especially students, battle to be qualified for an extension of stay in Britain. Qualification entails a letter from college as a full-time student, and sufficient evidence of funds. Or a work permit and a fat statement of one's bank account.

Being in this country has opened my eyes to the riches of knowledge. One can acquire much by just watching and listening. You do not need a four-walled block to achieve that. By merely looking, creation flows. By sheer attention one's thinking process is nourished.

It is obvious in Britain that everyone must work hard to eat. For example, some of my friends at college did all types of skilled jobs — dressmaking, typing, hairdressing, book-keeping and cookery. It does not necessarily require a paper qualification to get such jobs.

One must learn to keep busy in Britain as time is big money. And the hunger for survival produces a very clear exposition of response to all types of work.

It is pertinent to say that provisions must be made by every resident for an income to go into one's account, no matter how small the amount. Otherwise before one realises it, one is sent packing by destitution to one's roots.

Foreign exchange problems have resulted in many students becoming drop-outs. They therefore choose to register in a mushroom institution of higher learning where they can pay their fees by instalments as they fight their way to success.

Yes, you meet them in the early-morning trains and bus stops shivering in the cold on their way to their various offices in the West End. They serve as cleaners and security guards. They scrub lavatories and work in old people's homes. They wash dishes in restaurants and prepare meals in cafeterias. They serve as chamber-maids and waitresses in hotels and nightclubs. Also, they study full time or part time.

Even though it is illegal for them to do any type of paid job without a work permit granted them by the Home Office, they still take the bull by the horns.

Nigerians, Ghanaians and Asians have become expert drivers in Britain. They know the shortest routes to the inner cities. Some of them drive without a full British driving licence, which is against the law.

At Heathrow Airport every morning and evening, especially over the weekends, they rush down to collect passengers on arrival in Britain. They disguise themselves as if they have come to receive guests, for fear of being caught by the police.

Outside the cab offices, they can collect several passengers going in different directions at a time. And charge them differently. Their fares are much lower than the normal fare by cab. They know they are breaking the law, yet they do it because they have no other choice if they wish to survive.

It is important to note that paper qualification is no guarantee of a job in Britain, unlike in a country such as Nigeria. The major qualification for a job in Britain is basic working experience.

It is observed also that the cheap jobs with mean pay are done mostly by blacks who have better paper qualifications that could fetch them better jobs than their white counterparts. Such jobs they could not have done were they in their home countries, because they would have been over-qualified to do them.

In business, Asians are the best traders in Britain. Africans and West Indians do the toughest jobs in factories. And for those whose future remains a chronic confusion, they resort to all types of crime.

Britain is a home of creativity. Whoever is determined to succeed in Britain would definitely do so notwithstanding its thorny paths.



# "By by you go grow" — letter to my child

## A TOUCH OF NOKOKO

by Kofi Akumanyi

The man smiled pleasantly. "Doctor," he answered, "I'm worried about my brother!" Well, I am not really worried about my "brother" if you got the drift but I make so bold to say that what has happened to me and my profession may to a very large extent, be due to lack of unity among my "brothers"-fellow practitioners as to our goals. I can even go further to say that there are too many weather-cocks who are ever ready to blow in the direction of the political wind (or storm, most of the time) just so they can keep body and soul together.

Of course, it is important to stay alive if one can make any meaningful contribution to the society and one's personal well-being but in pursuing this basic necessity we too often forget that the great men of this world who left footprints in the sand of history often SACRIFICED everything they had to achieve their objectives.

But pardon me, my son, for digressing. You will realise when you grow up that life is full of digressions.

**You see destiny and a combination of factors made me a journalist and I happen to work at this time on a paper called *Talking Drums*.**

The first time I decided to work for this magazine, a friend said I had developed an unnecessary "martyr's complex" — a death wish.

**I need not explain what that means since you will understand it if you are my child. Of course you are.** However, I must point out at once that it has become increasingly clear to people both inside and outside the profession that the "martyr's complex" syndrome over the past decade or so appears to be the only attitude to adopt if the unadulterated truth can be offered to the people in which case conflict with the government is often unavoidable. Of course, if the government in power is the type which does not believe in constitutional and legal approach to issues then a man in my position is condemned to perpetual fear of being dispatched to thy kingdom come every minute of his life by a mindless acolyte of the government.

In other words, my son, only the tough and determined few succeed to make a lasting impression in a profession full of political mine-fields. Those who have lost their lives in the pursuit of the truth, therefore deserve commendation.

For a lucky few, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, as the saying goes. Which brings me to my presence or sojourn in this country. I must confess that pulling up the stakes and bringing you with me into this cold weather was an excruciatingly hard decision I had to take without consulting you. However, before you condemn me for my actions you must realise that like a number of things that man is forced to do, circumstances dictate the *modus operandi*.

Talking about condemnation, when you grow up to understand the under currents of politics, you are bound to hear my name and a few of my colleagues being described by some individuals who believe they hold the monopoly of wisdom as idealistic journalists who closed their eyes to the realities "on the ground" and stuck to principles that did nobody any good.

This, my dear son, you should understand, is an argument of the bankrupt mind, which if it is adhered to, would make the world poorer.

So what do I make of the recent much talked about criticism by Mrs Valerie Sackey of the Castle, Osu that Ghanaian journalists are cowards who lacked courage to speak the truth?

To say that Ghanaian journalists have brought this upon themselves is to lessen the weight of the indictment. On the other hand, considering the position of Mrs Sackey in the control of the media, she is nothing but a hypocrite.

Basically, my child, what I am trying to tell you is that the lot of a journalist in our motherland is a pretty precarious one; has always been, but I and my colleagues would not give up the fight to write what we consider to be the TRUTH in the general interest of the country. In the course of this pursuit while some people's oxen may be gored I shall sleep well, not fearing the visit of the Ton Ton Macoute, because whatever I have done, I did with hope and conviction.

I don't know what you'll be in the future, but if you happen to find yourself in my profession, I pray to God that things would have changed considerably to enable you discharge your duty without the hassle and the aggravations that I have lived with.

Failing that, your case will be like the piglet who asked its mother why she had such a funny protuberance for a mouth, whereupon she gently told her offspring: "by by you go grow!"

I have been wanting to write you this letter for a long time now to share with you certain thoughts about life, my career.

**Of course, I am aware you cannot read now but I am not too sure whether I will be around when you would have grown up. And so I write you this as an attempt to tell you my story.**

Why a letter and not, say, an autobiography which would explain in some detail all about me, the environment I worked in and the relationship which influenced the course of my life?

I decided on a letter for a number of reasons. Firstly, I know too well that an autobiography would never be riveting reading, probably be too boring for you and consequently you may not read past the fourth page. I agree that I have not so far led a glamorous and exciting life like some of my professional colleagues elsewhere covering wars, earthquakes, assassinations, scandals, and issues that make readers hair stand on end. But you will discover before long that I lived in an epoch of momentous happenings that changed the course of history of my country.

But perhaps the most important reason for attempting this letter, however brief, is that human nature being what it is, they would let my life story to lapse into selective obscurity or forgetfulness by which I mean the affliction Shakespeare wrote about (I don't know this Shakespeare man; I never met him but I read many of his works). It was he who said human beings have a nasty habit of forgetting the good things that men had done in their life-time and rather remember only the evil that they did.

Well, he didn't put it exactly like that but his poetic excellence may be lost on you being so young. However, after considering the full circumstances of my life situation, I have decided to make this letter brief and give you a run down of my professional career, the basic principles under which I sought to perform my duties to the state so that at the end of the day I could take full responsibility for my actions.

In relating this story I may have to mention a few names about issues relating to my work and I may consequently not be loved by the people involved. Let me tell you a story to illustrate the point.

A man is reported to have walked into the psychiatrist's office with a fried egg on the top of his head and a strip of bacon over each ear. The psychiatrist sat him down and decided to proceed with a normal greeting. There was no point, he thought, in getting the fellow even more upset.

"What can I do for you?" the psychiatrist asked.

# WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

*National Concord, Nigeria, March 8, 1986*

## **Saving the endangered OAU**

Hardly any continental body has been more villified and castigated in recent history than the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Described at various times as grossly ineffective, tagged a toothless bulldog, or worse still, branded as having outlived its usefulness, the OAU is currently suffering a stifling economic crunch as a result of lack of funds. According to the current OAU Chairman, Mr Abdou Diouf, the activities of the continental body may soon be paralysed, if member nations fail to pay up their contributions, most of which are now in arrears.

Mr Diouf's danger alarm to be sure, is not an empty wolf cry. Part of the problem arises from the tattered state of the economies of most African countries. With a staggering continental external debt of about 174 billion dollars, it is obvious that most African nations are going through the throes of economic woes; hence their inability to contribute their quotas to the OAU fund.

Apart from the general poverty affecting many African states, however, there are those that do not feel encouraged to pay their dues to the OAU, ostensibly because the OAU has failed to fulfil their yearnings and aspirations. Despite the OAU's 23-year existence, Africa today is still far from attaining the political and economic independence which formed the cardinal objective of the organisation at its inception in 1963. In fact, the continent has since been driven further into the slavery of neo-colonialism and further into the abyss of political decay, economic mismanagement and social dislocations. There are also other countries, where the belief that the OAU finances had not been properly managed in the past, has tended to discourage a strong commitment to contemporary obligations.

While there is definitely some substance to each of the above views on the OAU, we believe that the body can still be rescued from its predicament, reactivated and propelled towards the solution of Africa's myriad problems. The immediate starting point is to save the organisation from the imminent economic collapse. And in this connection, we are calling on member states of the OAU to discharge their obligations to the organisation to enable it to perform its functions.

However, we are also of the view that the OAU needs to put its house in order, by making changes in its internal organisation and administration. In this regard, the plans of the body to cut down on personnel and to close three regional offices in Bangui, Accra and Kampala are quite expedient. But the OAU needs to further cut down on overhead expenses, if it hopes to operate strictly on the basis of its 1986/87 budget of N25.3 million.

It is our view that the organisation needs increased financial, moral and political support if Africa is to have any semblance of an effective continental body. Perhaps the time has come for the OAU to review its charter and embark on a reorganisation programme that may engender a stronger sense of belonging among its member-states. The OAU should also intensify its efforts in enhancing the economic position of member-states; for if member states are poor, the OAU in turn is bound to remain poor.

*The Guardian, Nigeria, March 8, 1986*

## **Of committees and public consultation**

The democratic principle is still, understandably, a stranger in our midst. We have been ruled, for most of our history, by military men, whose style of governance, because of their training, has been the rule of fiat. It is, therefore, not surprising

that President Babangida's departure from that dictatorial tradition, and his almost spontaneous recourse to committees for discussion and advice before taking major decisions, has baffled many, and is beginning to meet with opposition.

The complaints here are that, first this constant recourse to panels creates the impression of government helplessness, or at least, of its regular reluctance to take a stand on matters of policy. Secondly, it is claimed that this committee method is time-consuming, and tends to slow down considerably the process of government. Thirdly, there is the accusation that the setting up of committees marginalizes the civil service, and hence, further demoralizes it. It also increases administrative costs. These complaints may be genuine enough, but then the arguments are not all to the issue.

First, one of the problems of government in the past, a problem brought to its worst climax during the Buhari Administration, was precisely the refusal of rulers to consult with the governed. Public opinion was viewed with contemptuous disregard, and our governments rapidly became alienated from the people. Where a government decides wisely to learn from this, and act accordingly, there seems in our view no alternative, in the absence of elected councils or assemblies, to using chosen advisory committees. We may worry indeed about the composition of these committees, but that is a different matter from criticising the process itself. Form is one thing, substance is another. So far, the names selected for some of the committees have been judicious, reflective of radical intentions to break with the past, and the government deserves to be commended on this. Furthermore, in the light of the on-going controversy over the OIC, where no prior consultation was taken, we cannot but be alarmed by the call on the government to retreat from committees and begin to take decisions without consultation with the wider society. It should not.

There are other advantages in the present practice of wide consultation. It is useful, particularly for future democracy, to initiate the process of getting more and more of our citizens involved in policy-making. This has always been the exclusive preserve of politicians and civil servants. Now, people from all walks of life, technocrats, trade unionists and traders, etc, can learn and benefit from the experience of participation. Thus, government becomes less esoteric, and some flexibility is introduced into the seemingly rigid and stultifying structures of the civil service. Obviously, this may somehow slow down the decision-making process. But that is assuming that the process was fast at all in the first place, which it was not. And if there is any antagonism with the orthodox civil service as we knew it, then, it is a healthy antagonism towards a nobler goal and it needs to be promoted. Our governmental structures can do with the healthy disturbance of fresh winds blowing from the outside.

The other accusation, that these panels help the government to prevaricate, must not be seen as an entirely negative thing. Again, the argument can be sustained, that such a tactic of prevarication helps to defuse tension. When some issues threaten to tear the nation senselessly apart — again the OIC issue is the prime example — there is great virtue in the government refusing to make up its mind, at least until passions cool and men return to rational thinking.

Obviously, like all good ideas, the use of panels and committees in the governmental process can be abused. It can become a surreptitious governance. When things reach that stage, then there is cause for concern. But we do not share the view that we have arrived at such a point. Let us involve even more citizens in the governing process, and help cement the road for true democracy in our country.

## MUSIC AND ARTS SCENE

### Music galore at Camden Festival

Since 1977, MORY KANTE, a Guinean, has emerged as one of the most successful performers thrown up by the West African music explosion.

A true pioneer in the field of African popular music, Mory Kante now plays numerous instruments — kora, percussion, violin and flute in his efforts to build a bridge between traditional West African and electronic West. His current set-up, however, is fully modern with two trumpets, two drummers, saxophone, guitar, bass and keyboards, though virtuoso kora playing remains central to his live performance.

His most recent studio work involved a historic collaboration with such artists as King Sunny Ade, Manu Dibango and Souzy Kasseya in producing a Pan African sound for the acclaimed famine relief record 'Tam Tam Pour L'Ethiopie'.

A new album from his Paris studio is due out soon to follow the success of his first internationally acknowledged LP

'Mory Kante A Paris'. Of his most recent work Mory speaks of his wish "to prove to everyone that all the important popular music phenomena of our time — from Salsa to Breakdancing — originate from Africa". Examine the evidence for yourself on 19 March at the Town & Country Club and hear one of the world's most perfected and exciting musical marriages between ancient and modern.

ABACUSH are South London's highly rated reggae ambassadors — the only band to be fronted by women in the somewhat chauvinistic world of reggae music.

Abacush put on a tough hard hitting sound that continues to win them a growing and enthusiastic band of followers — including several major record companies and an eagerly awaited link up with the Madness Zarjazz label. Their 1985 single 'Sunshine Island' is only the start of a promising recording career for the eighties and nineties.

DIRTY MONEY, a Camden-based band, rapidly establishing themselves on the London music circuit will also perform. It is all happening on March 19 (8pm-2am) at the Town & Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, Kentish Town, London.

### GHANABA AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The Greater London Council (GLC) in association with Hilton Incorporated presents 'Les Grande Ballet Afrique Noire' — The Great Ballet of Black Africa at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, March 16, 1986.

"Precision, beautiful movements and maturity are their main characteristics." The group of twenty-five musicians, singers and dancers of both sexes drawn from Mali, Guinea, Senegal and the Caribbean Islands takes the public to the very heart of Africa wherever they perform.

Their ten acts constituting their performance which are done in Malinke and Bambara, re-incarnate tribal war music, sacred rites, "ceremonial initiation dances" and simple conflicts of every day life in our villages.

Also on the bill is Ghana's eternal Okyeremma (master drummer) Kofi Ghanaba who emerges from Ghana to give one of his rare public performances for international audience.

## Guinea's Amazones — Goddesses of African Music

By Paco George

News had reached all parts of London about the performance and music of *LES AMAZONES DE GUINEE* — an all-female band of policewomen. The tickets for all their four concerts at the Shaw Theatre in London sold out but it was necessary to see them live on the last day. It looks and sounds novel to watch a group of women take complete control over musical instruments to express themselves artistically. This is, in fact, what attracted most people to see the 'Goddesses of African Music' who combine music making with peace keeping in their native Guinea. But once you hear them you realise that there is more to mere young women playing music: they have total control and mastery over their act.

The atmosphere surrounding 'Ou Est Mon Mari?' ('where is my husband?') summarized what the late-comer like myself had missed from the first two songs. The crowd was already on its feet for more music. As the music 'warriors' (they take their name after the female warriors of the late King Behanzin on



ancient Dahomey — now Benin) displayed their confidence, energy and courage one immediately understood the virtues which have guided them throughout their 25 years of music.

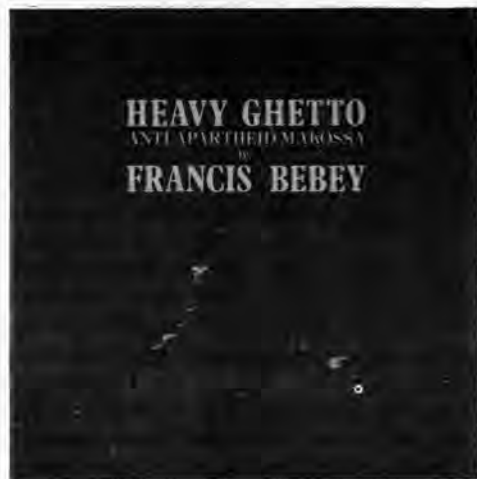
Led on guitar by Nyepou Habas, Les Amazones quickly crossed the problem of British scepticism by letting their instruments speak while the singers acted 'Salimou' and entertained the packed theatre with lyrical and vocal maturity. Listening to the group play 'Pinareno' one's mind was immediately thrown back to the era of Johnny Pacheco whose Latin American music had conquered the whole world of Francophone Africa. Singer Cisse Fatou is certainly not Pete Rod-

riguez but the vocal call and answer with M'Mah Sylla and Kanko Camara sustained the urgency of the music. Not only were songs such as 'Oulalaba' and 'Salimou' good melodies in themselves but they also gave bassist Salematou Diallo and drummers Camara Mato and Kouyate Negbe the opportunity to express their individual skills while the meandering but solid guitar works of Nyepou Habas and Sona Diabate demonstrated the qualities of true 'amazones'.

The occasional traces of funk, hi-life, bikutshi and soul in the style of Les Amazones only helped to convince the difficult British ears of the repertoire competently handled by this group.

# AFRICAN RECORDS REVIEW

by Kwabena Asamoah



FRANCIS BEBEY: *Heavy Ghetto* (OZIL 3316).

'Heavy Ghetto' 'Anti-Apartheid Makossa' 'Madonna Verona' 'All Over The World' 'The Magic Box' 'Politiki' 'Where Are You? I Love You' 'Maloba' 'Forest Whistle'.

Cameroon's Francis Bebey has a heap of messages for mankind in this new album of his, released at a time when the world is experiencing racism, injustices, crime, greed and all sorts of evil. As a novelist, poet, musician and musicologist of international repute, there is little wonder for the depth of analysis and content of his songs. The entire A-side concentrates on the theme of injustices in South Africa ('Heavy Ghetto' and Anti-Apartheid Makossa'), prayer for peace and happiness in the world ('Madonna

Verona') and racial harmony ('All Over The World'). While 'Politiki' and 'Maloba' on the B-side are sung in his native tongue, the rest are, as usual, in English.

Listening to the entire album, one gets the impression that Francis Bebey still has the objective of making people listen to him rather than dance to his music which he provides with the aid of acoustic guitar and traditional instruments. Where he uses studio drums they merely instil some timing for those who find it difficult to appreciate new music as in 'Where Are You? I Love You'.

There is both sadness and sweetness in Bebey's voice when he sings 'Maloba' or 'Madonna Verona' while your mind turns on his rich lyrics throughout the album. The guitar solos in 'Maloba' and the interaction between traditional flutes and sanza are more likely to lift the soul of mankind as he listens to 'Forest Whistle'.

The lyrical conflict in 'Heavy Ghetto', typical with Francis Bebey, is resolved by the use of both Western and African instruments and styles to achieve harmony. Bebey's subtle acoustic guitar adds another level of finesse to his music and message. His music is meant for a different level of consumption and worth checking out for.

**KUBURA ALARAGBO: *Repercussion* (LRCLS 53)**

'Ori Ota Kore' 'Okiki Ki Posu' 'Oje Je Iyawo' 'Aja To Wole Ekun' 'Aiye E Pon Wa Le' 'Emi Ase Waka Yi Lowo' 'Egbe Amuludun (Omi Adio)' 'Alhaji M.K.O. Abiola' 'Alhaji Ishola Alowonle' 'Talabi Dara Ile'.

Not so long ago, Yoruba female singer Kubara Alaragbo joined the new wave

waka music makers with her *Adija Ti Je* (LRCLS 50) which was widely well received by Lagos. It is a good practice to follow up as she has done with *Repercussion* which also incorporates the use of



talking drums, congas, bells, sticks and many other percussion instruments.

Taking lead vocals throughout the album, Kubura Alaragbo is closely shadowed by the almost infantile female back-up singing especially towards the end of 'Aiye E Pon Wa Le'.

Although the beginning and the entire non-stop music on the B-side sound just like the A-side, one would naturally think that her messages are entirely different. The crisp congas and the depth of the talking drums would not require much time to appreciate 'Egbe Amuludun (Omi Adio)'.

As the practice in Lagos goes, it is hardly surprising that Kubura Alaragbo devotes two songs to two people — Alhaji M.K.O. Abiola and Alhaji Ishola Alowonle. It is reasonable to assume that they are, as usual, praise songs. It borders on monotony at certain points but when you understand the meaning of her lyrics it is a different experience altogether.

## POETS' CORNER

### Naked I came

We entered the world.  
Without any argument miraculously isn't it?  
We entered naked.  
We go naked though we forget it.  
We hunger and thirst for all the world.  
What we claim its origin we know not.  
We shout and say my possessions it's sad.  
We cry and demand for all things till we can no more of it.  
We forget these cannot be with us on the death bed.  
With nothing we came though we forget.

Kwadjo Attakora Baah

Here we stand  
Congregated,  
Drenched in hallucination fumes

Here we stand  
Amalgamated,  
Blinded with frustration tears,

Here we stand  
Banded  
With a barbed wire of fears  
Too vague to point out  
Yet too universal  
Not to dare acknowledge.

So it is gin we pour  
Really.  
It is a ram  
Bleating the animistic dirge  
Whilst we insist on the human song of salvation  
Insist on seeing the beast blood flow  
To save and appease  
Crimes and murders

Tehtey

### 26th July 1983

The little gods still rest in  
Their stony inertness  
The sacred stools nevertheless lie  
On their dusty sides

### AFRO HOT CHART

1. BOYA YE M'Bilia Bel (STERNS) Zaire
2. DIVORCE Lubaki Geant (ASWE) Congo
3. AU COEUR DE PARIS Les Amazones (ENIMAS) Guinea
4. TORONTO BY NIGHT A.B. Crensil (WAZURI) Ghana
5. BREAKTHROUGH Mandy (FAZE 2) Nigeria
6. MARIO Franco (CHOC) Zaire
7. 1x2=MABE Youlou Mabilia (APIA) Congo
8. IZIBANI ZONGQASHIYO Mahotella Queens (EARTHWORKS) South Africa
9. ASANTEMAN Pat Thomas (JAP) Ghana
10. MALANGA Kanda Bongo Man (BM) Zaire
11. GBEJI MI ELEDUMARE Ebenezer Obey (AFRODISIA) Nigeria
12. SERVICE LIBRE Eyango Ndedi (DICK'S) Cameroon
13. SAVIOUR Sunny Ade (SALPS) Nigeria
14. ZULU JIVE VOL. 2 Various Artists (EARTHWORKS) Azania
15. OBERIMA NKWAN YEDEKofi Asamoah (DOMINO) Ghana

Chart courtesy of AFROBOOM RECORDS, 1st Floor Wren Suite, 189 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 (Mail order and distribution only.)

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

## NIGERIA

### Plotters deserve fate — Awolowo

The 10 coup plotters executed in Lagos deserved the punishment they got, Chief Obafemi Awolowo has said at Ikenne.

Chief Awolowo, who clocked 77 on March 6, remarked that the coup plotters were legally tried.

He added: "If you shed blood in the execution of legal process, that is permissible, otherwise crime will flourish."

Chief Awolowo praised President Ibrahim Babangida for the soul-inspiring letter he sent to him on his birthday.

He said: "I was surprised at the contents of the letter. If it had been written by a former official of the defunct UPN or the Action Group, it would not have surprised me.

"But this is a letter from somebody with whom we have never been friends. He said my dear Papa."

Chief Awolowo caused laughter when he said: "I will clock 80. It remains only three years."

He said there was a time in one's life when "one is afraid of death and one is not afraid of death".

Chief Awolowo advised young men who wish to live long to beware of three things. These are in the matters of women, food and drink and money-making.

He also enjoined them not to be too greedy.

Asked whether he was still in politics, Chief Awolowo replied: "I have not quit politics. I am in politics for the whole of my life, however long it may be. The kind of profession in which I am, that is law, you don't retire, and in the kind of vocation in which I am, which is politics, you don't retire."

### The last hours of the executed officers

A report in the Nigerian *Guardian* quoting a prison worker gives an account of the activities of the last twenty four hours of Maj-Gen. Vatsa and the other nine officers executed for plotting a coup.

The prison worker recalled that all the men sang during the 25 minutes walk from the bus stop to the stakes, with hands and feet chained.

Major General Maman Vatsa, the most senior officer, dictated a poem to a major and Squadron Leader Martin Luther asked that messages scribbled on his bible and a wrist watch, be passed on to his wife.

The story pieced together from fragmented, but corroborated accounts of warders and other prison workers was that:

●The 10 condemned officers had been kept

in different solitary cells;

●At about 3.30pm., prison officials told them they were to be moved to a new location. They raised no objections but asked for lunch and were served rice dishes;

●At about 5pm Squadron Leader Luther complained he was ill and wanted to see a doctor. That was about an hour before the execution. No-one knew what the matter was. He was sweating and the warders took him to the prison clinic;

●Later in the evening, all 10 were marched out in a file towards the stakes, about three minutes walk away, hands in cuffs, legs in chains.

The accounts do not give a clear picture of who was where in the queue. But the eye-witnesses said Lt-Col. Musa Bitiyong led a chorus: "Nigeria, we shall rise again . . . our spirits will rise again".

Major-General Vatsa's last words were: "I love Nigeria, my country. I wish everyone to live in peace". He wore a white jumper and wound a towel around his neck. Before the guns roared, he removed his ring and wrist-watch and requested that they be sent to his wife.

"Tell her not to be ashamed. Tell her to take care of the children," he also requested.

As on the day he and 12 others were condemned to death, he said again: "I leave you with a smile". But it was now certain it would be his last. For, this time, he did not say, "but it is not my last".

As the firing squad stood by, some of the 10 as before, proclaimed their innocence. The twice bitter Major Daniel Bamidele, who admitted concealing information of an impending coup from the authorities because when he last did, it was to a superior officer knee deep in it and he was detained thereafter.

Squadron Leader A.A. Ahura said his wrist watch should be given to his first son who is studying in the United States.

It was understood that, at one stage, Squadron Leader Luther sought to send a message home through a warrant officer. But the latter shunned him, apparently indicating he could not take what he imagined to be his orders.

### General Bali's statement on executions

The execution last week of ten coup plotters was announced to journalists by the Minister of Defence and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Maj-Gen. Domkat Bali who told them that confirmation of the verdict was made by the AFRC after exhaustive discussions.

The Minister also spoke on the political, military, moral, economic and other implications of the coup plot and the fate of other coup plotters to the journalists. We reproduce below the text of Gen. Bali's press statement.

"The abortive coup d'etat of December 1985 was hatched when this administration was barely two months old. Indeed, a number of people are beginning to wonder whether Nigeria is not in for a cycle of instability which reaches a peak every 10 years, when a coup is bound to take place.

In coming to this hypothesis, they have drawn attention to the fact that there was a coup in January 1966, and an unsuccessful attempt in February 1976, and the latest abortive plot, which was scheduled for the end of 1985 or early 1986.

While I hold the view that this is an attempt to read more order and sequence into the available data on the timing and frequency of coup d'etats in Nigeria, the point must be admitted that seven coups in 20 years in this country are just too many for the stability and orderly progress of the society. Arising directly from the political instability, is the fact that investors, both domestic and foreign, and other economic decision makers are unlikely to want to make their investments in our country on the basis of policy assumption for the policy assurances given by governments which may or may not last for more than a few months.

By discouraging investments and growth in the Nigerian economy, especially at a time of serious economic difficulties, the coup plotters must be seen as callous and unpatriotic traitors. Through their action, our young people continue to suffer from the frustrations of unemployment which can only be mitigated by economic growth in a steady and orderly environment.

### Saudi Arabia departs Nigerians

About 420 Nigerians described by the Saudi Arabian airlines officials as "illegal immigrants", were flown into the country through the Malam Aminu Kano International airport, in three unscheduled flights between January 10 and February 26.

Some of the Nigerians who arrived on February 26 in a Saudi Arabian airline Boeing 707 aircraft, admitted that they had been in that country for several months without valid documents.

They said that they had to stay back in Saudi Arabia after performing the Hajj because they had no money to travel to Nigeria.

The assistant director of immigration, Kano, Alhaji Abulkadir Mohammed, who confirmed the story said that the department had handed over the Nigerians to the Kano state Ministry of Information, Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture.

He admitted that the Nigerians had overstayed their welcome and that they were issued with emergency certificates by the Nigerian embassy in Saudi Arabia to enable them to proceed to the country since their travelling documents had expired.

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

Alhaji Mohammed said that there was nothing unusual about the repatriation order on the Nigerians.

Saudi Arabian consul-general in Kano, Alhaji Abdulrahim Abuauf, said that the repatriated Nigerians were flown into the country free of charge because they had no money.

Alhaji Abdulrahim said that the basic travelling allowance given to intending pilgrims to perform the lesser hajj was inadequate and would not even pay for their transport fares within Saudi Arabia "not to talk of feeding and accommodation".

## OAU

### OAU ministerial council's resolution

The 43rd session of the OAU Council of Ministers ended last week by adopting a series of resolutions dealing, notably, with the implications of the repeal of the Clark amendment, South Africa, membership dues and the 1986/87 OAU budget, the Palestinian problem and Afro-Arab co-operation, Namibia and the Comoran island of Mayotte.

Referring to the implications of the repeal of the Clark amendment, the African ministers asked "the government of the USA, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and all other states which are still assisting the illegal apartheid regime and the puppet UNITA gangs, to stop doing so".

They also asked these countries to "cease assistance which helps to maintain the illegal occupation of a part of Angolan territory and facilitates massacres against the civilian population". In this regard they advocated the "immediate cessation of arms supplies to UNITA".

As regards the situation in South Africa, the Council of Ministers appealed to all governments to abide by existing Security Council resolutions on voluntary sanctions. It urged them to "adopt a common stand on the imposition of global, mandatory sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa". In this respect the Council appealed to the international community "to contribute actively to the success of the forthcoming international conference on sanctions against South Africa".

On the Palestinian problem, the Council issued a call to the international community, "to intensify its pressure on Israel in all sectors in order to force it to conform to the UN Charter".

On Afro-Arab co-operation, the Council reaffirmed "its indestructable devotion and full readiness to fostering the co-operation". In this respect, it urged the OAU and Arab League General Secretariats "to take all necessary steps at the next Afro-Arab ministerial meetings".

On the Namibian problem, the Council expressed concern over the persistence of the Pretoria racist regime and the Reagan administration to link Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban forces in Angola. In this respect, it renewed its call to the international community "to continue extending material, financial, political, diplomatic and concrete moral support to the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, SWAPO".

The sessions of the 44th meeting of OAU Council of Ministers will take place in Addis Ababa from July 21-25, while the conference of heads of state will be held in the Ethiopian capital from July 28-30.

### Bureau discusses African fiscal situation

The Bureau of the 21st summit of the OAU has begun its meeting in Addis Ababa to discuss preparations for the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on the fiscal-economic situation in Africa. Meeting under the chairmanship of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, current Chairman of the OAU, the Bureau discussed the report of the OAU's permanent steering committee as adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Participating in the meeting are the President of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, President Abd al-Aziz of SADR (Saharan Arab Democratic Republic), and Sudanese Prime Minister Dafallah, as well as delegations at ministerial level from Benin, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia and Malawi.

Among several documents before the Bureau is a report of the second meeting of the steering committee, which contains proposals for the immediate measures to be taken to combat food emergencies, rehabilitation of African agriculture, practical reforms and long-term measures, drought, control of desertification, as well as refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters.

## SENEGAL

### Data transmission network

The first of the 13 experimental sessions designed to promote the access to the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) to European data banks has taken place in Dakar under the supervision of two experts from Euronet Diane, a European network which can give direct access to all kinds of information in the most diverse fields.

The demonstration ceremony, presided over by the Senegalese Minister of Communications, took place in the presence of the representative of the EEC Commission in Dakar and the general manager of the

Senegalese company for international telecommunication (Sonatel) which will be in charge of the project in Senegal if the experiment proves conclusive.

It is proposed that from a terminal equipped with a screen or a computer printer, research workers, university professors, lawyers, industrialists, traders and journalists interested in the project will establish a real dialogue with Euronet Diane, the first European telecommunication network comprising the post and telecommunication services of each of the EEC countries.

This system is much cheaper and is more practical than the traditional system based on the telephone because the tariff is the cheapest possible. Another principle concerns the increase availability and reliability of information.

Senegal — the only African country apart from Zimbabwe to attempt such an experiment, because of its advance in the field of data processing — has concerns which are in perfect harmony with this seminar, whose participants will acquire a better idea of the possibilities and advantages offered to their various organisations. Senegalese Communications Minister Djibo Ka recalled the campaigns of familiarisation and experimental consultation of databanks organised for many years now in Senegal within the framework of the last two Dakar international fairs.

The interest shown by the potential users led to the establishment many months ago at the Sonatel premises of a data bank consultation terminal associated with a printer for the exclusive use of the public. Mr Djibo Ka said that this constitutes the first stage toward the setting up of a national network for data transmission which will be linked to the world network. The project should, as soon as it is realised in 1988, make it possible to facilitate transmission of data both within Senegal and between Senegal and the rest of the world, the Communications Minister said.

## TOGO

### French financial assistance

Two financial agreements totalling 2.3bn CFA francs have been signed at the administrative centre for economic and financial services in Lome between Komlan Alipui, member of the Central Committee of the Rally of the Togolese People and Minister of Economy and Finance, and the Director of the French Central Fund for Economic Co-operation (CCCE), Olivier Delos.

The first agreement is on the granting of a loan to Togo by CCCE worth 2bn CFA francs for financing the third cotton gin at Atakpame. The second agreement, which is worth 30m CFA francs, is for the expansion and modernisation of Lome airport with the creation of a cargo-handling section.

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

## GHANA

### More trials of coup plotters

Two separate trials have begun in Accra of two sets of suspects charged with plotting to overthrow the PNDC. The suspects facing the National Public Tribunal in the first trial include a brother of Major Boakye Djan, chairman of the London-based Campaign for Democracy in Ghana and a son of Rv. F.K.D. Goka, former finance minister in the government of the late President Kwame Nkrumah.

The accused, also including a bank manager and non-commissioned officers, were said to have used Lome as their base for hatching the plot to oust Flt-Lt. Rawlings who seized power from a democratically elected government in December 1981.

The prosecution described the planned coup as "an act of a motley assortment of confederates in crime, constituting a veritable alliance comprising disappointed businessmen, ex-prisoners, disloyal soldiers, convicts and others bound together in the common cause of halting the current revolutionary process."

The prosecution also charged another group of three Ghanaians of plotting to overthrow the government.

### Chief Justice calls for change

Mr Justice E.N.P. Sowah, Chief Justice, said that if the country's judiciary should be an effective instrument in fulfilling the ideals of change and development, it must amend some of its strategies, methods and procedures.

He observed that there were certain procedures which made the ordinary man wonder if the judiciary were afraid of change, adding "procedures which are to be the hand maids in this search of truth and justice are now mistresses unto themselves".

The Chief Justice made these observations at the opening session of the annual Law Week celebration organised by law students at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Justice Sowah emphasised that if the law was to be of any relevance to the people, justice and law must not be seen as two different streams, "their waters must mix so that they would be relevant in the search of social justice and social development".

Stressing on the need for changes, the Chief Justice explained that progress would always be impossible if there was no change.

He stated further that there were concepts and procedures in the existing law, which certainly must change if the law would be of relevance to social change.

"The first that readily comes to the mind is that of *locus standi* which means

simply that a plaintiff in an action must have an interest in the subject matter to be sufficiently effected personally, before he can mount an action."

Theoretically, he pointed out, all Ghanaian citizens had access to the courts of the land for the "ventilation" of their grievances but, in reality, save trials carrying capital punishment, very few rural dwellers could afford the luxury of litigation either to assert their rights or vindicate themselves.

Mr Justice Sowah observed that there could be no dispute that one of the challenges of social justice was the question of legal aid.

In his address, the President of the Law Students Union, Mr Ben Akuetteh Yoyowah, said the theme for this year's 'Law Week' celebrations, 'The role of the law in social development', was chosen in recognition of the socio-economic transformation going on in the country.

### Export of cocoa to China

Ghana is to export about 5m dollars worth of cocoa to China in exchange for Chinese hardware. The head of a 10-man Chinese trade mission which took part in Idutech (Industrial and Technology Fair) 86 said an agreement to this effect had been reached during a visit to China last year by the Chairman of the PNDC Flt-Lt. Rawlings.

Apart from participating in the fair, the mission was in the country to finalise arrangements on the export of Chinese goods to Ghana. He said he had already held discussions with the Secretary of Trade on the type of hardware Ghana needed and companies that would import them.

He named the Ghana National Trading Corporation as one of the buyers. The company has signed a 20,000 dollar contract with the National Light Industrial Products of China for some of the sewing machines. He expressed China's willingness to team up with Ghanaian entrepreneurs to set up a light company in Ghana.

### British aid pledge

Britain has pledged £14m in assistance to Ghana this year. The assistance will be in the sectors of industry, health and education.

### Freight offices at border towns

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is to establish freight offices at Bolga, Afiado and Takoradi to handle transport needs of haulers travelling across Ghana's borders to countries which have signed bilateral agreements with Ghana.

These offices will serve as branch offices of the Ministry of Transport and will issue the

necessary transport permits to drivers.

This was disclosed in Accra by Mr Lawrence Amegbletor, a senior official of the Ministry.

He said as from April 1 this year, all drivers operating from Ghana to any neighbouring country which has signed bilateral agreement with Ghana should make sure they possess the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Transport Permit before operating across the borders.

The establishment of these freight offices will accordingly help haulers along the routes to obtain the necessary transport permits.

Commenting on the advantages of the freight offices, Mr Amegbletor said basic data could be collected from drivers for the future planning programme of the ministry. It would also help with record keeping and statistics.

## LIBERIA

### 3-day news black out

Liberian independent media organisations have decided to hold a three-day news blackout to protest the "unfavourable general atmosphere surrounding press freedom in the country", the independent *Daily Star* reported in Monrovia.

The organisations expressed "deep regret and concern" that despite the lifting of a ban on the country's press union on Thursday, "other tactics are being used to frustrate the proper functioning" of the independent media.

The organisations referred to an arson attempt on Wednesday on the offices of the *Daily Observer* newspaper, and the refusal of a privately-owned printing press to print some independent papers as examples of such tactics.

The opposition Unity Party (UP) said that any persons or groups who "openly or covertly interfere with the media in a bid to stifle their freedom are forces against the constitutional rights of the people of Liberia."

Such acts to curtail press freedom under the country's recently-elected democratic civilian government should be considered "treasonable", the party said in a statement.

### Press house burnt down

There has been a fire outbreak at the offices of the *Daily Observer*.

The fire started only hours after the daily's staff decided to start publishing again in defiance of a 14-month-old ban.

A *Daily Observer* spokesman said that he had no doubt that the fire was a case of arson aimed at preventing the *Daily* from reappearing.

Meanwhile, Liberia's government has expressed "shock and dismay" at the fire which gutted the offices of the country's most influential paper, the *Daily Observer*.

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

An information ministry statement released said that President Doe had told the justice ministry to investigate the incident.

"The government of Liberia hopes that this (the fire) was not an attempt to destroy the building, with the hope to embarrass or discredit the government," the statement said.

### Doe lifts ban on journalists

President Samuel Doe has lifted a ban on journalists, teachers and students imposed following an abortive coup attempt in November.

A statement released by President Doe's spokesman Mr Patric Kugmeh, said that Liberia's Press Union, the National Students' Union, the National Union of Liberian Teachers and the Provisional Students' Leadership Council of the University of Liberia in Monrovia could now resume activities.

The groups were banned following a bloody attempt to oust Mr Doe in November, a month after general elections which the opposition says were rigged.

Mr Doe said that the opposition Liberia Action Party (IAP) was implicated in the coup bid and imposed a ban on the organisations to which many IAP supporters belong.

The statement said that Mr Doe's decision to lift the ban was made in the hope "that these organisations will seek to promote peace, unity and love among Liberians . . . rather than engage in acts that will tend to plunge the Liberian nation into chaos."

It said that the ban on Liberia's business caucus would remain until investigations into its activities were completed.

The statement also said that Mr Doe, who seized power in a 1980 coup, would soon urge the country's legislature to lift a ban on students practising politics.

### Budget for second half of fiscal year

The Liberian government has approved a budget of over 300m dollars to facilitate its operation for the second half of the fiscal year from January 1 to June 30 this year. The 'Footprints Today' newspaper, quoting Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Paul Jeffy, said the total revenue estimate of the budget for the six months is 128.85m dollars, while expenditure is estimated at 174.55 million dollars.

Minister Jeffy, however, noted that the budget has a deficit of 45.70m dollars and noted that it has been proposed that the deficit be financed by disbursement project loans of 22m dollars plus proceeds from PL (public law 18481) accounts of 11m dollars and other fiscal measures of 12.7m dollars.

## SIERRA LEONE

### Dutch nationals deported

The Sierra Leonean government has ordered the immediate deportation of a Dutchman and woman for allegedly importing goods illegally into the country and smuggling out gold and diamonds, official sources in Freetown said.

The sources said that the two, who they named as Max Van Herk and Mrs Nuhad Toplulos, had illegally imported vehicles and other goods into Sierra Leone and made false customs declarations.

## IVORY COAST

### Computer studies to be introduced

Computer studies will soon be introduced in Ivorian primary schools, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny has hinted at a cabinet meeting. According to the president the country's youth need to know about computers early in life, adding, 'such studies would commence at the primary school level.'

### Boycott of cocoa agreement

The Ivory Coast has announced that it will not participate in the fourth international agreement on cocoa. This was announced by the Minister of Agriculture at the conference on cocoa in Geneva on February 26. President Houphouet-Boigny was reported by radio as saying in Paris after meeting President Mitterrand on February 27 that if the Ivory Coast farmers' interests were not safeguarded in an agreement, Ivory Coast would go over to producing more profitable commodities.

### Togo, I. Coast, Benin record food surpluses

Despite bumper harvests in Africa last year, six African countries in 1986 will have problems feeding their populations, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said on March 2 in its first special report this year on the situation in Africa, the FAO named the six as Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan. It said they would need 2.4m tonnes for food aid, 900,000 tonnes of it as a matter of urgency.

The FAO put the total food aid needs of the 45 countries south of the Sahara at 3.3m tonnes, half that of last year. A further 5.3m tonnes would be imported on a commercial basis, it said. This was despite a generally excellent harvest in 1985, which was a record 54.3m tonnes, 14.2m more than in

1984 and 23% up on the average of the last five years, the FAO said.

Several countries recorded exceptional surpluses of secondary grains, particularly maize and millet, the report added. In Benin, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe 2.7m tonnes of these crops were available immediately, 600,000 tonnes more than the total grain deficit of the countries worst hit by drought.

The FAO called on donor countries to help by funding the purchase of food in areas of surplus in Africa and their transport to areas of need.

The report spotlighted the case of Sudan, which recorded a harvest of 4.6m tonnes in 1985 and a surplus of 520,000 tonnes. Yet it did not have the financial and logistic resources to distribute the food to areas like Darfur and Kordofan, where 60% of the country's 5.1m refugees from neighbouring states are living. Similarly, Senegal has 100,000 tonnes of grain available, Mali and Burkina Faso 40,000 tonnes each, Niger 35,000 tonnes and Chad 30,000 tonnes, the FAO said.

In Ethiopia the government estimates that 6.5m people are still short of food and has put their needs in outside aid for this year at 1.08m tonnes. According to the FAO, last year's harvest totalled 5.5m tonnes, down 12% or 850,000 tonnes on a normal year's yield.

Prospects for the 1986 harvest are variable, the report says. In most of southern Africa the rains were late but good in January and February, and the harvest should be normal if they continue, but Angola and Mozambique will be hit by the affects of civil war and Botswana by a sixth successive year of drought.

In Central and East Africa, where the main crop has already been planted, weather conditions are normal and yields should be the same, the FAO says. In the rest of the continent, no predictions can be made for several months.

### Trade minister ends visit

Mr Jermu Laine, the Foreign Trade Minister of Finland, made an official visit to Ivory Coast from February 26 to March 1 during which he had discussions with many members of the government, notably M Mathieu Ekra, the Minister of State for the President of the Republic, as well as a working session with this Ivorian counterpart, M Nicolas Kouandi-Angba.

Talking about the results of his visit, Mr Jermu Laine first of all observed that his country was very determined to expand trade with Ivory Coast both in terms of imports and exports. While deploring the fact that Finland took no active part in the commercialisation of Ivory Coast's main products (coffee and cocoa), he however indicated that studies were being undertaken which would result in increased trade as far as these products were concerned.





## Azuma named boxer of the month

The WBC named Ghanaian Azumah Nelson as its "Boxer of the Month of February" for having successfully defended his world featherweight title against Mexican Marcos Villasana.

Nelson won a split verdict (116-113, 116-112 and 113-113) over Villasana on February 26 in Los Angeles.

Canada-based Nigerian boxer Michael Olajide got the recognition he deserved following his first mention in the latest ratings released in Mexico City by the World Boxing Council (WBC).

Olajide was ranked the eight contender for the undisputed world middleweight title held by American Marvin Hagler.

Another Nigerian, Bashiru Ali, retained his Number Two ranking in the cruiserweight category in which American Bernard Benton is champion.

### Agony of Yara's daughter

The burning desire of 23-year-old daughter of the late celebrated footballer, Baba Yara to witness the historic and moving posthumous honouring of the father by the State never materialized as death laid its icy hands on the girl's eight-month-old son at the last hour.

Yasmil Baba Yara, together with the husband, Alhaji iddrisu Fuseini had finalised arrangements to travel to Accra for the occasion when suddenly their son fell sick the day they were to leave for Accra. The son died the next Friday.

Incidentally, the boy, who was named after the grandfather, did not live to read about the monumental contributions of the grandfather towards the promotion and development of Ghana football.

### Egypt start badly

It was a day of gloom for hosts Egypt as Senegal pipped them 1-0 in the opening Group "A" match of the 15th African Cup of Nations final tournament in Cairo.

After a stalemate first half, outside-left Youm netted the back-breaker which silenced the vociferous crowd in the 67th minute.

Egypt, Mozambique, Ivory Coast and Senegal are in the Cairo-based Group "A" while Morocco, Algeria, Zambia and holders Cameroon are locked in the Group "B" based in Alexandria.

Two teams qualify from each side for the semi-finals.

### Oyo keeps AFC post

Mr Orok Oyo of Nigeria has retained his post as a Vice-President of the African Football Confederation (AFC).

He beat two other opponents from the Republic of Benin and Togo in an election held

at the headquarters of the AFC in Cairo, Egypt.

Mr Oyo's victory message was sent to the Nigeria Football Association's Chairman, Group Captain Tony Ikazoboh by the secretary of the NFA, Mr Patrick Okpomo, who is attending the meeting in Cairo.

According to Group Captain Ikazoboh, he got Mr Okpomo's message through the telephone and he was "still waiting for the full details of the election." The chairman has, however, sent a congratulatory message to Mr Oyo on behalf of Nigerian football.

### NSC to be re-structured

Plans are underway to "re-organise the National Sports Council (NSC)," Minister of Social Development Youth and sports, Lt-Col Abdulahi has said in Kano.

Exchanging views with the Kano State director of sports, Alhaji Aliyu Sambo, said that some of the measures to be taken include the reduction in the membership of the NSC board and the setting up of four zonal headquarters outside Lagos.

### Strive to enlighten public

Professional sports writers must strive to enlighten the public, the executive members of the Sokoto State wing of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) have been charged.

Speaking at the swearing-in of the executive, the state director of sports, Alhaji Sani Kangiwa, urged members to especially encourage the wealthy ones, on the need to sponsor sporting activities and to contribute towards sports development.

Alhaji Sani said that the task ahead of the association was by no means small, adding that in view of the religious belief of the majority of the people of the state, "you must do a lot to convince them and further popularise sports in the state."

He urged them to be objective in all their coverage and criticisms, pointing out that the public depended so much on the media for information and "you cannot afford to fail them."

### Wrestlers set for Commonwealth Games

Wrestlers who will represent Nigeria at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in July will be selected during the fourth Inter-State Senior Men's Wrestling Championships.

The secretary of the Nigeria Amateur Wrestling Association (NAWA), Mr J. Ayinde-Peters, said in a statement that those selected would proceed to Ibadan where they would be camped in readiness for the Games.

Both local and international competitions have been organised for the wrestlers by the association prior to the Games, Mr Ayinde-Peters said.



• Ayew Abedi Pele is obviously over the moon after scoring the 40th minute goal that gave the Black Stars of Ghana a 1-0 win in the finals of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, Zone Three Championship in Accra. The Black Stars have won the trophy for the fourth successive time. Niger beat Burkina Faso 2-1 to claim the third spot.

# TALKING DRUMS

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

LET'S CARRY YOUR BUSINESS MESSAGES ON THE  
SOUNDWAVES OF THE

# TALKING DRUMS

This is because when the drums 'talk' it is heard loud and clear, far and wide throughout Africa, United Kingdom, USA and Europe.

Don't miss out on our *SPECIAL OFFER* to all our new customers.



*Our Rates are:*

FULL PAGE	£380.00
HALF PAGE	£190.00
ONE THIRD	£126.00
ONE SIXTH	£64.00
BASIC MINIMUM ICM	£4.50



All Advertisements and further enquiries should be made to

**THE BUSINESS MANAGER,  
TALKING DRUMS PUBLICATIONS,  
MADHAV HOUSE  
68 MANSFIELD ROAD  
LONDON NW3 2HU  
01-482 2165**