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13 May 1981

# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 720



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### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ALLEGED CUBAN DESERTERS--Tens of Cuban deserters--apparently blacks--have reportedly been living in the populous Brazzaville and Pointe Noire (Congo) suburbs, as well as in the Angolan and Mozambican "muceques" of Luanda and Maputo. They subsist on small deals and carry on (clandestine) trade with surrounding villages. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 18 Mar 81 p 13]

SWISS PRESS ASSISTANCE--The head of cooperation and development in the Swiss Foreign Ministry announced on 23 March that the sum of 815,000 Swiss francs (about FR 2 million or CFAF 100 million) will be provided for the establishment in Mali and Upper Volta of several local newspapers that "could strengthen the bonds between rural and urban regions." These projects are the result of an initiative by UNESCO (United Nations Education, Science, and Culture Organization), which has developed a plan to aid the development of press organs in Third World countries. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1000] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

UNITA COMMUNIQUE NAMES GENERALS--In a communique issued in Paris, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which is opposed to the present government in Luanda, denounces the large-scale offensive being carried out by government forces in Benguela, Bie and Cuando-Cubango Provinces. According to the communique this offensive, "which is aimed at starving people who have remained loyal to UNITA," is led by Soviet Generals Iniutsin and Tohipocon and by Cuban Generals Pedro Garcia Pela and Assiliza and Cuban Colonels Jorge Garcia Cartaia and Lanamira. In the same communique UNITA announced that it was suspending contacts with the Portuguese Government and negotiations with the International Red Cross regarding the Portuguese prisoners which it claims to be holding. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 960] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

AMBASSADOR TO USSR--On 22 March Andrey Gromyko, Soviet minister of foreign affairs, received in the Kremlin the People's Republic of Angola's new ambassador to Moscow, Paulo de Castro. According to TASS, the meeting took place "in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality" and it provided the opportunity for an exchange of views on Soviet-Angolan relations and on current international problems, first and foremost the situation in southern Africa. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 960] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

OIL COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL--At the end of March Cesar Cals Filho, Brazilian minister of energy and mines, had a series of talks with Jorge Morais, Angolan minister of petroleum, about cooperation in the oil area between the two countries. Mr Cals Filho arrived in Luanda on 22 March at the head of a delegation which included officials from PETROBRAS which has signed several offshore development contracts with SONANGOL. On 25 March at the end of the Brazilian minister's visit an agreement was signed. According to its terms PETROBRAS and SONANGOL will operate jointly in the offshore bloc located north of Luanda. Angolan circles feel that the Brazilian company's contribution of its technology will allow SONANGOL to "take a big step forward in the acquisition of offshore technology." Finally, the two ministers agreed that Angola would increase its sales of crude oil to Brazil by 25 percent starting in the second half of 1981. It will be recalled that Angolan oil exports to Brazil reached 2.5 million barrels in 1980. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 960] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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BENGUELA RAILROAD PLIGHT--The 1980 report of Societe Generale de Belgique says, in the chapter devoted to its subsidiary Tanks Consolidated Investment (a holding company that has shares in the Benguela Railway Company) that operating conditions on the Benguela railway remain precarious, the line being the object of frequent attacks that interrupt traffic. Efforts to restore normal operating conditions on the line have been intensified. The company obtained advances of \$20 million through agreements concluded with diverse governments and financial bodies, money which will enable it to purchase essential equipment. The Angolan Government has expressed the desire to acquire an additional 41 percent of the public capital of the company; it would then be the majority shareholder. Negotiations are under way. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1026] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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BENIN

BULLETIN REPORTS ON RECENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1006

[Article--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Excerpts] A recent economic and monetary statistics bulletin from the Central Bank of the West African States (BCEAO) was devoted to Benin.

In /agricultural production,/ the 1979-80 season brought in 6,059 tons of cacao (up 1,948 tons), 25,765 tons of cottonseed (up 7,025 tons), 17,702 tons of karite-nuts (up 17,454 tons [sic]) and 29,037 tons of palmetto (up 5,607 tons); representing a total value of CFAF 4.6 billion. At the start of the 1980-81 season that is now under way, purchase prices for producers were raised (in Fr CFA per kilo) from 160 to 200 on coffee, from 55 to 60 on cottonseed, and from 35 to 37.50 on palmetto.

In the first 3 months of the 1980-81 season, the Benin Palm Oil Company (SOBEPALH) produced 1,971 tons of oil and 286 tons of palmetto, and the National Fatty Substances Industry Company (SONICOG) produced 2,333 tons of palmetto-oil and 2,580 tons of oil-cakes.

During the first 3 parts of 1980, traffic at the /autonomous port of Cotonou/ amounted to 67,000 tons offloaded (including 16,400 tons of oil products and 174,000 tons of clinker) and 64,600 tons embarked. In commercial traffic, the Joint Benin-Niger Railroad and Transport Organization (OCBN) during the first 9 months of 1980 carried 155,600 tons upcountry (including 125,600 destined for Niger) and 213,300 tons down-country (including 8,300 from Niger). For the first 8 months of 1980, Cotonou International /Airport/ registered 1,946 commercial aviation flights, as well as 48,300 arriving and departing passengers.

At the end of July 1980, the /commercial turnover/ index for the primary commercial houses stood at 251.3, compared to 228.8 a year ago (based on 100 for the year 1970).

For the year 1980, some /retail prices/ underwent a significant increase (imported food products and locally produced commodities); however, palm oil prices went down by 18 percent. The hourly rate of the /guaranteed interoccupational minimum wage/ was raised effective 1 January 1980 from CFAF 45 to 51.75. The /budget/ for the fiscal year running from January-December 1980 was declared

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to be in balance, without external contributions, at CFAF 33.8 billion (up 6.9 billion over the previous period). On 31 October 1980, duties and taxes collected by the customs service totaled CFAF 14.2 billion, 92 percent of which was on imports.

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BENIN

BRIEFS

FRG VEHICLE DONATION--Mr Dieter Papenfuss, the ambassador from the FRG, handed over on 24 March to Benin's minister of interior and public security, Mr Vincent Gnezodje, a consignment of rolling stock destined for Benin's domestic security forces. This gift, composed of 20 BMW motor bicycles and 6 Unimog trucks, is the first instalment of German equipment assistance to Benin's domestic security forces, the German diplomat said. The aid should amount to DM 1 million, or some CFAF 115 million. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1006] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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BURUNDI

BRIEFS

CEMENT PRODUCTION--Since last December Burundi's ENNACI [National Lime and Cement Making Company] has been making pozzolana portland cement from imported portland cement and pozzolana out of a quarry near Ngozi. The 200-ton monthly production goes mostly to the National Housing Office. ENNACI was set up in 1979 with a capital of 50 million Burundi francs, and it has been the recipient of a further 50 million Burundi francs for 1979 and 73 million Burundi francs for 1980 in government financial contributions. The company is planning to expand with the installation of a lime kiln having a 50 ton per day capacity, and it is still facing various difficulties. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 688] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

POLITICAL SPLIT EXACERBATED BY NEW GOVERNMENT

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 p 34

[Article: "A Faithful Friend Rewarded"--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] So now we are going to have Simon Narcisse Bozanga as the third prime minister since the restoration of the republic. Aged 39, a graduate of the International Institute of Public Administration (Paris) and the holder of a law degree, Bozanga, who was named on 3 April, owes his unexpected promotion above all to a keen sense of loyalty. This technocrat, who held several minor positions under Bokassa (he was among other things ambassador to Gabon from 1976 to 1979) before becoming minister of justice in Dacko's second government, is in reality one of the people who have "made" the Central African Democratic Union, or UDC, the president's party. During the last electoral campaign, Bozanga was David Dacko's most valued lieutenant.

So it was not at all surprising that the government formed on 4 April by this "committed" prime minister was "tilted." Twenty-two office-holders (including two women), all of them members of the UDC, or relatives of members, with the key positions going to trusted people: Barthelemy Kanda in economy, General Sana in justice, Jean-Pierre Kombet in foreign affairs. The latter position was held by Simon Bedaya Ngaro, a member of the entourage of Ange Patasse, the main opposition leader. His expulsion, as well as that of all the "neutrals" in the previous government who had not sufficiently proven their "fighting spirit" during the electoral campaign is certainly symptomatic of siege mentality. That situation is going to exacerbate a political cleavage which since 20 March has already become very deep (JEUNE AFRIQUE No 1056). After filing an appeal in the Supreme Court to annul the presidential elections, the opposition in early April established a provisional political council. Its call for a general strike on 3 April, the date for David Dacko's swearing-in, was hard to swallow. But its proclaimed intention to run a single slate in the legislative elections (scheduled for the month of May) poses a serious threat to the president's party which received only 50.23 percent of the votes. Especially if the opposition concentrates its criticisms on an economic situation that everyone in Bangui agrees is /"more depressed"/ than it was at the time of Bokassa's fall.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

LIBERATION MOVEMENT--A Central African Liberation Movement has been set up recently in Lagos. It called for passive resistance by the people to oppose France's dispatch of troop reinforcement to the Central African Republic. [Text] [London NEW AFRICAN in English Apr 81 p 10] [COPYRIGHT: 1981 IC Magazines Limited]

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COMORO ISLANDS

BRIEFS

M'VOUNI SCHOOL--The first higher education establishment in the Comoros, M'Vouni School for Higher Education, located several kilometers outside Moroni, has been in operation for over 3 months. To fill an urgent need, the school, under the direction of Sultan Chouzour, is presently training teachers for rural schools (colleges), but its main task will be to train higher-level cadres to satisfy specific Comoran needs. The school can accommodate boarding and day students, a library, laboratories and sports facilities. [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1022]

FAC PORTS AID--On 25 February two FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund] aid agreements were signed: 1) 25 million Comoran francs for studying the feasibility of developing the Port of Mutsamudu into a deep-water port capable of accommodating heavy tonnage vessels (draft up to 9 m) by expanding the present jetty to 250 m, 170 m for ocean-going and 80 m for coastal vessels. 2) 185 million Comoran francs to improve the runways of Moroni-Hahaya international airport to accommodate a large carrier. [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1022]

FRENCH PORT, AIRPORT AID--On 25 February, Comoros signed two finance agreements with France. One agreement deals with improving the Port of Mutsamudu (Anjouan), the other with improving Hahaya (Grande Comore) airport's runways; total cost amounts to 4.2 million French francs. [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Mar 81 p 628]

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CONGO

BRIEFS

OILMEN FILLING HOTEL SPACE--Almost all the hotel rooms in Pointe Noire have been "requisitioned" by the oil companies, who have booked them for 6 months. Only members of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT, the sole party in the country) are able to find lodging. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 p 50]  
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ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN CANCELLATION--According to the terms of an agreement signed 12 March in Addis Ababa, Japan has made a grant to Ethiopia of 2.2 million dollars in the form of debt cancellation. This is the second grant made by Japan to Ethiopia and it will allow the latter country to buy Japanese industrial and telecommunications equipment. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 956] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

USSR DONATION--On 11 March Boris Kirnasovsky, the USSR's ambassador in Addis Ababa, announced that his country had offered Ethiopia 12,000 tons of flour, hydraulic pumps and tank trucks worth about 6 million dollars. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 956] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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GABON

BRIEFS

LIQUID NITROGEN PRODUCTION--The management of the Gabonese Oxygen and Acetylene Manufacturing Company (GABOA) has announced that toward the end of the year Gabon will be the top African producer of liquid nitrogen. GABOA's office director, Guy Laureau, said that GABOA, a subsidiary of Air Liquide which has been established in Libreville and Port-Gentil since 1964, is going to set up a liquid nitrogen production unit in the capital of Ogooue-Maritime which will be operational at the end of the year. There will be about 500 million CFA francs invested, and capacity will be 5 tons a day. According to Guy Laureau this plant will make it possible to meet the needs of petroleum extraction operations. The energy crisis has in fact led to widespread use throughout the world of new techniques which maximize extraction of a range of derivative products such as gas and certain essential oils from a petroleum field. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 April 81 p 952] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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KENYA

PLOT AGAINST MOI FOILED, VERDICT ON TREASON CHARGE SOUGHT

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 p 35

[Text] Nairobi was not at all disturbed by the disclosure on 19 March of a "plot" to assassinate the head of state. Mr Daniel Arap Moi did not postpone any of his scheduled meetings.

This means one of two things: either the danger had been averted, or it never existed...in fact--few people knew it--the two accused had been behind bars since the end of February. Andrew Mungui Muthemba, 45, a well-known businessman, and Dickson Kamau Muiruri, an unemployed youth, had been booked for attempted bribery of officers. Three weeks later, they were indicted for "treason."

Both men belong to the dominant Kikuyu tribe of former President Jomo Kenyatta who died in 1978. By the terms of the Constitution, the succession went to Vice President Daniel Arap Moi, who himself comes from one of the small tribes, the Kalenjin.

It is known that some Kikuyus had already tried to eliminate Mr Moi. The president had opted to shelve the affair.

Today, we might well witness a second chapter of the "war of succession." Indeed, according to the deposition made 24 March by Capt Ricky Gitucha, the first defendant told him: "That man must disappear...we must re-establish the former (liberal) policy...." And Muthemba allegedly tried to persuade the captain to purloin arms and ammunition from the army's storehouses.

A sudden switch on 25 March: before a packed chamber, Muthemba swore that he had absolutely no intention of overthrowing the president of the Republic. His revision: he was trying, with the blessing of his cousin Charles Njonjo, the minister of the interior, to track down a lead on arms trafficking. So, conspiracy or arms trafficking? The affair was taken before the High Court. On 27 March, the two accused pleaded not guilty. The verdict is to be rendered on 4 May.

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KENYA

ROLE OF ASIANS IN DEVELOPMENT NOTED

London NEW AFRICAN in English Apr 81 p 32

[Article by Peter Mwaura]

[Text] The vital role of the Kenyan Asian in the country's development was spotlighted by President Moi's historic visit to India, writes Peter Mwaura]

Today--17 years after independence--the Asian community in Kenya, which has dropped from 170,000 to about 140,000 but is still the largest and most dynamic Asian immigrant community in Africa, is accepted as part of Kenya's multi-ethnic society with a vital role to play in social and economic development.

Kenya's self-image as the show-case of democracy in Africa has also tempered the antipathy towards Asians. The lesson of Uganda, which expelled thousands of Asians and brought untold harm to the country's economy when Idi Amin took power, was not lost on Kenyans.

Now the acceptance of the vital development role Asians have was sealed at the recent historical visit to the Indian subcontinent by Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi--the first state visit ever by a Kenyan head of state.

The five-day visit was important not only for Indo-Kenyan relations and Kenya's industrial development, but also as a landmark and pointer for future economic cooperation between Third World countries.

Of particular significance was India's pledge to assist in the development of small-scale industries, provide scholarships for Kenyans to study technical and scientific subjects in Indian universities, technical assistance, and promotion of trade. India also agreed to offer Kenya credit facilities for imports from India.

Although Kenya's balance of trade over the past five years has been moving in favour of India, Kenya is likely to benefit from this arrangement as it is financially hamstrung by a declining economy badly hit by weather and a high oil import bill. At the same time Kenya needs Indian industrial products and machinery.

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The agreements are the most far-reaching of their kind signed between two developing countries and are likely to have a profound impact on Kenya's developing strategy.

The agreements strengthen already existing cooperation. Kenya has several joint ventures involving Indian technical know-how, the largest of which is the Pan African Paper Mills which transformed a poor rural area into a booming town employing more than 3,000 people.

Kenya's education system is badly structured to meet technical manpower needs. About 20 technical students will go to India every year to join about 3,000 Kenyan students already there.

Indian universities cost less than most US and European ones and offer the kind of technical education that is more suited to Kenya's needs.

Moi's visit was not only a manifestation of Kenya's growing and outward-looking foreign policy but also significant politically. India was a founder member of the nonaligned movement and both Kenya and India are members of the Club of 77. The visit was a call for solidarity among the nonaligned countries.

Super-Powers

Talks were held with India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy in which they condemned the military presence and rivalry of the super-powers in the Indian Ocean. As Indian Ocean littoral states, Kenya and India underlined their concern that the ocean should be a military-free zone in accordance with the UN declaration of 1971.

Support of SWAPO in the liberation of Namibia and the Palestine Liberation Organization was also reaffirmed. They condemned South African apartheid policies and called on Israel to withdraw "from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem".

Seen against the background of the apparent failure of the North-South dialogue to restructure the world economies to assist the disadvantaged Third World countries, the outcome of President Moi's visit will have important lessons for other developing countries in Africa in these days of difficult economic times coupled with the cut-back on aid and ineffectual transfer of technology from the developed countries of the West.

It would seem that the era of economic and cultural cooperation opened by Moi's visit to India may well be the beginning of a major rethinking on the part of many countries in Africa on the need to promote more cooperation with other Third World countries rather than to rely on Western aid.

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LIBERIA

MODERATES BELIEVED TO HAVE UPPER HAND AT MOMENT

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 pp 58, 59, 60

[Article by Jos-Blaise Alima--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] In order to counter the Soviet-Libyan "danger," traditional friends led by the United States have launched a counteroffensive.

New Zealand lamb used to be prized in Liberia. It has become hard to get in Monrovia's butcher shops. Since traditional suppliers are no longer extending credit to Liberian importers, businessmen find themselves obliged to pay cash-- which is contrary to custom and causes their accounts departments important problems. The result: a significant decline in commercial activity. Most warehouses in the port of Monrovia are empty. In the majority of cases the banks refuse to guarantee credits to their traditional customers, because of the problems they encounter in getting their loans paid back. One thing led to another and the Bank of Liberia finally closed its doors on 18 March. Founded in 1955, this subsidiary of Chemical Bank of New York reckoned among its principal shareholders three great American-Liberian families, including the family of former President William Tolbert. But Chemical Bank (which held 48 percent of the initial capital) withdrew just after the coup of 12 April 1980 JEUNE AFRIQUE No 1057). As Liberia's only private banking institution, it was also the biggest and was at that time handling 30 percent of the national money market.

Things have changed greatly because the Bank of Liberia has an uncovered balance of \$21 million at the National Bank. Was it smart to close down? The depositors must now wait several months before eventually withdrawing their assets. This immobilization of capital is not in order to arrange the affairs of the two primary iron ore extraction companies, Bong Mining Company and Lamco. Iron ore, as is well known, constitutes the country's principal source of revenue, and the slump in the world market price is responsible for many of Liberia's economic problems.

In Monrovia it is freely admitted that it was the work of preparing for and organizing the seventh OAU summit (July 1979) that precipitated the fall of William Tolbert. For example, it took \$10 million just to build the OAU village, and most of the villas reserved for heads of state are now unoccupied. That

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investment of lost capital shocked people in a country that was prey to galloping inflation.

At the time of the April 1980 putsch, external debt amounted to \$700 million, while the state's reserves were barely...\$5 million. The panic resulting from the coup is said to have led to the flight of \$32 million.

The situation has scarcely improved. On the contrary, admits master sergeant President Samuel K. Doe, /"state revenues are not reaching the levels anticipated when the budget was established. For the first trimester of the fiscal year/ (July-September),/ they amounted to \$46 million instead of the \$54 million expected."/ All economic activity has slowed down. /" Our turnover has dropped 60 percent,"/ complains the marketing manager of the octopus-like CFAO (French West Africa Company). And he adds: /"We have lost more than \$1 million in all this. I am speaking of government debts that have not been honored."/

The hotels, that had been operating at close to 90 percent capacity, are today only 20 percent occupied. Companies have laid off personnel to reduce spending. Lebanese businessmen are accused of having set fire to their shops to get the insurance money. A number of them have simply put a hold on all their activities. In some cases, Indians have filled the gap. But in general the economy is stagnating. The enthusiasm that reigned just after the revolution has been replaced by disillusionment caused by the inability of the soldiers to put together a precise program for the government.

And in spite of all this, some countries are rushing in to try to retrieve the "revolution." Libya has offered \$25 million in aid, while the USSR and Ethiopia have offered student scholarships. Some suggest that the Liberian soldiers, on the advice of the politicians, have played /"the Eastern card"/ as a means of blackmailing the United States, which had more than one reason to be cool toward the new regime.

It is nonetheless true that the reaction was not long in coming. "Traditional friends" have launched a counteroffensive that translates into eloquent figures. American assistance went from 7 to more than 25 million dollars a year. The United States also supplied \$20 million in emergency food assistance, which in November 3 commercial banks in New York took care of the \$6 million oil bill that was owed to Saudi Arabia.

France, through the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE] has provided a \$50 million loan for restoration and enlargement of the port of Monrovia. Also, the EEC has provided a \$45 million loan under the Lome II Convention.

Lack of Coordination

The government, however, will have to come up with detailed project proposals. This did not always happen, even before 12 April 1980, which is the reason why a sum of \$20 million from Lome I is still at Liberia's disposal. Specifically, there is no coordination at the level of the governing bodies, and this worries the businessmen. One of them recently confided to the AGENCE FRANCE PRESS

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correspondent for Monrovia: /"You may reach an agreement with one minister and 5 members of the PRC/ [People's Redemption Council] /and the next day see another minister and 5 other PRC members take a different position."/

Relief of the Cubans

This dissension is maintained adroitly by countries that want to divide the ruling team--Libya, Cuba, and foremost the USSR (as to finances). Tripoli and Havana have opened embassies in Monrovia. Many Cuban military advisers have been sent there, while the staff of the Soviet Embassy has grown from 7 to 25 members.

When some people [express their] worry about these establishments, Bacchus Matthews, the minister of foreign affairs, retorts: /"Cuba and the USSR certainly have embassies in Freetown. Does that mean that Sierra Leone has become Marxist?"/ And, too, the Libyan presence is opposed by the commander in chief of the armed forces, Gen Thomas Quiwonkpa. Even if, on the other hand, the liaison mission has not yet been closed, as he had demanded, the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat on 18 March prove at the very least that his theories are winning out. On the eve of the anniversary of the "revolution," there was talk of the arrival--for a 1-month period--of about 100 American military advisers (from the famous Green Beret corps) who would come to take the place of the Cubans. So, are all the bets now in? Has Doe definitively adopted the theories of his former comrade in arms, who is now a general? /"Whatever happens,"/ an African diplomat confided to me, /"Liberia will remain in the Western camp."/ The Franco-Ivoirian maneuvers that took place in early March in the Man region, near the border, did prove to be an irritant to Liberian nationalism, however. In Monrovia, the ties of friendship that bound William Tolbert to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny have not been forgotten. It has also not been forgotten that on the day of the putsch, it was the ambassador from the Ivory Coast, Clement Meledje, who took Benedict Tolbert, the son of the assassinated president, to the French Embassy (Tolbert was to be kidnapped 3 months later by Liberian soldiers).

Opinion Divided

This episode chilled relations between the two countries again. The Franco-Ivoirian military maneuvers, which were routine, were held out as an operation intended to discourage any possible Libyan infiltration from Liberia into the Ivory Coast. The whole affair has opinion divided. There were those--the majority--who, like the minister of foreign affairs, condemned the Franco-Ivoirian actions. On the other hand, Gen Quiwonkpa and his supporters were of the opinion that the Ivory Coast would never attack Liberia. All the evidence leads one to believe that for the moment it is the moderates represented by this latter faction who are sailing before the wind in Monrovia.

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LIBERIA

LEBANESE DOCTOR'S ROLE AS BENEFACTOR EXAMINED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 p 59

[Article by J. B. A.--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Like all African countries, Liberia has "its" Lebanese: between 5,000 and 6,000 of them, the majority of whom are found in Monrovia. But it is also the only foreign community that is active in the interior of the country, and which maintains cordial relations with the Liberians, though they are suspected of still harboring a touch of racism.

Mostly businessmen, Liberia's Lebanese have been plunging themselves into industry (cement, nails, candles, etc) for 20 years now. They have exclusive control over the country's only cement plant (CEMENCO). They also own LIPCO (manufacture of furniture), MIC (furniture factory), and LIPFOCO (foam cushioning). They own the majority of Monrovia's restaurants, including the two most prestigious (Diana and Gondole). As for hotels, the only one that does not belong to them is the Africa, which was built for the seventh OAU summit; it is owned by the state.

However, commercial activity has declined since the "revolution." Some enterprises have closed their doors. And some businessmen have gone to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

One who did not is Dr 'Arif Kassas, who is completing his 17th year in Liberia. This 52-year-old man considers Liberia his 2d home. Of course, his family lives in Lebanon where he goes to see them twice a year, but he is without doubt one of the most popular men in the Liberian capital. Every taxi driver knows his house, located on the first floor of the little building in the center of Monrovia that also houses his clinic.

Dr Kassas landed in Liberia at the age of 35 purely by chance. /"Because of idealism,"/ he says. He dreamed of a career in Africa, and had thought of setting himself up in Zaire, then under Belgian colonial power. Today, the doctor is known less for the quality of his medical care than for his social activities and his role as a gray eminence [counseling] with the three Liberian presidents he has known. First of all, the two Williams (Tubman and Tolbert). Then came Samuel Kanyon Doe. 'Arif Kassas made his acquaintance 5 years ago, when visiting Monrovia's central prison, of which the master sergeant was the commandant. He even provided him with substantial financial assistance at the time.

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/"I have dedicated myself to lightening the suffering of the masses,"/ he confides. Thus in 1973 at a cost of \$100,000 he financed an orphanage that today houses 200 children. He developed a program of educational scholarships (35 each year) for poor students. He chipped in \$50,000 on the work to improve Monrovia's central prison and designed a system to reinsert prisoners [into society?]. So he is a philanthropist, this man who claims that every Lebanese is a /"born businessman"/?...

To Sergeant Doe, who visits him almost every evening, he has offered a memorable gift: 10,000 copies of the official photograph of the head of state, printed in Madrid (Spain). It cost him more than \$10,000.

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LIBERIA

MINISTER STRESSES NEED TO WEED OUT 'FALSE PROGRESSIVES'

London NEW AFRICAN in English Apr 81 p 38

[Text] Assistant Editor Nana Humasi and Liberia's Planning Minister, Dr Togbah Nah Tipoteh, discuss the dilemmas facing Liberians one year after the military coup.

THE MOST crucial problem facing the new government in Liberia exactly 12 months after the military overthrew the regime of the late President Tolbert, is weeding out false progressives to allow conscious elements to work out a mass programme for all Liberians.

Dr. Togbah Nah Tipoteh, Liberia's planning and economic affairs minister who was in London to attend a joint IMF, World Bank, and Commonwealth meeting in his capacity as current chairman of the Africa group of governors of the IMF and the World Bank, told *New African* that the ills the takeover was meant to correct would not change if the Liberian people themselves did not have the power and the confidence to influence events in their lives.

The minister pinpointed the three objective steps upon which the success of the change in his country strongly depended as being an economy not based on conspicuous consumption, a free press, and self-reliant community projects without which there would be no democratisation of Liberian society.

"The objective reality in Liberia," he said, "calls for a continuance of the former economic system while we try gradually to improve and induce some kind of ideology into the ranks of government and the masses. But this cannot be done with a government composed of elements of the former True Whig party, the military, the Peoples Progress Party, and MOJA who don't all have the same line of thinking.

"What is indeed crucial in Liberia today is the choosing of the right calibre of leadership which can stop corruption, 50% unemployment, 160 deaths among every 1,000 babies, 52% drop in incomes, and non-suffrage as was evident in the former government."

The test facing the government, he stressed, is the building of new institutions and lifestyles for the people. "We have to Africanise our society in the modern sense but in doing so also avoid the risk of outside interference which might be out to prove the government wrong. We cannot ignore the presence of foreign business and alien interests in Liberia. To do this, Liberians must develop a new mentality and government must see the importance of encouraging the forces who want conscious change."

Dr. Nah Tipoteh, who holds a doctorate in economics, said opportunism within the ranks of government would thwart the aims of last April's coup and that what he called 'petty accumulators' who joined the Doe regime may still harbour sympathies for the old order.

The problem at home, he said, was not one of the indigenous versus the Amerigo-Liberians. The government therefore must launch a massive literacy campaign to raise consciousness and to let Liberians understand their specific problems and not be confused with the whitewash of a feud between indigenous and Amerigo-Liberian.

In the foreign policy area, the 39-year old minister and president of MOJA in

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Liberia said the foreign relations have been normalised with countries which have hitherto been hostile and that his country recognised itself within the non-aligned camp, at least for the time being. The US, he said, now considers the April 1980 events as a *fait accompli* and on account of its own interests in Liberia must increase assistance. He said Liberia would have to stay within the capitalist framework so that the people can keep their jobs and not lose confidence in the government as would be probable if the government took hasty measures to move the country towards an economy backed by progressive ideology.

"We have received no overtures from the Soviet Union," he explained.

He denied any special links with Gaddafi's Libya.

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MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY--PROCHIMAD (Chemical Products Company of Madagascar) has received the international "Africa Award 1981." The company, formed in 1965, 50 percent controlled by Malagasy companies and nationals, employs 75, only one foreigner. It produces about 3,000 tons of micronized and formulated milled products, more than 150,000 cans of aerosols, 10 tons of rat poison, 30 tons of industrial glues, etc. Investment plans contemplate tripling production. [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Mar 81 p 628]

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MALI

BRIEFS

FRENCH, FRG DONATIONS--France has recently given Mali educational equipment valued at some 100 million Malian Francs (2 million French francs). Also, West Germany has given Mali two vehicles equipped with electronics equipment destined for the technical department of Radio Mali. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1000] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

SOVIET CONSULAR AGREEMENT--Mali's Council of Ministers on 18 March approved a bill authorizing the ratification of the consular convention signed 12 June 1980 in Bamako by Mali and the Soviet Union. The council also approved the decree of ratification. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1000] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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MOZAMBIQUE

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL ON THE UPSWING

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 961

[Article: "Joaquim Chissano in Lisbon: Normalization of Relations With Portugal"]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the official visit to Lisbon from 23 to 26 March made by Joaquim Chissano, the Maputo government's minister of foreign affairs, there were signs of a political will to put an end to the disputes which have set Mozambique and Portugal at odds ever since the former Portuguese colony gained its independence.

People had already been able to discern a certain thaw between the former metropole and the new state for over a year. In Lisbon the late prime minister, Francisco Sa Carneiro, had renounced claims for compensation which had been demanded by Portugal for Mozambique's nationalization of Portuguese property. A second bone of contention is the Lisbon government's desire to see the Portuguese nationals who had been arrested after decolonization for various reasons freed. In order to show their good will, the Mozambican authorities freed seven Portuguese in connection with Chissano's trip. These were seven of the eight Portuguese who had been arrested at the beginning of March and accused of belonging to a CIA network; the minister had even delayed his departure for Lisbon by several hours in order to personally make sure that two of the Portuguese were set free.

Therefore, the head of Mozambique's diplomatic establishment, who was received at the airport by his Portuguese counterpart Andre Goncalves Pereira, received a warm reception in Lisbon and talks took place in a "fruitful" atmosphere....

In the trade area, Mozambique and Portugal decided to start negotiations with a view to signing a bilateral agreement intended to expand trade between the two countries. This agreement would be signed in Maputo during a visit to be made before the end of the year by Leonardo Matias, Portuguese secretary of state in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Trade is still very limited. In 1979 (the latest available figures) Mozambique sold 1.9 billion escudos (150 million French francs) worth of goods to Portugal (mainly copra, sisal and cotton) and bought 1.1 billion escudos (90 million French francs) of goods (especially wine, medicines, and textile products). At the beginning of 1980 Portugal gave Mozambique a loan of \$100 million to buy Portuguese goods, but the ministers of foreign affairs recognized that growth in trade relations between the two countries would come with the signing of an agreement meant to govern Portuguese-Mozambican trade over a long period of time, whereas at present that trade is carried out in bursts.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

FORESTRY AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN--An agreement between Mozambique and Spain on exploitation of forest resources was signed at the end of March in Madrid by Mr Joaquim Chissano and Jose Pedro Perez-Llorca, the foreign affairs ministers of Mozambique and Spain respectively. The two ministers also held a discussion during which they dealt with various questions of mutual interest. Also, it has been learned in Madrid that a Spanish delegation will soon go to Mozambique to have discussions on fishing questions. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1026] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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NIGER

BRIEFS

FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS INCREASED--Niger has increased considerably the number of its French military advisers. France is also making improvements to the country's air transport capability and its armament. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Apr 81 p 40] [COPYRIGHT: Jeune Afrique. GRUPJIA 1981] 9516

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NIGERIA

NIGERIAN OIL IMPORTS RESULT IN FRENCH TRADE DEFICIT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 947

[Article: "Franco-Nigerian Trade in 1980: Continued Growth and Worsening Imbalance"]

[Text] The continuing trade movement between France and Nigeria, which was evidenced at regular intervals all during 1980 (16 May 1980, 16 August 1980, 19 September 1980, 30 October 1980, 23 January 1981 and 20 February issues of MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS), finally resulted in a French deficit at year's end of 7 billion francs, nearly 2.5 times greater than the 1979 deficit which had only amounted to 2.9 billion (18 April 1980 issue of MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS). French sales in 1980 only went up 76 percent compared with the previous year, 5.7 billion francs as against 3.2 billion, while Nigerian sales increased 106 percent, 12.7 billion francs as against 6.1 billion.

It should be noted that 96 percent of Nigerian sales were made up of petroelum products (12.2 billion francs for 10.9 million barrels), the total value of which had gone up 116 percent from 1 year to the next while the total in volume had only increased 18 percent. So the decline registered by France in the level of imports covered by exports, 45 percent in 1980 versus 52 percent in 1979, is basically explained by oil price increases.

Because of its sizable purchases of Nigerian oil, France is also, like West Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands, one of the few Western countries to register a substantial deficit in its trade balance with Nigeria. This deficit expressed in dollars ended up at 1.40 billion in 1980 with 2.54 billion in purchases compared to 1.14 billion in sales. The deficit was approximately the same for the Netherlands and West Germany which ended up with 1.75 billion (2.56 billion in purchases compared to .808 billion in sales) and 1.11 billion (2.96 billion in purchases compared to 1.85 billion in sales) respectively. The United States set the record with 10.90 billion in purchases compared to 1.14 billion in sales which makes a deficit of 9.75 billion.

On the other hand, Great Britain for the same year shows a remarkable surplus of 2.40 billion with only .351 billion in purchases compared to 2.80 billion in sales, all expressed in dollars. But it is true that its oil supplies do not come from Nigeria but from its North Sea deposits.

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NIGERIA

JAPANESE COMPANY STUDIES NEW PORT COMPLEX PROJECT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS IN French 27 Mar 81 p 841

[Text] According to the 24 February issue of BUSINESS TIMES, a Japanese company referred to by the initials CODI [expansion unknown] is said to have done a study on setting up a big multi-purpose port complex about 50 km east of Lagos. No further information was given about either the complex's exact location or the company. The project's cost was estimated at 305.4 million naira and work was said to be already underway. The work will be in two stages. The cost of the first stage was estimated at 103 million naira and will be spread out over 7 years, with projected construction of temporary infrastructure (roads, wharfs, sea walls, etc.) and of access and handling facilities for ships of all tonnages.

The project's context is a regional one and it is of interest to central and western Africa. It is to specialize in receiving container ships.

Let us keep in mind that Nigeria's biggest port project up to now has been the Onne project near Port Harcourt. The Dutch firm Adriaan Volker was given the job of handling it. It was even meant to be the country's deepest port (18 July 1980 issue of MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, page 1801). Another project, also a very sizable one, has been considered for Snake Island, not far from the Tin Can Island project (13 June 1980 Issue of MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, page 1507).

Thus, Nigeria has already invested considerable sums of money in port work during the last few years (more than a billion naira between 1962 and 1980) and is continuing to invest in this sector.

Aside from Nigeria's large maritime ports--Lagos-Apapa, Tin Can, Warri, Calabar, Port Harcourt, soon Onne, and the port we have been talking about--provision is to be made for a number of river ports.

Two are already planned in Niger State at Baro and Mubi, the respective costs assessed at 3.5 and 4.5 million naira, and three in Cross River State at Ikot-Abasi, Eket, and Oron. This does not include the Onitsha port modernization in the first-mentioned state and the Opopo port modernization in the latter state.

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NIGERIA

LAGOS PORT COMPLEX STILL HANDLES MOST MARITIME TRAFFIC

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 27 Mar 81 p 841

[Text] In spite of the improvements made in the last few years to other port facilities (on this subject see especially MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 18 July 1980, page 1901), the Lagos port complex, including Apapa and Tin Can, handled the major part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's maritime traffic last year--60 percent, or 10 million tons out of a total of 18 million tons (excluding petroleum products). This statement was made by BUSINESS TIMES in its 10 March issue, which observed that at 11 million tons total traffic had been slightly higher in 1979.

The 8 million tons which did not pass through the Lagos complex went through Sapele, Warri, and, in particular, Port Harcourt. As for the port of Calabar, it had only an insignificant amount of traffic and practically all it received were ships carrying goods for export.

Port Harcourt is still hampered by its location and lack of maneuverability for ships. Like Warri it has also suffered from a lack of cargo handling equipment.

It is thought that if the 5 percent freight rate reduction for ships going to Calabar recently decided on by COWAC [Continental West Africa Conference] is maintained and the port's access to the hinterland is improved, the port will be able to increase its traffic starting in 1982 or 1983, especially since by that time the Green Revolution will have certainly had an effect and given rise to a flow of exportable agricultural products.

In the meantime let us keep in mind that Nigerian exports are still very low compared to imports. During 1979-80 (April to March) exports had even decreased by half compared to 1978-79, going from 545,000 tons to 275,000 tons, excluding petroleum products (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 5 December 1980, page 3348). Let us also keep in mind that this low level of exports has been the explanation for underutilization of container piers up to now. Thus, during the first 4 months of last year, out of a total 13,270 containers handled in all of the country's ports, involving less than 212,000 tons of goods, 12,938 containers were import-related and only 332 export-related (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, as cited above).

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NIGERIA

CONSTRUCTION, MODERNIZATION OF SHIPYARDS REPORTED

Shipyards for Repair Work

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 27 Mar 81 p 842

[Text] This month Umaru Abdurrahman Dikko, Nigerian transport minister, signed a 500 million guilder (\$215 million) contract with the Dutch firm Hollandsche Betongroep (HBG) to build three ship repair yards in the ports of Burutu, Lagos and Port Harcourt. In actual fact the Dutch firm is the head of a consortium, Navimor Consortium, and holds 80 percent of its capital, the remaining 20 percent being held by Poland's Gdansk firm Navimor. The work is to be carried out by Koninklijke Nederlandsche Mij Voor Havenwerken, an HGB subsidiary. It is to take 3 years and employ between 1,500 and 2,000 Nigerian workers with 100-150 expatriate supervisors.

In Burutu the consortium will be building a dock able to receive 150,000 ton vessels, a floating dock able to receive 25,000 ton ships, 2 repair piers, and 1 pier for maintenance work adding up to 470 meters.

In Lagos it will build a dock for 25,000 ton ships and repair piers amounting to 350 meters.

Finally, in Port Harcourt it will build a floating dock for 15,000 ton ships and repair piers amounting to 325 meters.

Each dock will have to be linked up by accessways and be supplied with electrical distribution systems (along with a steam boiler) for draining facilities, workshops, warehouses and offices.

Opobo Boatyards, Ltd Revival

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 27 Mar 81 p 842

[Text] The Nigerian minister of transport is considering modernizing and reviving the activity of Opobo Boatyards, Ltd shipyard in Ikot Abadi in Rivers State. Therefore he is looking for shipbuilders and consultants for a market and feasibility study, technical and financial analysis, setting up planning, setting up a flow chart, assessing personnel needs, and planning training for said personnel.

Interested French firms are invited on the one hand to make themselves known to the CFCE [Council of Commercial Federations of Europe] (10 Avenue d'Iena, Paris 16<sup>e</sup>; telephone: 505-33-22), where a resume of the requested work and studies is available, and on the other hand to address their proposals to the above agency before 28 April 1981.

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## NIGERIA

## BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH CUBA--At the end of March Cuban Vice President Juan Bosque made a 3-day official visit to Nigeria. On the 27th in Lagos he signed two cooperation agreements with his Nigerian counterpart, Dr Alexis Ekwueme. One involves the cultural sector, and the other involves the economic, scientific, and technology sectors. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 947] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CHINA--On 25 March Nigeria and the People's Republic of China signed a cooperation agreement covering the agricultural, industrial training, transportation and communication sectors. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 947] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY--In February Chief S.L. Edu, the retiring president of Glaxo Nigeria, Ltd who was replaced by Professor E.A. Elebute, laid the first stone for a 20 million naira pharmaceutical plant in the Agbara industrial area. The steel construction for the plant has been awarded to Eldorado (Nigeria), Ltd and the civil engineering work to Cappa and d'Alberto, Ltd and to Drake and Scall (Nigeria), Ltd. The plant is to start operating in September of next year. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 947] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

PEANUT PRODUCTION UP VERY SLIGHTLY--Emmanuel Aguma, Kano State minister of agriculture, recently asserted that Nigeria was currently experiencing a revival in peanut production thanks to "Operation Green" which was started up by the Federal Government (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 13 February, page 377). However, the minister did not give out any figures. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the rise in production is likely to be slight, from 377,000 tons in 1979-80 to 400,000 tons in 1980-81 (let us recall that it was over the million-ton level during the 1950's). According to that same U.S. agency, grinding for seeds will not take place locally (though Nigeria has a number of plants available for doing that) and the "Board" foresees purchasing 12,000 tons in order to distribute them to the farmers as seeds. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 27 Mar 81 p 842] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

NEW PARIS-LAGOS FLIGHT--UTA Airlines [Air Transportation Union, or Air Afrique] recently concluded an agreement with Nigeria Airways to provide 4th weekly Paris-Lagos passenger flight via DC-10. This agreement still has to be approved by the government. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 27 Mar 81 p 841] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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SOMALIA

BRIEFS

IDA EDUCATIONAL LOAN--On 5 March the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, announced it was granting a credit of 8 million SDR [special drawing rights] (10.2 million dollars) to Somalia for its 4th education project. This project is meant to improve the quality and effectiveness of instruction in primary and secondary schools, to provide more equitable access to secondary education in rural areas, to help in long-term planning for manpower needs, and to reform government bureaucracy. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUS ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 956] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie. Paris 1981] 9631

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UPPER VOLTA

BRIEFS

WFP EMERGENCY FOOD AID--One hundred thousand people living in the areas most seriously affected by the drought in Upper Volta are going to receive 3,000 tons of sorghum, which will be given to them as emergency food aid by the World Food Program [WFP] of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], and FAO communique of 3 April disclosed. That aid, authorized by Mr Edouard Saouma, managing director of the FAO, will be distributed at no cost for 2 and 1/2 months. The rains in these regions last year were inadequate, and the drought has seriously affected the main food crops, particularly in the regions of Dori Ouahigouya and Kaya, in the northern part of the country. In order to reduce freight costs and to accelerate distribution, the WFP is going to try to buy the necessary sorghum in a neighboring country. If the deliveries had to get to Upper Volta by boat and then road or train, as Upper Volta is landlocked, the FAO estimates that the total cost of the operation could run as high as \$1.5 million. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1005] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981]

SWEDISH DROUGHT AID--Sweden is considering making \$3 million available to Upper Volta as part of the fight against the effects of the drought in the Sahel, it was learned 28 March at the conclusion of the 4-day visit to Upper Volta by Mr Hans Blix, Sweden's undersecretary of state for international cooperation. Mr Blix, who was heading an exploratory mission from his country to look at drought-related problems--particularly desertification--said that in the future Sweden was going to devote its efforts to two projects in Upper Volta: a village woodland near Koudougou (100 km west of Ouagadougou) and a plan to popularize solar ovens. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 10 Apr 81 p 1005] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9516

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ZAIRE

NATIONAL COMMISSION ORGANIZED TO ESTABLISH ENERGY POLICY

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Apr 81 p 952

[Text] It is known that last February the Zairian Executive Council had an extensive meeting on energy matters and Zaire's energy policy (see the 20 March issue of MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, page 793). In addition, a regulation dated 14 February 1981 set up a National Energy Commission in Zaire, an agency with advisory and coordination functions and to study policies in the energy area. This commission was put under the hierarchical authority of the state commissioner responsible for energy, and its role is:

- 1) To define Zaire's energy policy--to establish short, medium and long term policy, constantly adjust this policy to current realities, and annually set out specific measures to implement this policy in accordance with the national energy development plan in "energy quota" form;
- 2) To harmonize and coordinate departments and agencies concerned with solving energy problems;
- 3) To promote exploration and national resource assessment activity in the energy area;
- 4) To program activity in the production, transportation and distribution of energy in all its forms;
- 5) To carry out programmed energy activities and, via a special team set up for this purpose, to inspect the storage, distribution and marketing of petroleum and lubricant products;
- 6) To set up and organize the distribution of information relating to the energy sector; and
- 7) To handle various energy matters not covered by the operations of the Energy Department.

The National Energy Commission includes a permanent secretariat and a consultative committee. The permanent secretariat is made up of a multidisciplinary team divided into four subsections, namely: electricity, hydrocarbons, water, and new forms of energy. The consultative committee is made up of representatives of departments and agencies concerned with solving energy problems.

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END

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