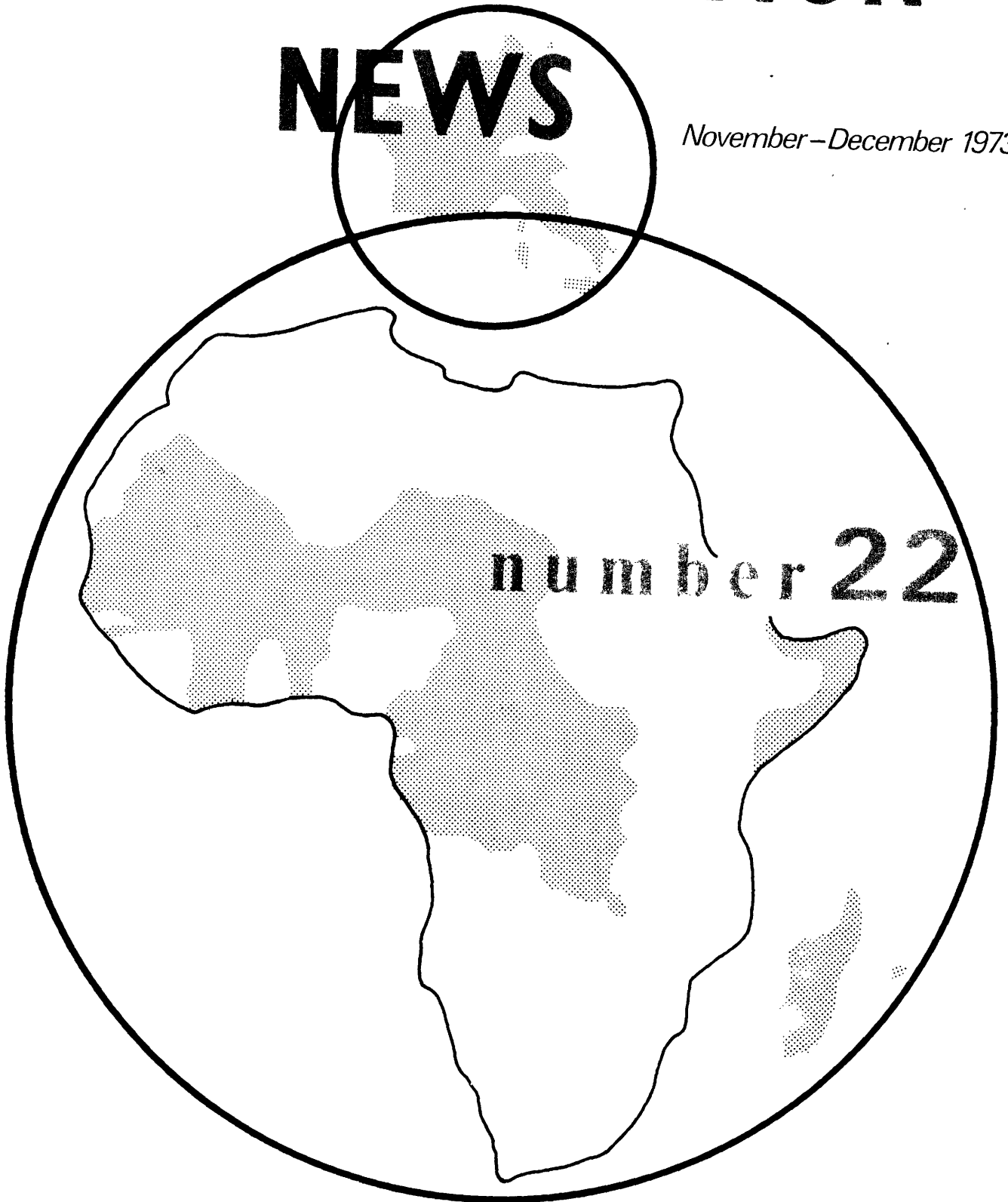


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November-December 1973





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A chat with President Gaston Monnerville



Photo Sénat Français

President Gaston Monnerville (left) talking to President Thorn

Mr. President, there is so much we could tell our readers about you, that it is difficult to know what to choose. You are, perhaps, specially well known because for a very long time, you were the Second Gentleman of the French Republic in your capacity as President of the Senate. Today, however, I want to talk to you about something else. You are an honorary officer of the Liberal International; and last year the Liberal International held a Congress in Paris on the theme "Europe and the Third World". What made you choose this subject?

The Liberal International is a group of liberal and radical parties and, for material reasons, and partly because of its history, it has concentrated its activity, perhaps unduly, upon Europe. Nevertheless, it has two special reasons for being interested in the Third World. To begin with, one of its essential preoccupations is to defend the rights of man in the belief that all men are free and have equal rights; and it therefore wants to go beyond the preoccupations of the wealthy, such as the Europeans, and call for solidarity among all men. Secondly, our

liberal and radical parties have attempted, and often succeeded, in securing the liberation of their own peoples from oppression, whether it be national or foreign. The liberals thus see their own image in the struggle of the countries of the Third World to get their own destinies into their own hands.

These, I think, are the two main reasons which give us a special affinity for these problems, and we wanted to make our contribution to the second development decade.

The Congress ended with the adoption of an interesting resolution on Europe and the Third World. The points on which the accent was put showed a first-class knowledge of current problems in developing countries. I am thinking, for example, of generalised tariff preferences, economic planning, world commodity agreements, the quest for an additional compensatory international finance system for exports from developing countries, the improvement of credit conditions, cooperation and economic integration on the regional scale and a number of similar points.

Among all those who are concerned with cooperation and development, there is now a certain convergence of interest on the essential points. How do you explain this in the Congress you held?

In the first place, our Congress was attended by many people who are particularly well versed in these questions. You know, if I may take two examples, that our President was the Minister Gaston Thorn, who was for a long time Chairman of the Oversea Development Committee of the European Parliament; and that my good friend Raphaël Saller, has held important positions in the Ivory Coast. In addition, most of the solutions you describe are essentially liberal; and it was natural therefore that we should recommend them.

The Congress resolution underlines the part played by the European Development Fund. Do you think that the work of the E.D.F. and its results are sufficiently well known?

In all sincerity I do not think the work of the E.D.F. is adequately known, despite so excellent a publication as your own, and various other items of information. Perhaps the explanation may lie in the fact that the E.D.F. is not seeking spectacular achievement and devotes its effort to multiple action on many fronts which can only with difficulty achieve a splash in the newspapers. You spoke very rightly of efforts and results. For my own part, I have certainly seen a number of publications summarising the efforts made, such as your own number of January/February this year; but, perhaps, through my own ignorance, I do not know of any real summary of the results (which is much more important than the efforts themselves) which would give an impression of the real drive E.D.F. has imparted to the economic and social

development of the Associated countries.

What means does the Liberal International possess to secure itself a hearing in the world at large and, more particularly, in Africa?

As a first example, we in France have long had a joint parliamentary life with a considerable number of the leaders in the french-speaking African countries. A special case, as you know, was that of the Rassemblement Démocratique Africain which, during the fifties, was a colleague of the radicals and the U.D.S.R. as a member of the Rassemblement des Gauches Républicaines, which was itself a member of the Liberal International. This created links which independence may have somewhat loosened, but which nevertheless run deep. Another example is that several of our friends—and I am thinking specially of David Wirmark, who is a liberal member of the Swedish Parliament—have played an important part in the World Assembly of Youth, in the activities of which many of the present leaders of the Third World have participated.

Moreover, our liberal friends in England, and more especially their parliamentary leader, Jeremy Thorpe, have many contacts with leaders of the Third World in their combat against racist policies in general and apartheid in particular. I should like, too, to pay a tribute to the work of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which is linked with the German Liberal Party (E.D.P.) of Minister Walter Scheel, and which has a very diverse programme of conferences and training schemes in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin-America. ■



Africa in Brussels

For the first time in Brussels and in the world at large, 23 african countries have taken part in an important "African Fortnight". Taking part in the organisation were the departments of the Commission of the European Economic Community and the group of shopkeepers in the City of Brussels. It took place in September 15-30, 1973. Its object was, essentially, to secure the interest of the people of Brussels, and through them of the people of Europe, in the great possibility of exchanges between Africa and Europe alike on the cultural and on the commercial side.

Even though the african capitals are no longer more than a few hours flight from those of Europe, Black Africa is still a little known by the vast majority of europeans. This applies both to its cultural life and to the great possibilities of trade in a large number of fields.

It was for this reason that in this first "African Fortnight" the countries of Africa desired to present as complete a range as possible of the dynamic qualities and achievements which make up their life.

The programme of events during the Fortnight, whether in the cultural, the commercial or the tourist

field, were published in issue No. 20 of Association News dated July-August this year. After this publication, however, the course of lectures took on an exceptional interest, because of the support they had from very high personalities, both in Africa and in Europe and alike in the political, the economic and the artistic world. They were all of first-class quality and we recall, particularly, those of His Excellency Diori Hamani, President of the Niger Republic and President in Office of the Economic Community of West Africa (C.E.A.O.) and M. Mohamed Diawara, Minister for Economic Planning in the Ivory Coast and M. Cheysson, member of the Commission of the European Communities.

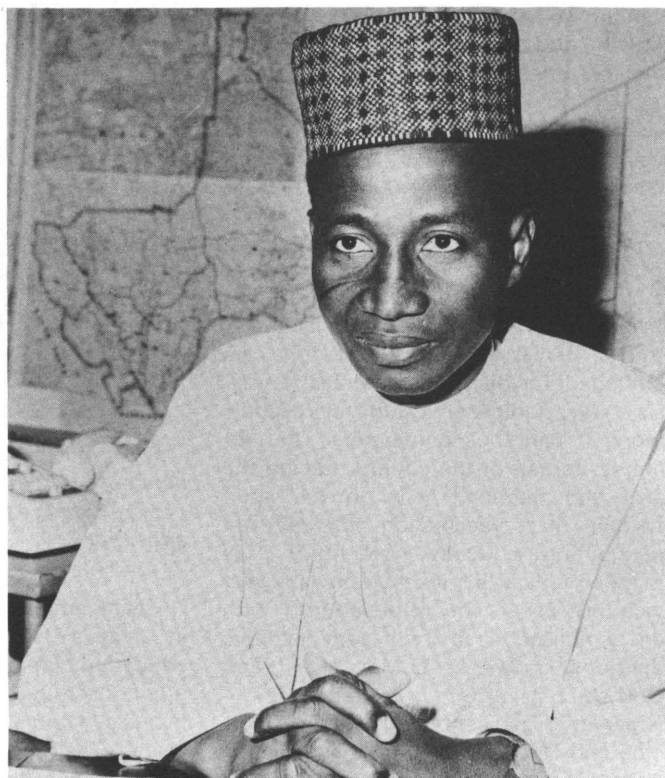
An account of several of the events will be found in this number of Association News; and in our next number we propose publishing a complete summary of the "African Fortnight". We can say already that the Fortnight was a real success in every field. It is an outstanding fact that the african countries wanted to show much more than their theatre and ballet. They also desired to keep the european public informed on their problems and the efforts they are making to deal with them; and to mark their card as commercial partners with the countries of Europe.

Public health in Niger

Interview with Dr. MOSSI, Minister for Health

Niger is one of the six Sahel countries affected by the drought. Like many african countries, especially in the Sahel region, it has to face serious health problems. Dr. Mossi, its Health Minister, in his interview with Niaky Barry, tells us here of the difficulties besetting public health policies in his country.

It is often said that in developing countries everything is a first priority. It is clear enough, however, that the health of the population conditions a country's economic and social development. For the countries of the Third World, especially the tropical countries, transmissible sicknesses play a leading part in local pathology and a considerable effort is needed to keep them at bay. What is your government doing about this?



Presse Info Niger

In developing countries, as elsewhere, the real wealth of the country and the determining factor is the human being. He ranks before all the other resources. He occupies a central place in the universe and everything takes its significance and its value in relation to him and for him.

My own country, in continuing its economic and social development, is seeking the complete self-realisation of the human being and his true liberation.

For this reason the maintenance and promotion of physical and mental health in the population is a priority matter for our government. It is a struggle in which the campaign against transmissible sicknesses is of primary importance. Microbial, viral and parasitic maladies are the most important cause of disease and

mortality, whether we are thinking in terms of spectacular and lethal epidemics or of age-old and chronic endemics, which are often unobserved but always to be dreaded. A great deal has to be done, too, about cardio-vascular complaints, which are by no means exclusive to the highly-developed countries; and also, but to a smaller degree, the so-called malignant cancerous complaints which may affect the age structure of our population. Another important field is nutrition and maladies due to dietary deficiency.

Humanity is, by what you say, to be threatened on every side. What action is the Niger government taking about it?

Our health policy is based on the following priorities :

- mass medicine;
- health and diet education and sanitation;
- personnel training;
- a pharmaceutical and chemical products office organised on a non-profit basis which supplies medicines and material at the lowest possible prices to the State health teams, national pharmacies and the village pharmacies.

Mass medicine is aimed at promoting health at popular levels, and is designed to reach the greatest number of people with curative and preventive action, both collective and individual, alike in the towns and up-country.

The two essential organs are:

- The Service of great endemics or mobile hygiene and prophylaxy;
- Stationary health units.

The service of great endemics or mobile hygiene and prophylaxy is designed to deal with epidemics (small-pox, plague, yellow fever, cholera, cerebro-spinal meningitis, measles and others) and to fight the engrained endemics, such as tuberculosis, leprosy, syphilis, malaria and parasitosis. It also seeks to alert the populations by mass vaccination, and health and dietary education to promote hygiene and sanitation.

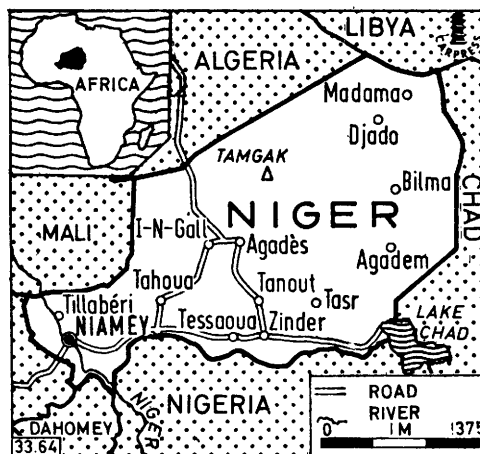
Logistic equipment is considerable. It includes all-surface vehicles of the Landrover type, twin axle Renault 4/4 trucks; Berliet vans; and laboratory cars equipped for diagnosis, medical analysis x-ray, radioscopy and microscopic work. It can thus penetrate to the remotest corners of the country, tracing the sick and treating them on the spot, holding mass-vaccination sessions and distributing educative literature. This mobile medical-hygiene-prophylaxy service thus covers the whole country with an organisation in two administrative divisions known as O.M.N.E.S. I and O.M.N.E.S. II (from the french title—Nigerian Organisation of Mobile Medicine and Health Education). The mobile units organised on a departmental basis will soon be organised by districts.

The personnel, medicines and material used by this service are about 20 % of all those used by the health department.

The **stationary health posts** play their part in the mass medicine campaign. Their action is to cure, prevent and educate and their work extends from the 1000-bed national hospital to the village dispensary, taking in the departmental hospital centres and the mother-and-child protection centre. There are 150 of these posts; and they practice general medicine, specialist's work, vaccination and health education. Their resources and their field of action cover 4/5ths of the national health campaign.

The public health budget for 1973 is F-CFA 1,010 million, accounting for 7.44 % of the national budget.

The aid from international organisations and other countries, including that from the W.H.O., can be estimated at F-CFA 200 million annually.



With your health campaign thus coordinated with the rest of your country's policy, what part is played by health education?

Health education is one of the priorities in Niger's health policy. The health education bureau has the task of drawing up and testing out the educational documents which can be on paper or audio-visual. Their aim is to amend, over a period which may be short or long, but which will nevertheless have the desired effects, such traditional behaviour as does not conform to the rules of hygiene in the african ecological context. The population is thus made aware of modern ideas on personal and collective hygiene, fitness and nutrition and on the need for sanitation. The effects on public health help to move our problems into a lower gear.

The health education Bureau cooperates in its work with the rural animation services, the information and national education departments and the normal local administrative and political authorities.

In the rural areas which have responded to stimulus, training programmes have been started for first aid and hygiene assistants. The reasons for this operation are:

- insufficiency of normal health facilities, their cost and the limited resources available;
- disparity of health consciousness between town and country;
- hygiene in rural areas;
- health requirements very keenly felt in village communities.

The immediate aims are;

- the training of first-aid and hygiene assistants as health auxiliaries;
- the inculcation of new habits of hygiene;
- the spreading among the rural population of a new awareness of its responsibility in health matters;
- the setting up in each village of a pharmacy and at least the nucleus of a dispensary, even with only rudimentary equipment.

The long-term aims seek to:

- reduce by degrees the disparity between urban and rural ideas about health;
- promote the formation of village health committees, including first-aid workers and matrons.

Appreciable results have already been secured in this field.

What is the P.C.P.O.?

The Pharmacy and Chemical Products Office was formed on September 18, 1972 and organised as a non-profit body, financially independent and with full legal personality. It has the monopoly for the supply of pharmaceutical and chemical products and medical-surgical material for the State health teams, collective and public establishments, popular pharmacies, depôts and village pharmacies.

Its total sales rose from F-CFA 188 million in 1962 to F-CFA 556.3 million in 1973. The results of its work is that pharmacy goods are sold at the lowest possible prices which have in fact remained practically unchanged for the past two years, despite the continued rise in prices. It has already opened ten popular pharmacies and its programme includes setting them up in the chief towns of each of the 35 districts and a

village pharmacy in each of the 10 000 villages.

With a government contribution and aid from the E.D.F. there has been set up a production unit for preparing solutions, which makes it possible for Ringer serum and glucose, saline, bicarbonate and potassic preparations to be made locally. Crystallographic, toxicological fraud and research laboratories are on the programme for a later stage, as also is a manufacturing unit for serums and vaccines.

Are the main epidemics and pestilent maladies in Niger now under control?

There are three pestilent maladies which have raised problems in Niger during the last few years. These are:

- smallpox;
- yellow fever;
- cholera.

Smallpox. In 1967 the number of smallpox cases reported was 1 187 and there were 87 deaths. In the face of so alarming a situation a 5-year smallpox eradication campaign was financed by US-AID. During the 5 years concerned there were 5 869 365 vaccinations against smallpox.

The result went beyond our hopes.

In 1968 there were only 679 cases and only 52 deaths. In 1969 there were 28 cases and only 2 deaths. Since 1969 not a single case of smallpox has been reported over the whole territory of Niger. We can thus say that smallpox has been eradicated from our country. Though it has disappeared from Niger, however, it is still to be found in Africa.

For this reason it is necessary to maintain vaccination campaigns so that the whole population is immunised and re-vaccinate them every three years. Only thus can we prevent the recurrence of the murderous smallpox epidemics.

Yellow fever. In 1970 there was an epidemic outbreak of yellow fever in the various neighbouring countries (Nigeria, Upper Volta, Ghana, Togo) but it did not reach Niger. No case of yellow fever was reported. The position was nevertheless dangerous and an intensive

inoculation campaign brought the number of people inoculated to 400 000 in 1970.

In this case, too, we cannot talk about there being yellow fever in Niger; but it is certain that the entire population of the country is not yet protected against this malady.

Cholera has been the most lethal of the pestilent sicknesses in Niger in recent years. It made its appearance in December 1970 in the north-western part of the country and the epidemic secured a hold during the first half of 1971 with outbreaks in the departments of Niamey, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa and a total of 10 000 cases with over 2 000 deaths. There was an intensive vaccination campaign (over 2 million cases) carried out in 1971 by the hygiene and mobile medical service; and this, combined with health education, put the epidemic into reverse. Since August 1971, no other case has been reported, except that a single isolated outbreak, soon extinguished, made its appearance in March 1972.

Since March 5, 1972 no case of cholera has been reported, and Niger is now officially free of this scourge.

Thus, we cannot speak at present of the presence in Niger of pestilent sicknesses. The danger, nevertheless, is always there because, both for smallpox and for cholera, there may be endemic carriers or epidemic occurrences in some of the neighbouring countries. The health and medical authorities are thus obliged to keep on the alert.

In this connection our country now has adequate standing supplies of Ringer liquid which is the main weapon against cholera.

Moreover, the solution factory, with aid from the E.D.F., can manufacture 1 000 litres of Ringer lactate per day. It has been in operation for some months and can not only cover our own needs, but might even be able to meet those of neighbouring countries.

In actual fact the complaints which raise public health problems are not the pestilent sicknesses but the others, both endemic and epidemic, of which I spoke just now. In the case of microbial maladies, chronic or epidemic, the therapy of antibiotics chemistry is so very effective

and it has revolutioned treatment and made big changes in our forecasts. Cerebro-spinal meningitis, for example, was fatal in between 20 and 30% of cases in 1942 and again in 1956; but in 1969 the proportion of fatal cases was only 10%.

Measles is of more concern to us at present, because of the high mortality rate, the cost of vaccination and the difficulty of preserving thermolabile vaccines. If the measles campaign financed by US-AID should be brought to an end, as has been suggested, and in the absence of other aid (e.g. from Europe) it would be a matter of serious concern for our country.

Tuberculosis affects about 1% of our population and the number of sick people is estimated at between 30 000 and 40 000. The difficulty in this instance lies in identification, the considerable reception facilities needed and the difficulty of keeping the sick people regular in taking their cure.

Our great endemic service and the anti-tuberculosis service are resolutely tackling these tasks. The treatment given, provided it is adequately followed through, is successful in 80% of cases.

Leprosy is another special case, because some of its forms call for long and difficult treatment. The number of cases is estimated at some 17 000. In this case, too, the present therapy gives a high percentage of cures, provided the treatment is given early and is well followed through. This is another case in which one of the obstacles is the lack of assiduity of the sick in following their treatment; and another difficulty lies in the insufficiency of logistic resources for identification and local treatment.

Bilharziosis, amoebiasis, intestinal worms and the filarioses are much more serious in terms of mortality and thus in social-economic consequences, than are the pestilent maladies. Hence we see the importance of hygiene, sanitation and economic, social and cultural development, which are the only roads to the containment, or indeed to the extirpation, of these endemic tropical scourges.

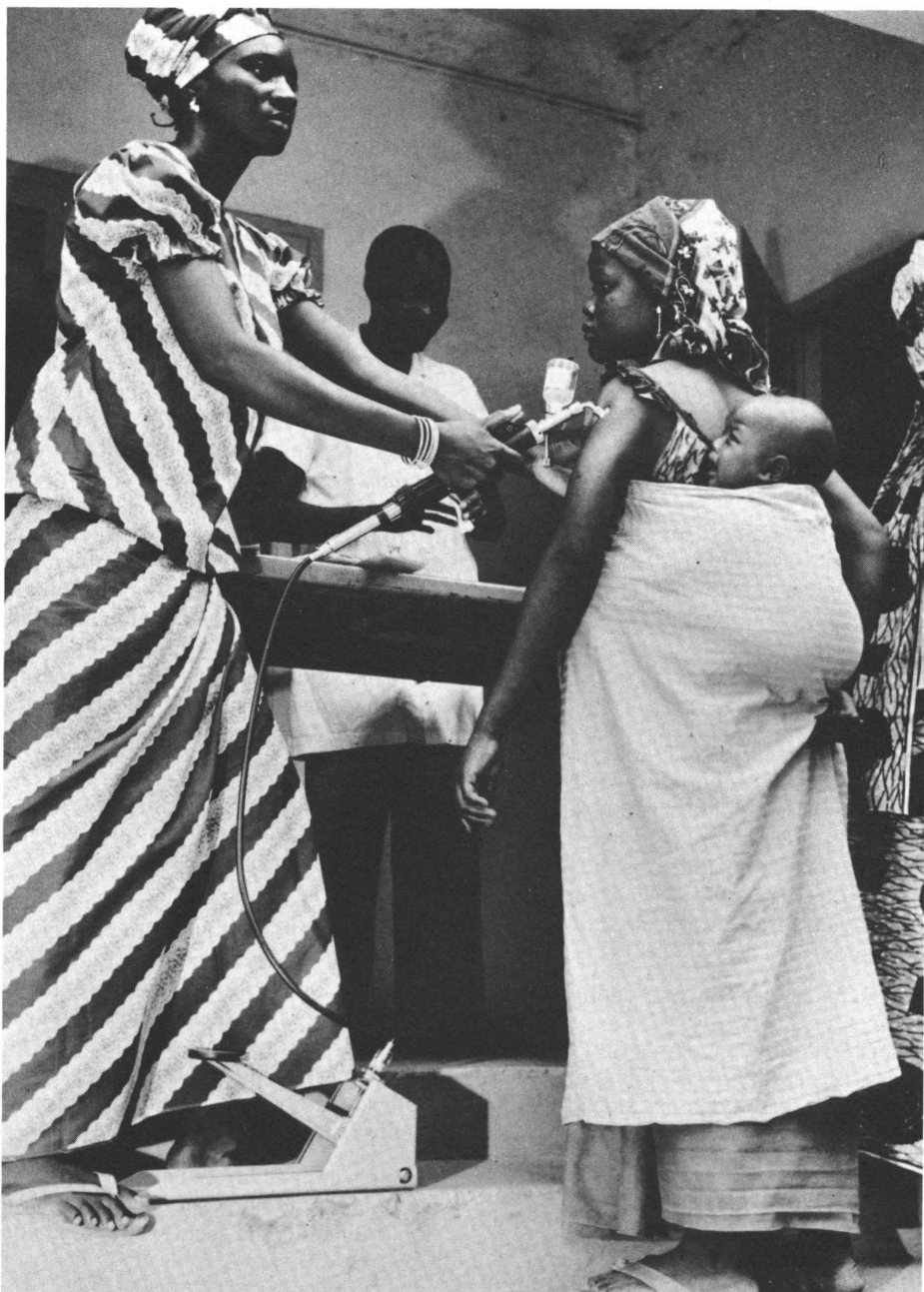
Throughout our struggle against sickness and disease the difficult and worrying problem is always that of

financial resources. This is more true for the fact Niger, like several other countries in the Sudan-Sahel region, **has for five years been the victim of successive periods of drought**, which dries up the water-courses, the wells and the subterranean sources, kills off the cattle herds through lack of pasture and sets up a serious food shortage. This is the most serious natural phenomenon to which the region has been subject; and the economic and financial consequences, both on the short and the long term, need no comment, least of all from the public health angle. Our countries are working together in devising a policy for agriculture, forestry and the pastures, which will mitigate the effects of such a drought. I am pleased to be able to pay my tribute to the national and international solidarity, especially from Europe, which we have enjoyed on this occasion.

Is it true that malaria, which ranks as the number one tropical endemic, is the main cause of infant mortality?

Malaria is indeed the chief tropical endemic and throughout the world it affects several hundreds of million human beings. It is not often fatal in adults; but it is one of the main causes of mortality in very young children.

In our climate malaria is there practically all the time, because it is transmitted by the anopheles mosquito, which lives in inter-tropical areas wherever there is water. Except in the desert areas where there is little or no rainfall, the malady is to be found everywhere and hence arises the high rate of incidence. In the Niamey hospital the pediatric statistics show that the number of young patients suffering from malaria varies between 20 and 25% of the total hospitalised cases according to the season and without counting its almost constant association in cases, made susceptible by some other malady. The same statistics show that death from malaria takes third place (20%), coming after diarrhoea (37%) and malnutrition (36%). Often, however, diarrhoea and malnutrition are associated; and here we have an easy prey to the pernicious infection much to be feared in the case of children. If we remember that outside



Naud

Non-needle injection for vaccination against cholera

the northern area everybody is a malaria case, it is easily understood that death from malaria has the sorry privilege of being the leading mortality factor accounting for 20% of deaths.

Malaria has a very bad effect on the country's economic development, because of the high invalidity rate among adults, as well as among the young.

The total eradication of malaria is difficult to contemplate at the present time, because it would cost a great deal. Apart from sanitation operations to strike at the root of the cause, priority is given to the protection of vulnerable groups by nivaquin treatment during the period of high-incidence in June till October. The vulnerable groups are children under 5 years, pregnant women and nursing

mothers. The treatment is given in the urban centres, the P.M.I. and will soon be handled also in the rural areas.

A pilot nivaquinisation operation on these sensitive groups is shortly to be put in hand in the hand in the Dosso department with aid from the W.H.O.

This selective and limited nivaquinisation, which does not eliminate the natural immunisation of the organism, makes it possible to secure an appreciable decrease in the incidence of malaria and mortality from it, especially in the mother-child group.

Do not the communications difficulties arising from the dispersion of Niger's population over so immense a territory, set up difficulties of diagnosis, treatment and supervision of individual cases and also the correct assessment of the control measures which are used?

The dispersion of the rural population is indeed a major handicap to our health policy. Niger is an immense weald measuring more than 1 500 km from east to west and 900 km north to south. Its distance from the sea in the south at the nearest point is 1 000 km and in the north and west the distance is several times as great. This continental character, and the dry and arid climate, explain the high cost of the goods we import—building materials, capital goods and medical supplies. The population is scattered over an area of 1 287 000 sq. km, and more than half of them live in desert or sub-desert areas.

The means of communication, therefore, are insufficient in the well populated part of the country and rare or non-existent in the Sahara zone. Some of the roads have an asphalt surface and others are flint tracks, but most of the villages are only linked together by pathways which are barely suitable for wheeled traffic. Most of the journeys can only be made by all-surface vehicles of the Land Rover type. In view of the great distances, the state of roads and the great quantities of sand, the fuel expenditure is very high and the life of vehicles is not more than 2 or 3 years. As you may well have guessed, the problem of transport material for carrying the sick and providing medical

care for them are one of the most difficult, I would even say the most heart-rending, of the problems with which we have to deal.

Is Niger's infrastructure equipment as good as you would expect?

Having regard to the population and the size of the country and, if you apply normal health standards, the infrastructure is certainly not what it should be. If it were, indeed, we should not be a developing country. I should add straight away, however, that the infrastructure represents the uppermost limit of what the government is able to supply in its own economic context and within the limit of the resources available. The urban infrastructures are satisfactory, both in capacity and in equipment. The rural posts, however, the district medical centres and most of all the "bush dispensaries" are insufficient in number and often inadequately equipped. With a population of over 4 million, one must think in terms of 35 medical centres and 115 dispensaries, which would mean one dispensary for every 27 000 people. We believe that by the end of the decade we shall be able to reach the target of one medical post for every 10 000 people. The coverage actually becomes satisfactory only at the rate of one centre for 1 000 people, which is equivalent to about one dispensary per village. Such a figure is the dream of all our countries. If, however, we take account of non-conventional structures, such as the village pharmacies which are in course of being set up, this target comes within our 10-year prospect and should be reached by about 1983.

The important thing for us is to carry out such health policy as lies within our means and is adapted to our conditions of life, in such a way that every village shall have a centre of medical care under the regular hierarchic supervision of the medical orderly, the district medical officer and the departmental mobile unit.

The European Development Fund contributes to what the Niger government is doing, among other things for the combat against endemic maladies. What do you think of this contribution which, I would mention, is additional to what your own government is providing?

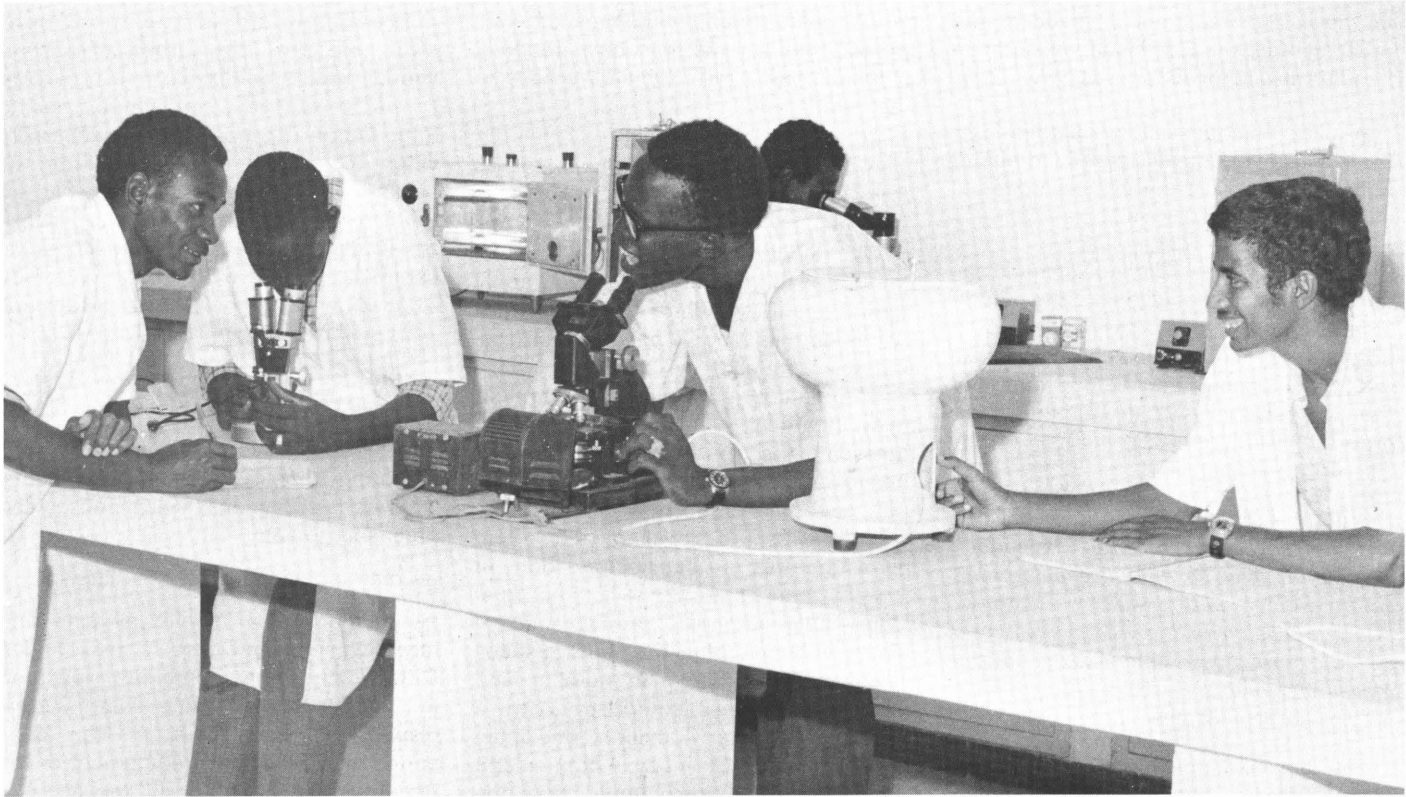
The E.D.F. aid is the most considerable and the most effective, which we receive from any group of nations. It is essentially directed to infrastructure finance and to an accessory extent to occasional direct aid. From the second E.D.F., finance was provided for the extension of the hospitals at Niamey and Zinder and the departmental hospital centres at Dosso- Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez and Diffa. These extensions consisted of:

- the creation of 650 new hospital beds;
- the construction of maternity wards, operating theatres, x-ray departments, laboratories, kitchens, wash-houses and other equipment;
- rearrangement of older buildings;
- building of 4 mobile hygiene and medical centres at Dosso, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa which are all to enter into operation in October. At the same time 16 rural dispensaries were built. All this construction work and the equipment of the buildings cost F-CFA 1 100 million.

It was planned that from the 3rd E.D.F. finance should be found for building 20 rural dispensaries; but this financing seems to have run into difficulties through the allocation of 565 million needed for completion of the second E.D.F. and taken from the third. We hope our difficult health situation will be taken into account in maintaining this project for 20 rural dispensaries.

The extension of the E.N.S.P. at Niamey was also financed by the E.D.F. to the extent of F-CFA 176 million. We also received bursaries from the E.E.C. for training medical and para-medical personnel.

In August 1971, too, the E.D.F. granted Niger emergency aid of F-CFA 100 million for the anti-cholera campaign. This assistance enabled us to acquire the all-purpose vehicles needed for the campaign, the anti-cholera vaccine, re-hydration liquid and supplies for a plant unit to manufacture emulsions for injection. This unit has been in operation since the beginning of the year. It can supply 1 000 litres of emulsions per day—Ringer serum or, if required, salinated, glucose bicarbonate or potassic serum.



Naud

Veterinary school at Niamey, financed by the E.D.F.

We are thus equipped to put up an effective fight on the spot against any outbreak of cholera which may occur, but from which the country is at present free. **The E.D.F. contribution to our health campaign has thus indeed been exemplary**, for it was considerable, effective and well adapted to our requirements.

What progress is being made with medical and para-medical training schemes?

The annual statistics for 1970 give an idea of the health coverage of the country, both in terms of structures and of medical and para-medical personnel. With a population of 4 million, of whom 85-90% live in rural areas, in a country three times as big as France, the list shows:

- 1 doctor per 70 000 inhabitants (the department of Dosso has 1 for 266 000 inhabitants);
- 1 midwife per 212 000 inhabitants;

- 1 State medical orderly per 27 000 inhabitants;
- 2 hospitals;
- 7 departmental hospital centres;
- 34 medical centres;
- 30 maternity wards;
- 115 bush dispensaries;
- 9 mobile units (including 2 which are national);
- 9 PMI centres, of which 4 come under the National Social Security Fund).

In addition, **the training of various categories of health service personnel is a priority of priorities**. The government has put in hand a considerable campaign, both on the training side and on the orientation and rational use of the personnel available.

For the past year the Niger government has been studying, in consultation with the regional office of the W.H.O. for Africa, the feasibility of setting up a university centre for the health sciences

for training locally and in contact with the realities of the country, the doctors, pharmacists and dentists who have hitherto been trained in other countries.

The training of para-medical personnel is handled by the E.N.S.P. (the National School of Public Health: french initials). It has courses for the following:

- Medical orderlies and midwives with State diploma, recruited from existing certificate-holders. The course lasts 3 years;
- Certified medical orderlies;
- Social sub-assistants.

E.N.S.P. is thus a school covering a number of fields and engaged in training para-medical personnel with a number of skills by a teaching programme, both theoretical and practical, which is adapted to the purpose. Since its formation in 1965, it has granted 192 medical orderly certificates and 132 medical orderly State diplomas. The first batch of 11 Niger midwives will be passing out this year, and at the same time the first

batch of social sub-assistants. The numbers are modest enough; but they are nevertheless an encouragement, and they bear witness to the tireless work the government has put into the programme which it is now intensifying, so as to secure a better coverage for the village communities. This campaign will call for increased material and technical international aid for the further expansion of the E.N.S.P.

Is there an inter-african health policy, of which that of your own government is part?

Yes. This is the Organisation for Coordination and Cooperation for the battle against the Great Endemics (O.C.C.G.E.—french initials), which was set up on April 25, 1960. It consists of eight countries—the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Its Secretariat-General is at Bobo-Dioulasso. Its aim is to pool the human, technical, scientific and logistic resources available for a fight against the major scourges through research and operational action in the field.

The budget for the organisation is currently F-CFA 500 million, which is financed by contributions from the member countries and by subsidies from the french Fonds d'Aide et de Coopération and various international organisations.

There is, too, an organisation in Central Africa which is the counterpart of O.C.C.G.E. and works closely with it. This is known as O.C.E.A.C. (Organisation for Central African Coordination—french initials).

Thank you, Minister. What would you add by way of conclusion?

Health is our most precious possession. Its preservation and promotion are a priority task which is difficult and never finished, but it is none the less most rewarding.

For this special work, our needs are immense and our means very limited. We need personnel, infrastructure, equipment and medical supplies out of proportion with the resources we possess. Moreover, we need the logistic equipment for our health and diet education and for sanitation. We need funds for the necessary social investments, such as drinking water conduits, purification or drilling; and also needing development is our agriculture for subsistence, for commerce and for industry the impact of which on public health is self-evident and very considerable.

The government and the people of Niger are making every effort to secure the changes which will raise the health standards of our population, and ensure for everybody a mass medical service which will both prevent and cure. The results so far have been encouraging; but the road still to be trod is long and difficult. We receive considerable and effective aid from the E.D.F., from various international organisations, and bilateral aid from some of our friends. We hope, however, this aid will be maintained, or even extended, when consideration is given to the economic difficulties caused by the drought.

Nevertheless, every citizen of Niger is keenly alive to the fact that the economic and social development of his country is first and foremost his own problem, and that nobody is going to solve it for him.

The drought which has struck the sahel countries for some years past is the most serious of the natural phenomena which we have had to face, both because

of its severity in itself and the indirect consequences on the health of the populations. It needs a joint effort by the countries concerned and the more developed nations to deal with its effects and, if possible, put a stop to desert formation. It is gratifying to see how promptly and how effectively international solidarity came into play on this occasion.

We must, however, admit that, despite this fine solidarity:

— drinking water is still a rare and precious supply for most of the people living there; and long years will be needed before it can be provided for everybody.

— the spectre of famine, ugly and tenacious, is still there for the greater part of the inhabitants.

— it is not always possible for even the most elementary forms of urgent medical care to be bestowed where and when they are needed.

In this era of exponential economic growth, it is desirable that international aid should regard it as its task to bind and heal these open wounds in the flank of humanity.

Despite the difficulties inherent in our dry and arid climate and our unresponding soil, and despite this unhappy imbalance between our requirements and our resources, we still have immense faith in the human race in general and in our fellow countrymen of Niger more particularly, for the wonderful resources there are within them and which are the guarantor of continued progress on earth.

In the decades which lie ahead, we shall no doubt see the health of the people of Niger flourishing in line with its social, economic, technical and cultural development. ■

Interview by
Niaky Barry

I. Promotion in Community countries

of species of tropical timber
hitherto unmarketed or unknown⁽¹⁾

The governments of the Associated African and Malagasy countries have for some years been considering the possibility, indeed the need, for a promotion campaign for timber species which are hitherto unmarketed or little known.

The African forestry undertakings and the European importers and users of tropical timber, are following the trend in production with close attention, watching the market and making their own—practical rather than systematic—preparations for changes which they know must necessarily come.

For a long time—in general for some decades—the technical characteristics of new types of tropical timber have been under very close study in all Community countries, in laboratories, technical testing centres and other establishments set up for the purpose. The work of these highly specialised establishments is made available to the trade; but the establishments themselves do not take any action whatever on the commercial side.

The problem of promoting the sale of tropical timbers which have hitherto come to market scarcely at all, is thus one which is still unsolved, but is well known both in the trade and among the governments concerned, whether in Africa or in

(1) *Proposals drawn up in the Commission in 1971 on the request of Associated countries.*



tropical timber



L. Normand - Photo Service Abidjan

Europe. It is thus unnecessary to precede a practical survey, and the formulation of proposals, by a long discourse on the European market for tropical timber, or the trade characteristics of these species. All that is really necessary is a brief recapitulation of the position in the Associated countries as regards production, and in the Community countries as regards consumption. From this we shall proceed to a closer examination of the operational plan contemplated. This falls into two phases, the first of which is the selection, in Africa, of forest species for which a promotion campaign appears desirable; and the second, is the promotion campaign itself to secure sales in the countries of the European Communities.

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I. — Production in Associated countries

In all the Associated countries which are timber producers, the forestry operations are concerned with only a limited number of species. Since the internal market is only small, these are the species for which there is a demand in external markets, either for aesthetic reasons or because of the well-established technical qualities of the timber. The other species are more numerous; but they are little used and for the most part, the trees remain standing.

The result is that the forests are being "milked". The population of trees in current commercial use is being progressively, in some cases rapidly, reduced. This results in the forestry operation moving further and further away, so that the transport of timber to the coast grows longer, and therefore more expensive, and the production cost is consequently higher.

Forest surveys have been carried out in most of the Associated countries. They have made it possible to arrive at reasonably close estimates of

the considerable reserves of unexploited forest; and they have also led to an identification of the species most abundantly present and those of most commercial interest. In the Ivory Coast, for example, the surveys have produced quantity estimates relating to 32 species which occur in sufficient abundance for commercial purposes. The utilisable reserves differ from case to case; but of the 32 only 7 are now exploited to the extent of over 100 000 cubic metres annually, and the figures for most of the rest are under 10 000 cu.m.

It would be reasonable to suppose that this results in the potential users of the timber being uninformed regarding the properties, qualities and defects of the species which are at present left aside. This, however, is not true. For more than half a century the tropical timber from the Associated countries has been the subject of investigation and research, in some cases extremely thorough, aimed at determining the physical and chemical properties of the timber concerned, its resistance to the various destructive agencies and its suitability for glueing, painting and other industrial processes.

The following are among the indications which emerged from an enquiry carried out by the staff of the Commission among the chief European research centres concerned with tropical timber:

1. The Forestry Technical Centre at **Nogent-s-Marne** supplied a very full list of technical tests carried out on ten African tropical species which, it considers, might be suitable for a sales promotion campaign in Community countries. These tests have been card-recorded in a form worked out by the International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (I.T.A.T.T.), for the benefit of all timber research institutes.

As an example, the Nogent-s-Marne documents show, that tests carried out on 253 sample trees from the Ivory Coast forest area, have produced information on 130 different species of timber.

2. The Belgian forest technology station at **Gembloux** stated it has made studies of the anatomical, physical and mechanical properties of many tropical species, most of which come from Zaïre. The studies in question are contained in various publications. The forest laboratory in the University of Louvain, too, stated it has made repeated sawing tests and studies of the auto-agglomeration properties of many tropical timbers, most of which, again, came from Zaïre.

3. In the Netherlands, the Houtinstituut T.N.O. at **Delft** stated that a large number of technical tests had been carried out on various timbers from Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa, the Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic, Gaboon and Madagascar. A list of the timbers tested was duly supplied.

In addition, the Royal Tropical Institute at **Amsterdam** stated it would be specially interested in the promotion of tropical timbers not yet marketed or little known; and that on this subject it had sent in a communication to the F.A.O. in 1969.

4. In Germany, the Timber Technical and Research Institute in the University of **Munich**, emphasised that it is in a position to make tests of tropical timbers hitherto little known or little used; and that it in fact undertakes such research on behalf of trade and industry to which it provides expert advice.

In addition, the Federal Forestry and Timber Research Institute at **Reinbek Bez. Hamburg**, stated that the testing of tropical timbers not used in industry is one of its main tasks, and that the work done under this head has, for the most part, been published.

5. In Italy, the Timber Institute at **Florence** stated that various tests and research had been carried out on timbers from Congo-Brazzaville, the Ivory Coast and Madagascar; and that the results of this work had been carded and published in Italy.

In answer to a specific question, all the institutes and research centres consulted replied that it was no part of their work to undertake the commercial promotion of the timber species to which their work related; but that they would wish to be in some way associated on the technical side with any action on these lines to be undertaken with the help of the European Communities.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IMPORTS OF TROPICAL TIMBER

In 1968, the European Community imported from outside sources 4 932 656 tons of tropical timber round or sawn. Of this, a total of 2 924 420 tons came from the A.A.S.M.

In 1970, the Community import rose to 5 507 109 tons, of which the A.A.S.M. supplied 2 971 473 tons. Thus, though the total Community requirements increased by nearly 600 000 tons, the A.A.S.M. share of the increase was less than 50 000 tons.

In the opinion of experts who have looked into the problem, this comparatively adverse trend in the Community timber imports from the A.A.S.M. results from various causes, including:

— increasingly keen competition from timber from South-East Asia. This consists of sawn timber sold at keen prices in standardised lots, which have been subjected to strict

quality control and to preservation treatment for those species requiring it. In 1968, the Community imported 559 661 tons, which had risen in 1970 to 796 138 tons, sawn timber representing about half the total tonnage.

— the rather brisk rise in the selling prices of african tropical timber resulting in sharper competition, both from european and south-east asian timber, and also from timber substitutes such as metals and plastics. In this connection some of the experts emphasised the considerable influence of freight costs on the price c.i.f. european port for timber coming from the Associated countries.

— over-intensive exploitation of the established species. This not only leads to production costs moving upwards as the forestry operations go further and further up-country; but, with the gradual exhaustion of the tree population, results in a tendency for the quality to fall off.

Though there is a continuing growth in the Community's consumption of timber of all origins and in all its forms, and despite the expansion in the sales of other materials, the exports of timber, sawn or in the round, from the Associated countries, is not getting as much benefit from this as it might. The current position in the A.A.S.M. is not yet a matter for anxiety; but it is capable of becoming critical on the medium term if appropriate measures are not taken now. This might include a rationalised forestry policy for new species; and the progressive substitution of these new species for the traditional ones which are tending to grow scarce.

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Before an attempt is made to define the pattern of the plan of action under this head, it first seems necessary to raise various general observations which have a bearing on the characteristics, the limits and the possible development of the operation to be considered. These will also throw a clearer light on the spirit in which the plan of action has been thought out.

In the first place it must be noted that discussion of a sales promotion campaign for tropical timber of new or commercially little-known types, does not refer exclusively to round timber, but also to sawn timber and other processed products exported for use in the production of finished goods, more especially wood furniture.

It is obvious that, since we are dealing with new or little-known species, the export sale of sawn timber to users not accustomed to working the type of wood concerned, raises sales promotion problems of a similar type to those which have to be dealt with in promoting sales of round timber.



Heiderscheid

Jacques David, who is in charge of the Commercial Promotion Section in the E.E.C. Commission

There is therefore no basis for the belief, sometimes expressed in producing countries, that the commercial promotion of new forest species will lead to an expansion in the sales of round timber at the expense of sawn timber, so that it will not facilitate the industrialisation of the country through the setting up of additional sawmills. It should rather be considered as certain that better knowledge about the various types of standing timber in the forests of some of the Associated countries will be an added attraction to the european industrialists who are users of tropical wood, but who are still hesitant about setting up timber processing industries on african soil.

The principal aim of the promotion campaign described below is of course to secure increased sales of A.A.S.M. timber, improved forestry, and the gradual substitution of species of which the reserves are intact for the species which are tending to disappear. This, however, by no means excludes the simultaneous execution of other plans designed, for example, to further the industrialisation of the A.A.S.M. in this branch of economic activity.

One can look forward, for example, to organised business trips to Africa by groups of industrial cabinet-makers and furniture manufacturers and other timber users, so that they can see for themselves the local forestry conditions, visit the existing processing plants, consider on what terms new industries can be set up and look into questions of cost and kindred items. It is also possible to envisage a systematic campaign of canvassing the same European users of timber by specialists who, once the relevant information has been fully and fairly put together, would be able to show them what is to be gained by the partial transfer of their industrial activity into Africa with the prospect of a profitable form of vertical integration.

Moreover, it is obvious from the outset that the African countries which produce timber have a major interest in improving the quality of their trade in sawn timber. Perhaps the first step to be taken in this connection is an enquiry among European users to ascertain the dimensions most commonly used, the qualities required, such criticisms as may be raised about African sawn timber, and the methods by which the position can be improved. The latter might include better drying; increased standardisation of lots; the creation of a label stating particulars of the timber; and the development of preservation treatment for timbers of good repute, but not sufficiently durable. It would be to the advantage of everybody concerned if there could be a strengthening of the cooperation which exists, or should exist, between the producer, the saw-mill and the exporter in Africa and the consuming factory in Europe.

It is not part of the purpose of the present document to embark on a thorough analysis of what could and should be done to promote the local processing of A.A.S.M. timber, or to increase the sales of the timber cut and the other products of its processing. This is stated for the purpose of emphasising that these aspects of African and Madagascar forestry have not been lost to view, but are currently under consideration by the authors of the present plan of action; and that they are eligible for study, and most probably for solution, under the arrangements for "aids to marketing and sales promotion" provided in the 2nd Yaoundé Convention.

Secondly, and so that there may be no misunderstanding about the nature of this proposed action, it is important to state with extreme clarity, that though the measures and arrangements for more rational forest exploitation are essentially within the authority and competence of the national governments, they can only produce the expected results with the full and entire cooperation of the producing sector overseas and the importers and users in Europe. It would be a vain illusion to try and work out and operate a sales promotion campaign for timber species, of whatever description, without the confidence and active support of the trade.

In this connection, those professionally concerned must recognise that the intervention of the A.A.S.M. govern-

ments and the external aid in a field which has hitherto been left to their initiative, is not in any sense an interference in their business, which they will be able to carry on as hitherto with intent to serve the trade and the general interest and to secure the profit level of their undertakings. The aim in fact is closely in line with the wishes of the forestry undertakings in Africa and of the trade in Europe, both of whom have been interested for many years in the problem of marketing new forest species. They have at times had disappointing experiences; and they are prepared to cooperate without reserve in a wholly disinterested large-scale operation which they have neither the opportunity nor the means for carrying out on their own account and which, in the long run, can but improve the prosperity of their undertakings.

It is worth repeating that the operation envisaged will be on a large scale. It has many implications; and there must be no illusion about the cost which, for a sales promotion campaign, will be comparatively high. In such circumstances there is a great temptation to do what is usually done before any operation is put in hand, and which adds a far from negligible element to the cost. This is to "undertake a study". Moreover, some of the technical centres, which are accustomed to research and laboratory work, have recommended this way of setting about it.

We have at our disposal, however, the results of the enquiry carried out in Europe in the trade and the technical research and testing centres; and we have, too, the information which has been assembled about the tropical forests and the potential timber supply. There does not, therefore, seem to be any need for a general study of the problem, or for sector studies on individual aspects of production and marketing. Such studies at this stage would be a waste of time and an unjustified additional expense.

There have now been many years of study and reflection, multiple attempts at bringing new species of timber to market with varying degrees of success, and there has been a great accumulation of technical information. The voice of reason now calls for action; but this must ensure at the outset the support of the whole trade, and it must be circumspect in its navigation in avoiding the rocks of formal and dogmatic perfectionism which could only have a sterilizing effect. In an expanding and keenly competitive European market, in which commercial ascendancies are never permanent, the sales promotion of tropical species of timber, hitherto unknown or but little produced, is a matter of determination and thus a matter of strategy and resource.

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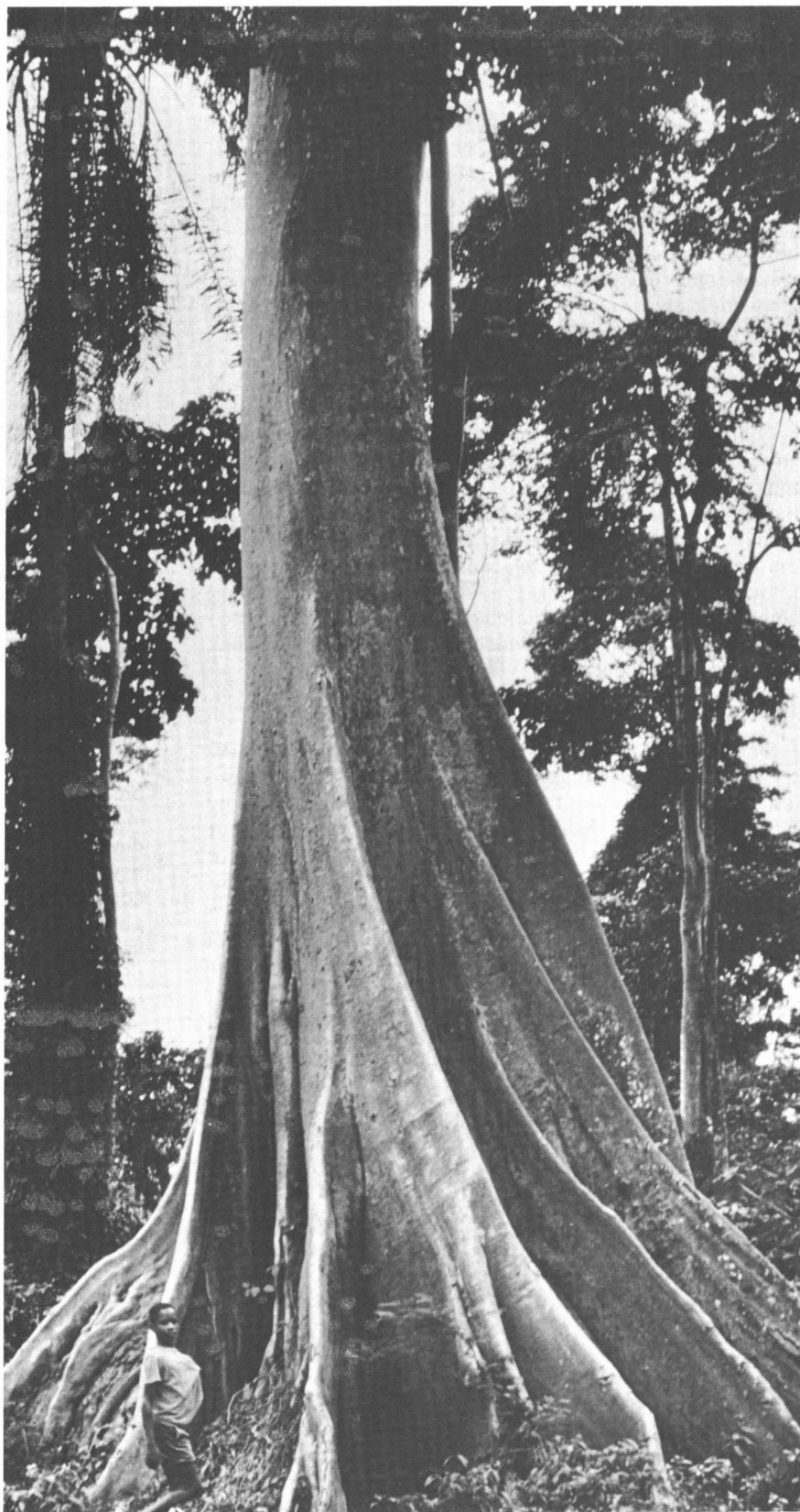
III. — Selection oversea of timber species appearing suitable for promotion

The basic operation, of course, is to choose species of timber, the sales promotion of which is possible and desirable. This must be carried out with the greatest possible care in the shortest possible time. All marketing specialists and experts in advertising communications agree that the product itself is the best advertising medium. No valid publicity operation can be put in hand unless it be backed by the certainty, or quasi-certainty, that the product in question is the answer to a need, and that it possesses the qualities required for the satisfaction of that need.

Reverting to tropical timber, it must be recognised at the outset that the species to be selected must be available in considerable quantity; must be as easy of access and exploitation as the established species; and that their cost price must, if possible, be lower and certainly not higher than the established types. Their technical characteristics, too, must of course be comparable with those of the species currently used, so that as the need arises they may become substitutes. To some extent, too, they must be in line with the tastes of the customer, who is not necessarily the final consumer but the intermediate consumer—designer or manufacturer—who is both the dictator and the slave of fashion and who moulds and conditions the habits of the final consumer.

The mere statement of these requirements suffices to show that the choice of forest species for sales promotion is not so easy a procedure as might be thought at the outset.

If the task is to be properly handled, the first person to be called in must be the government of the country concerned. This involves the ministry responsible for the raw materials, and its various departments and administrations: the departments and organisations concerned with external trade and its promotion; the state offices or companies concerned with timber marketing and perhaps other bodies. Next come the forestry under-



Naud

Trunk of a bombax tree

takings and their trade organisations, and the technical centres for testing and research; and the users who, in the last resort, make the market and determine the nature and scale of the demand.

The participation of government representatives in the country concerned can, of course, be taken for granted and calls for no particular comment. It is probably desirable, however, to put some emphasis on the part which must be played at the selection stage by the trade representatives and the technicians.

The forestry undertakings are fully conscious of the potential in their own concessions and they know how the tree population is localised. They are thus the best authority to advise on the ease or difficulty of felling and off-take, and thus on the production possibilities for any specific species, the ultimate rate of production, and its competitiveness in price by comparison with the usual types of production. Whether the part they play in the selection process is individual or through trade associations, it is indispensable to have their agreement; for it would be ridiculous to start a sales promotion campaign for timber which the forestry undertakings were unwilling to cut.

Since only a few of the species, and therefore only a few of the trees, are cut in any given area, the yield per hectare is at present very low and the operating cost correspondingly high. The cutting of the non-exploited species, so carried out as to leave a sufficiency of trees to serve as a basis for methodical reforestation, should result not only in a better yield per hectare, but also in better profitability and perhaps lower production costs. The efforts the forestry undertakings have made through the years, both individually and collectively, to interest customers in new types of wood are proof enough that they are fully conscious of the desirability of the operation contemplated. There can thus be no doubt that, when they are fully informed of the conditions in which the present operation has been conceived and is to be carried out, they will give their complete support to its execution.

There is no need for extensive argument on the need for cooperation from the centres and institutes for investigation, research and testing. They have in fact been cooperating over a long period. For many of the species, as has been noted above, tests already carried out have determined with great precision the properties and characteristics of the timber studied. For these types, or at any rate for some of them it is thus possible for a development and marketing campaign to be put in hand at once. The technicians who work in these organisations, and who maintain good professional relationships among themselves, are the only people who can state the qualities and defects of the timber studied with all desirable precision; and their participation in any selection process is therefore naturally indispensable.

The representation of european importers and users appears none-the-less necessary for the fact that it is less easy to organise. The reason is, that the commercial circuits, well known though they be, are many in number and diverse in structure. There are, for example, integrated circuits in which the european user is also the oversea forester; and there are also groups of industrialists who buy timber either directly from the forestry undertakings or through a broker. The main part of the tropical timber trade, however, is in the hands of importers, who are in some cases themselves the oversea forester, while the others have the services of agents in the exporting countries.

These importers receive, sort and classify the timber, provide temporary storage and sell it to middle-men and to industry. It can thus be said that the importers are the masters of the supply system to the european market. They have, therefore, a considerable part to play in any sales promotion campaign.

Attention having been called to the importance of the preliminary operation of selecting the timber species and on the qualities required in those who take part in it, the next step is to consider how the selection should be carried out in practice.

It seems that the best way of proceeding would be to call a meeting of all those who are to take part in the selection procedure, to be held in the capital of the Associated country in question, and which would be expected to last about two days. The initiative in calling the meeting would of course have to come from the government of the Associated country concerned. It might of course send out invitations to all the participants in Africa and in Europe; or it might choose to invite only those who live in Africa, and ask for the good offices of the Commission in attempting to secure participation by representatives of the european technical centres and european commercial operators.

If this meeting is to have good results, it would be desirable for the competent authorities in the Associated country concerned to seek the help of the forestry undertakings in drawing up a first list of species eligible for selection, adding all useful information regarding the production potential, the exploitable quantities and the prices.

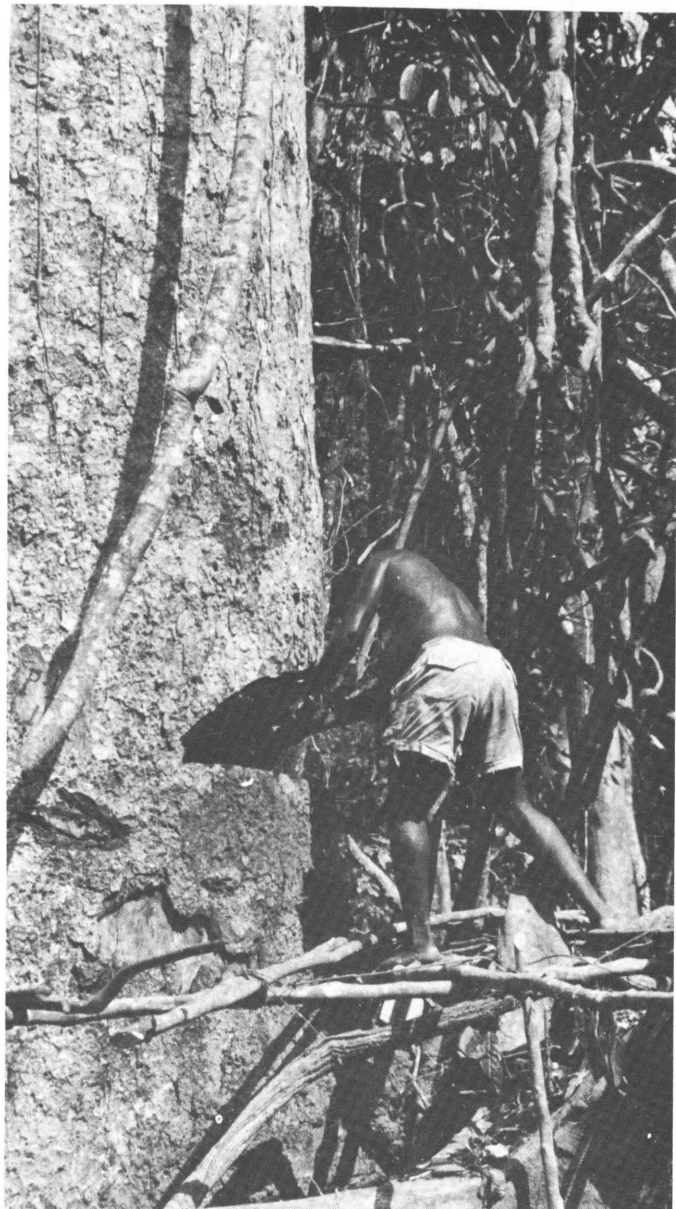
It would also be useful if the administrations and the trade in Africa could have examined the present document before the meeting in question, and sent in any appropriate observations from their own angle.

The selection meeting should be followed by the agreement of participants being embodied in whatever manner is most appropriate, in a document which would state, more especially, which species were chosen and give approval, with or without reserves, to a plan for a sales campaign in Europe. The document in question should, as and when the

case arises, be attached to any application for technical or financial support from the Community, filed by the Associated country concerned for the purpose of carrying out the promotion campaign envisaged.

IV. — Plan for a sales promotion campaign for tropical timber species hitherto un-marketed or little known in the member countries of the Community

The species having once been chosen, with all desirable circumspection, especially on the part of the trade in Africa and in Europe, the remaining task is to define and put in hand the sales promotion campaign itself.



Felling a tree

There is one remark which must be made at the outset. It would be difficult to consider an operation of this type, and on this scale, for a very large number of species. The effectiveness of the campaign will be the greater for the concentration of effort on a small number of timbers with desirable properties and collectively capable of covering a diverse range of uses. In this field, as in others, the undue dispersion of effort and aid is not to be recommended. Even if it should appear, in any individual Associated country, that a large number of species are worthy of selection—even though this is scarcely likely—it would be preferable to choose only the likelier types and leave the promotion of the others till later. In all probability, too, this delay will not work to the disadvantage of the species temporarily left aside, for when the time comes they will have the benefit of the experience gained in the first promotion campaign undertaken for the first timbers selected. Before giving as precise a description as is possible at this preliminary stage, of the plan of campaign now envisaged, it is important to recapitulate briefly the objective in view and the difficulties to be expected in the European market.

The objective in view is clear enough. It consists of persuading industrialists and manufacturers in Europe, and other users of tropical timber, to make use of new timber species coming from the A.A.S.M. and to incorporate these in their manufacture. In this connection it must be repeated that the objective is in line with a real need for the Associated countries. With some of the traditional species becoming increasingly scarce, it would be a mistake for exploitation or export to be restricted or put under quota, the main effect of which would be to send the prices up and divert demand to timber from other parts of the world, or to substitute materials. The present course must be to promote by all appropriate means, the marketing of new species.

There are many difficulties which stand in the way of a campaign for promoting the sales of new species, but none of them are insurmountable. The major difficulty, as all specialists recognise, lies in the ingrained habits, amounting virtually to a routine, characterising the present trade in Europe in tropical timber. It has been noted above that the importer is the main link in the chain which actually decides the nature and direction of the supplies. If any species gives satisfaction to users, and therefore finds an easy market, the importer's tendency is to take advantage of this situation without worrying unduly about the medium-term risk that supplies may run out. In reality the forestry undertakings are apt to limit their own activity to cutting the species the importers require; so that changes in the species-structure of imports are apt to happen rather under the effect of strains which develop when supplies grow shorter, rather than from any policy of rational utilisation of the forest potential.

It thus seems that though any promotion campaign must have the agreement and approval of importers, it is not to them that the first steps must be addressed. The first target must be the designers and industrialists who are closest to the product and are thus able to determine the orientation

of demand. The final consumer himself is not a negligible factor; but the approach to him must go through other channels.

It should be added that this approach to the operation is not a novelty. Many indeed are the European producers of materials of many descriptions who, though they do not sell directly to the users, nevertheless keep closely in touch both with designers and users, through elaborately conceived technical-commercial networks set up for the purpose. Their work includes canvassing, the sending of documentation, the organising of demonstrations, stands at exhibitions and fairs and a good deal else. They even carry their action as far as the consumer by campaigns of mass publicity and advertising. In practice, the traders accept this state of things very willingly; for their task is made the easier, and all they have to do is to make a note of the orders they receive and see that they are carried out.

The campaign with designers and industry will be the easier to the extent that it can be demonstrated that they are not being asked to incur any technical or financial risk. Manufacturers have always been reluctant to adopt new materials, such as timber species, for fear that the yield they give may be less good, or that they themselves may have to make changes in their tooling and equipment (which hardly seems likely in the present case) or make some change in their factory planning. Designers, too, have their own established habits; for they need intimate knowledge of the materials they specify. A good approach to both these classes would of course be to offer the new timbers at lower prices than the better known ones with which they claim to compete. It is not possible within the scope of the present document to say whether this can or cannot be done; but in any examination of the problem, the fact must not be lost to sight that price is one of the factors which has done most for the penetration of Asiatic timber into the European market combined of course with consistent quality, standardisation and conditioning of the lots, old-standing connections with English-speaking importers and merchants, the dynamic action of Dutch and Italian importers inside the Community and a number of other factors.

Nor must it be forgotten that ocean freight at present accounts for between 30% and 50% of the c.i.f. cost of timber; and that however great may be the difficulty of any action in this field, it would be unwise to abandon it in advance without looking at the problem in all its aspects. Member countries which have set up councils of shippers, or which are considering setting up an organisation for the defence of shipping undertakings and cooperation between them, could most easily discuss such matters with the maritime Conferences.

We have now rehearsed the objective, listed the most outstanding difficulties and adequately the immediate target (designers and industrialists). The next stage is to propose the action to be taken and to consider in what manner and with what resources it can best be carried out.

For greater clarity, it is proposed to distinguish between **action on the product** (any action involving using the new species or presenting them to the trade or the public) and **action around the product** (i.e. advertising and publicity action undertaken in connection with the campaign itself) the property of the new species and things which have been done with the new species.

A. — ACTION ON THE PRODUCT

The specialists consulted consider the best, and ultimately the only, way of convincing designers and industrialists that they should use new species of timber, is to have a number of sample items made from these new species. Once this has been done, it will become possible, by the various methods described below, to set about a publicity campaign on a large scale. In parallel with this publicity, it is desirable to offer industrialists, on certain terms, a chance of making their tests in their own factories by buying a few cubic metres of one or more of the new species which will be available in the big Community ports.

a) production of sample items

In agreement and with the help of professional associations in Europe, two manufacturers should be chosen from each of the Community countries (one cabinet-maker and one wood furniture manufacturer) to make a few joinery articles, or pieces of furniture, using one of the new or little-known timber species. The species chosen would of course be different according to which manufacturer is chosen and what model has got to be made. The articles concerned would be chosen from the industrialist's usual range; or if it is a question of wood with exceptional properties (e.g. colour) they might be something entirely new.

The industrialists who accept to take part in this operation would receive technical assistance from the national technical and research centres, especially in connection with the cutting, drying and stabilisation of the wood, machining, assembly and other operations. On the basis that each of the industrialists would have 10 or 15 cu.m of timber, this would mean a total of between 100 and 150 cu.m to be supplied by the Associated country to carry out the operations. If several Associated countries are interested, and if the selection definitely includes more than 5 or 6 species, it is possible that these figures may be revised upwards (1). These supplies should, it is thought, be made free of charge, which would presumably imply a sharing of the cost between (e.g.) the forestry undertakings and the Associated government (which would at least authorise the export to be made free of all export and shipment duties).

(1) *As a result of meetings held in Abidjan, Libreville and Yaoundé, the industrialists were asking for sample lots of 50 to 100 cu.m each.*

The industrialists undertaking this manufacture would be able to keep part of the samples made, and would be asked to deliver the rest to a company, or other organisation, for purposes of the promotion campaign. In making this delivery the industrialist should send a brief report on the execution of the work and his views on the interest inherent in the new species used.

The products, whether kept by the industrialist who made them or delivered to the promotion organisation, would be kept at the disposal of the national research and testing centres, which would thus be able to study their durability and other qualities and put in reports of their own.

The provision of these sample articles (e.g. doors and windows, furniture etc.) should therefore present no special difficulty. It seems that the professional groups of oversea operators might take charge of collecting the timber, round or sawn, and dispatching it to the industrialists who had agreed to take part in the operation, and whose names and addresses would have been given them for the purpose.

b) Exhibition of sample items

In each Community country the sample items delivered to the appointed company or organisation might be shown to the building and furniture trades, at various demonstrations especially organised for the purpose in all the main regions of the country.

In all the Community countries there are information and documentation offices for wood and timber. In France there is the Conseil Interfédéral du Bois and the Association pour le développement des emplois du bois; in Germany there is Arbeitsgemeinschaft Holz; in the Netherlands the Institute for Documentation on wood and timber in Amsterdam; in Belgium the Bureau National de Documentation sur le bois; in Italy the Centro di Documentazione per il commercio internazionale del legno. They seem willing to give their active support in the organisation of these demonstrations. The refresher groups for architects and the building offices might also participate.

In addition, the sample items might be shown in international trade shows connected with the wood and timber industries, such as Interzum in Germany, the French wood-working machinery exhibition or the Trieste Fair in Italy. These events could easily be included—if they are not already—in the Community programme for A.A.S.M. participation in big commercial shows in Europe. It would indeed be possible not only to exhibit the sample items, and supply information and documentation, but also to have the new timber species actually worked under the eyes of a trade public, which would be particularly well placed to appreciate the qualities of the material used.

Another possibility, if the national information bureaux on wood and timber are agreeable, would be to organise a permanent exhibition of items made in the new timber species, either in the premises of these organisations, or in some other place which they might be willing to indicate.

B. — ACTION AROUND THE PRODUCT

Any sales promotion, whatever be the product, must necessarily be based on knowledge, information and publicity. It is already clear that good information will be necessary in the first instance to persuade professionals (manufacturing industrialists) to undertake the test operations described under A above in all the member countries of the Community. After this, or perhaps at the same time, it will be necessary to reach the trade as a whole, including designers and merchants; and also the public itself, the final purchaser of finished or semifinished articles, who is apt to come more or less within the influence of new fashions and techniques.

It must also be borne in mind that if the different phases of the proposed campaign were to be carried out successively instead of simultaneously—i.e. selection of timbers in Africa; recruitment of manufacturers to take part in making the samples; the making of the samples; participation in various trade fairs and the various other publicity operations—the total duration of the campaign would spread over several years and therefore would probably not have an adequate publicity impact on the trades and professions concerned or on the public. It thus appears indispensable that every type of action on the product at all stages should be backed by suitable publicity. An advantage of this method is that it avoids delayed action surprises, preparing both the trade and public opinion for the discovery of new types of wood. When the time comes, therefore, they will realise that the appearance of this wood in the market is no chance matter or momentary offer, but the product of very serious study, research and experiment.

a) publicity for the campaign itself

From this standpoint it seems desirable to publish the plan of action when it has been definitely worked out, in the trade publications in the Community countries, more especially in the publications put out by the timber documentation bureaux. The publication would be associated with commentary and various types of information. It might be timed to take place after completion of the selection operation, mentioning the species chosen for sales promotion and their principal properties and scope.

At a later stage the names of the industrial firms lending their good offices in making the sample item, and a brief description of the samples themselves, might be the occasion for further publication in the same media.

b) preparation of technical information-cards

It would be a good plan to prepare for each of the chosen species, and with the help of the research and testing centres, a technical card, or slip, showing the characteristics and properties of the species concerned. This would also have its commercial value, because it would be made attractive and would make a good show, with photographs in four colours showing the cuts of the wood under consideration. It should, of course, be made available in all the Community languages.

At all stages of the campaign these cards would be distributed to professionals and only to professionals. In view of the time inevitably taken in their compilation, it would be a good plan for this work to be put in hand as soon as the species have been selected.

c) preparation and distribution of a pamphlet or folder

For promotion operations aimed at professionals and the trade and for those described under point A-B) above, it is imperative that a publicity pamphlet or folder be prepared, with photographs of the sample items actually made and commercial indication of a publicity character on the many uses for the new species. This publication would put the accent on the "novelty" of the material and the various guarantees associated with organising the promotion campaign.

d) canvassing designers and contractors

A special campaign is necessary for designers (especially architects) to ensure the introduction of more flexibility in specifications, so that the new species would be included in the "family" of timber specified, and contractors would thus have the option of using them, subject to whatever supplies might be available in the market. Similar action should be undertaken, also, with property developers. This might take

the form of direct mail advertising, accompanied with the technical card and commercial documentation. An alternative approach would be by personal canvassing.

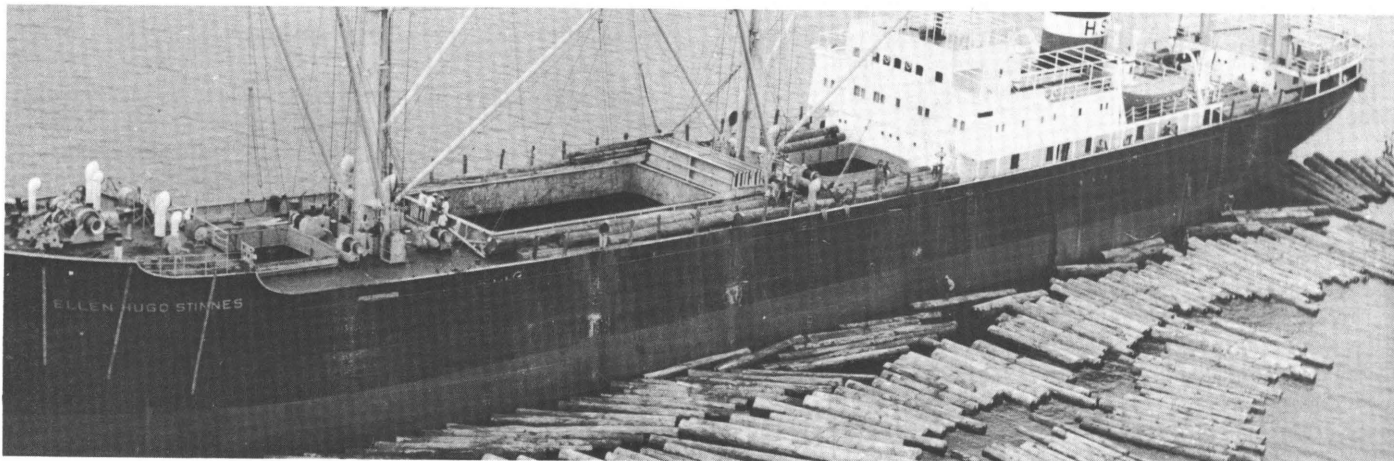
In this field, too, the wood and timber documentation centres could give effective help in preparing the campaign and perhaps in its execution, which should be put in the hands of a marketing firm.

e) publicity aimed at the european public

Once the campaign is started and its first results can be seen —i.e. after the sample item and models have been made— consideration might, if necessary, be given to embarking on various forms of publicity aimed at the european public, and putting the accent on "the new tropical wood from Africa". For this purpose advantage might be taken of the commercial furniture weeks, or furniture fortnights, which take place periodically in many european cities. Another method might be special sales-promotion weeks, which could be organised with the help of the big stores. There are a number of other approaches to this aspect of the question.

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The campaign described above is neither unusually modest nor unduly ambitious. It has been prepared, it will be recalled, after consultation on the essential points, with the governments of several Associated States and many commercial operators, or groups of operators, both oversea and in Europe, as well as the technical research and testing centres. It is thus as realistic and definite as is possible at so preliminary a stage, for a preparatory work carried out in the desire of stimulating the execution of a plan for aiding the economic development of the Associated countries which are timber producers.



Naud

II. Our wish is to promote and intensify the marketing of tropical timber

says Gérard Lemaigen
**President of the French Federation
for tropical timber**

Mr. President, the Commission of the European Communities has given its support for a special campaign to promote the sales of species of tropical timber which have hitherto been used only a little or not at all. You of course have been associated with this undertaking as have other leaders of the trade in Europe. Can you tell our readers, in general terms, whether you think this is a useful plan?

For the past year the market in tropical timber has shown extremely important changes, which made it necessary for contacts to be made between the producing and the importing countries.

Over the last 20 years, apart from okoumé wood, which is used for plywood, the tropical timber market has been through 10 years dominated by niangon, followed by 10 years which were the sipo period. The big increase in demand, and the expanding buyers' market in all the european countries, made it impossible for so selective a policy to be maintained. Only rational, by which I mean complete, forestry could enable the producing countries in Africa to maintain the place in the world market which they have acquired, in competition with the countries of South East Asia.

I therefore think that the initiative taken by the african countries, with the agreement of the E.E.C. Commission, is not only useful but indispensable.

Meetings have lately been held, in some of the african countries specially concerned, such as the Ivory Coast, Gaboon and Cameroon. You took part in some of these meetings. How do you think they went, and what do you think of their results?



The meetings held in the Ivory Coast, Gaboon and Cameroon were certainly very constructive. Their conduct was made the easier by the excellent reception given to delegates by the african governments.

The primary point of interest in these meetings was, I think, the possibility of bringing together representatives of the governments, the forestry undertakings and african industrialists and the european importers and industrialists, including representatives of Great Britain, which is a big user of timber.

In all three meetings the fact that the talks were between professionals, made it possible in most cases to reach constructive conclusions which should have concrete effects within a reasonable time.

The fact that the Centre Technique Forestier Tropical, which is internationally recognised as extremely competent, took part in the preparation and conduct of all the meetings,

justifies good expectations for the results. It is in fact absolutely necessary that a competent technical organisation, which has the necessary men and means for the purpose, should take charge of the continuity of operations; for the various syndical bodies, whether of exporters, importers or industrialists, are not able to take charge of such operations and follow them through from day to day. It seems, too, that the discussions which took place have enabled all parties present to become aware of the problem facing them, both in forest exploitation and in the marketing of forest products. These problems have often been talked about, but it does not seem to me that they have yet been raised in so precise a fashion.

One of the advantages expected from the campaign was, of course, that the Associate countries concerned would be seeking to maintain and even increase their timber export capacity. Are you convinced that there are real possibilities in this connection?

As I told you just now, if there had been no promotion plan for new species, the market for african tropical timber would have been reduced within the next 10 years to marketing a few luxury species, of which sipo would have been one. Their position would have been much the same as teak in the countries which produce it.

The possibility of increasing the export potential certainly exists in all three of the countries visited, more especially Gaboon, where the infrastructure is already there and could produce quick results. The promotion calls for two big efforts by the State:

1. The first is the forest survey, for without this the forestry undertakings and the industrialist have not the necessary knowledge of the forest resources in the various species they require for planning their investments. Once the resources are known, it will be the turn of the technical organisations to study the technological qualities of the timbers chosen at these meetings. This operation, incidentally, is already in progress; when it is finished, production can go ahead.

2. There is still a problem which seems to me of primary importance, and which conditions the ultimate success of the operation. This is the infrastructure problem. There are no longer any forests along the seaboard. Operations have moved back, and production nowadays is conditioned by the offtake facilities. The construction of Port San-Pédro, the success of which for timber purposes cannot be disputed, is an example of what has got to be done.

The problems therefore are problems of railways, roads and port facilities. I think there are still big timber reserves in the Congo basin (Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gaboon). These could keep the international

trade in african tropical timber alive for ever, provided the problems of the trans-Cameroon Railway, the trans-Gaboon Railway, the C.F.C.O. and the ports of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Douala and the access to them, could be solved in good time.

One of the important results of the recent meetings seems to have been that they brought to the surface the lack of strictness in the classification of cuts, and the lack of standardization of lots, attributing to this the loss of ground in the european market for timber cut in Africa. Does your professional experience lead you to share this view?

Up to the present the French market, in particular, has been characterised by the use of primary sawings, which are known as "plots", and have always been preferred to clean timber. Conditions were quite different in the english market, where only clean timber is bought.

It is certain that a better presentation of the sawn timber, using standard dimensions and regular bundles, would attract much utilisation. This would lead to an increase in the value added in the producing country, and produce transport economies. Such an operation would call for considerable investments, which would need to be backed by adequate sources of supply.

It must not be forgotten that these african timbers are in competition with supplies from Asia. The competition is likely to grow increasingly severe; and most of the opposition timber is already sawn in standard dimensions. They also have to compete with the northern timber supplies, which have for many years been exceptionally well presented.

Once the investments have been made, it is very certain that the proportion of clean timber in the european markets would increase considerably.

Some months ago, the E.E.C. Commission approved a considerable sales promotion programme for tropical timbers hitherto unmarketed or little known from the Ivory Coast, Gaboon, Cameroon, the Congo and Zaire. You know all about the various actions envisaged, which are reported in an article in this number. How long do you think it will take for the promotion campaign to have a material effect on european imports?

As I understand it, the programme which has been put on foot will have a phased effect:

- a) Existing industries in the different countries, which have been dormant because of the non-availability of their traditional supplies, will start up afresh, be brought up-to-date and their capacity expanded.

I think that the effects of the promotion will make themselves felt as early as 1974, especially in the Ivory Coast, resulting in a material increase in the quantities of clean timber exported to the European markets.

b) In another phase, say in the three following years, I think we shall see the starting up of up-to-date sawmills, designed for the processing of various kinds of timber, more especially in Cameroon, Gaboon and the Congo, where there are not many of them.

The timetable, as I see it, will be subject to the solution of the infrastructure problems, of which I spoke. It would not be economic to push on with the construction of up-to-date plant units which could only be profitable if they could have a regular production and evacuate their product 12 months a year.

* *

In conclusion, I would state my opinion that the campaign which has been begun must be energetically carried through, and there must be intensified propaganda in all the European markets for the timber species chosen in the different meetings.

I think, too, that on completion of the technical tests which have been put in hand, and when we can see the results which have been secured in each of the countries, there should be a full-scale meeting attended by all the countries concerned, to sort out the general lessons to be learned and begin shaping the plans for the future.

Tropical timbers cannot be produced and marketed today by the methods of 20 years ago. They must put their house in order and be ready for the 21st century.



Fitting out an okoumé plantation brigade in Gaboon (financed by the E.D.F.).

III. Chief conclusions at meetings with Associated Countries

A working document compiled in the Commission, a summary of which is contained in the foregoing, was sent to the Associated countries engaged in forestry. Five of the Associated countries have indicated their approval of the conclusions in this document and their willingness to organise in their own capital cities meetings of those professionally engaged in timber in Africa and in Europe, and attended by Commission officials.

Three of these meetings have now taken place in Abidjan, Yaoundé and Libreville. Two further meetings will be held shortly in Kinshasa and Brazzaville.

Below is the text of the chief conclusion of the first three meetings.



Ivory Coast: loading timber with mobile cranes

Naud

Abidjan, 18-21 October 1972

A. CHIEF CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPE-IVORY COAST MEETING

It is of the highest importance for the economy of the Ivory Coast, and for the timber trade in Europe and Africa, that a sales promotion campaign be put in hand as early as possible in the European market for a number of forest species which are still insufficiently utilised. With a view to this a number of specific steps will be taken, especially the selection and conditioning of the timber species and the issue of information to industrialists interested.

The sales promotion campaign to be put in hand in the European market will relate to two groups of species.

a) first group, covering the following species which have a substantial potential, and about which the technological characteristics are known:

Little-known species: frake, dabema, danta and badi.

Species known but insufficiently marketed: ceiba, iroko, amazakoue, lingue, idigbo, baha.

b) a second group, covering the following species, but for which additional studies are to be carried out before the promotion, relating both to their market potential and to their technological characteristics;

Species requiring additional studies: koto, ako, malegba, faro, African Canarium.

Species entirely unknown: akossika, kekele, celtis (lohonfe, ba, asan etc.) vaa or limbali, latandza.

The species in the first group will be used for immediate promotion. Those in the second group will be promoted in the same way, depending on the progress made in the additional studies.

The promotion campaign will proceed on the following lines:

Choice of industries to take part in tests

The marketing Union for tropical timber (U.C.B.T. - french initials) is directed to inform national import federations and industrial groups in the Community countries of the species which have been selected; and to make a list of the industrialists agreeing to undertake experimental manufacture from samples of these species.

This list must include two industrialists per sector of activity in each E.E.C. country.



Naud

Ivory Coast: logs coming out of the forest

The industrialists selected will be required to state:

- a) the nature of the manufacture they desire to undertake with each of the species considered;
- b) the volume of timber required for their experiment;
- c) the form in which they wish to receive the timber (round, sawn, plywood etc.).

U.C.B.T. will inform the Ivory Coast Centre for External Trade as early as possible, and not later than January 31, 1973 of the necessary particulars for the delivery of the timber requested to the industrialists concerned.

This information must include:

- a) name and address of the firms;
- b) exact particulars of place of delivery;
- c) quantities and presentation for each species;
- d) nature, quality and description of experimental manufactures proposed;
- e) scheduled date by which the industrialists undertake to carry out these experiments.

Terms of delivery of timber for experimental manufacture

The timber shall be delivered to the consignee within 3 months from the reception of orders passed through U.C.B.T.

These supplies, on which embarkation taxes will not have been charged, will be invoiced to the consignee at promotion prices by the Ivory Coast Exporters' Syndicate.

The Ivory Coast Council of Shippers will cooperate with the Ivory Coast exporters and the European importers, in making representations to ship-owners and maritime conferences to obtain preferential transport terms.

The European industrialists will meet the cost of moving round timber from the port of embarkation to the factory.

Carrying out of experimental manufacture

The experimental manufacture is to be carried out as quickly as possible, and in any case within 6 months following the delivery of the sample supplies of timber. It will be followed by the research centres and institutes of each of the E.E.C. countries, which will put forward their reports jointly with the industrialists concerned to Ivory Coast External Trade Centre, and inform the specialist press of the results.

The industrialists will keep a specimen of each of the articles they have manufactured for subsequent exhibition for publicity purposes, and until such time as they are taken over by the Ivory Coast Centre for External Trade, or by the Commission of the European Communities for account of the Ivory Coast government.

Industrialists in the Ivory Coast will themselves carry out various experimental manufactures using the same timber species.



Naud

Gaboon: transport of okoumé

Exhibition of the manufactured articles

After this, in order to reach all professional users of timber (industrialists not taking part in the experimental manufacture; architects; property developers; contractors) the manufactured articles will be put on exhibition in specialised shows, in the premises of timber trade organisations and in any other suitable place.

Information and promotion

The report, and these conclusions, of the Europe-Ivory Coast meeting on the promotion of tropical timber species hitherto unmarketed or little known, shall be sent to all European unions and professional organisations, to specialist publications and to the general press, so as to secure the widest possible quotation.

In order to provide quick information for the trade on the technological characteristics and methods of using the species chosen, the Ivory Coast government will study the possibility of drawing up:

- a) commercial information slips, each of which would cover a sample of the species to which it relates;

b) technological slips providing all useful information on the problems industrialists may have to deal with in using the selected species.

The results of the experimental manufacture, as jointly noted by the industrialists and the technical centres, will be published as a pamphlet for the various classes of people professionally interested.

The Ivory Coast External Trade Centre, in consultation as necessary with the competent departments of the E.E.C. Commission, will follow the course of the promotion campaign defined above, and provide help as required to the U.C.B.T., the European technical centres and other professional organisations.

The Europe-Ivory Coast meeting also proposes that:

3° The government of the Ivory Coast should make all necessary arrangements for the earliest possible completion of the survey of potentialities in those forest species for which this information is not yet available.

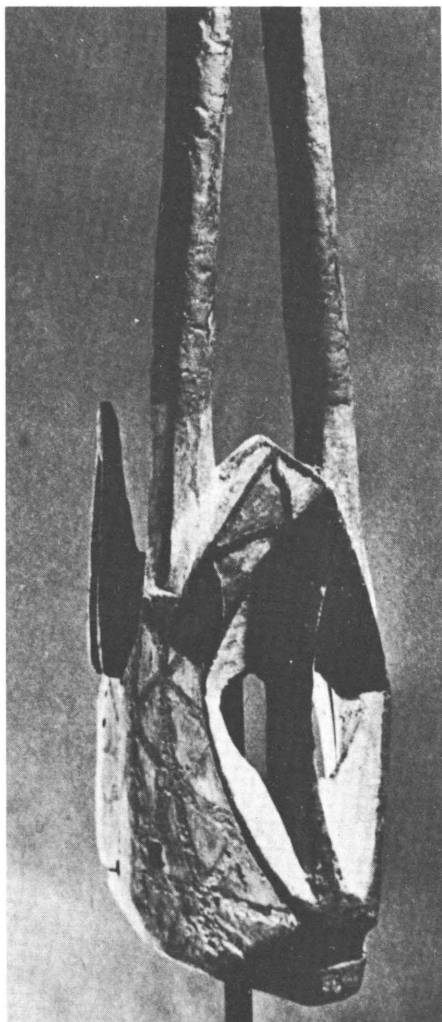
4° The government of the Ivory Coast should set up a technological research laboratory in the Ivory Coast for

permanent studies, to be carried out locally and in local conditions, of the utilisation of species not yet commercially used.

5° The government of the Ivory Coast should proceed, jointly with I.T.A.T.T., to a study of the standardisation and conditioning of Ivory Coast timber and, if necessary, adopt any measures required for improvement.

6° The government of the Ivory Coast should study the files submitted to it regarding the possible formation at Trieste of a commercial depôt for round and sawn timber of the species selected.

They express the wish that, having regard to the capital importance of these operations for the economy of the Ivory Coast, and to the fact that the resulting cost must inevitably fall in part on public funds, the government of the Ivory Coast will have recourse to aid from international external aid organisations and especially, within the framework of the E.E.C.-A.A.S.M. Association, to that of the European Development Fund, for operations to be carried out in Community countries and to that of the United Nations Development Programme for operations to be carried out elsewhere.



Dancer's mask
(Ouahigoya region, Upper Volta)

B. CHIEF PROPOSALS MADE IN THE EUROPE-CAMEROON MEETING

I. The sales promotion campaign to be launched in the european market will relate to:

— a first group of species to include the following, which have a substantial potential and for which the technological characteristics are known:

FRAKE; AZOBE; CEIBA; TALI; EMIEN; EKOP and BERLINIA.

— a second group to include the following species, the technological characteristics of which are also known, but the potential of which is more limited owing to the diversification of the Cameroon forests.

DANTA; DABEMA; BILINGA (OPEPE); AFRICAN PADAUK; AYAN; ABEL.

— LIMBALI GILBERTIODENDRON DEWEVREI, which seems to be abundant in the south-eastern forest, but for which additional studies on supply possibilities have still to be made.

Some of the species in the second group, and also the limbali, exist in the forests of other african countries interested

in the promotion campaign, and this was regarded as justifying their selection in Cameroon.

II. The promotion campaign will proceed on the following lines:

Selection of industrialists to take part in experimental manufacture: The E.E.C. Commission shall enquire from federations and trade groups of european timber importers and industrialists, with a view to finding industrialists in each of the Community countries who will agree to undertake experimental manufacture from samples of the selected species. These enquiries will be carried out with the help of the tropical timber research centres in the member countries. The Commission will send the list of industrialists to the authorities and trade organisations in Cameroon before November 1973.

The list will include:

— nature of manufacture to be undertaken from each of the species considered;

— volume of timber required for the experimental manufacture;



Roads and trucks for carrying timber (Congo)

— the presentation required (round, sawn, plywood etc.).

Terms of delivery of timber for experimental manufacture

By general agreement, the Centre Technique Forestier Tropical was instructed to cooperate with the Syndicat des Producteurs et Exportateurs de Bois du Cameroun, under the authority of the Ministry for Agriculture, in collecting the sample consignments for the experimental manufacture and see to their dispatch. The European industrialists will bear the cost of transport of the timber for the experimental manufacture from the port of embarkation to the factory. In addition, an all-in compensation payment per cubic metre of round or sawn timber shall be paid by the industrialists which use it to the producers. This compensation will be the same for all the species, and its amount will be determined before June 30, 1973 and will be communicated to the competent departments of the E.E.C. Commission and to the authorities concerned.

The timber comprised in the sample lots shall be of good current quality.

Carrying out of experimental manufacture

The experimental manufacture shall be carried out as early as possible, and in any case within 6 months after delivery of the timber samples. It will be followed by the research centres and institutes in each of the E.E.C. countries; and a detailed report will be compiled and published in the official languages of the Community and given a wide circulation.

The industrialists will retain specimens of each of the articles they have manufactured for purposes of subsequent exhibition for publicity purposes as part of the promotion campaign described below.

Information and promotion

These proposals by the Europe-Cameroon meeting on the promotion of tropical timber species hitherto unmarketed or little known, shall be sent to all unions and professional organisations in Europe, to the specialist press



Timber transport by rail (Congo)

and to the general press with a view to the widest possible quotation.

To facilitate prospecting with importers and industrialists, commercial information slips shall be compiled as quickly as possible for each of the selected species. These will be made available in five languages—German, English, French, Italian and Dutch.

When the experimental manufacture is completed, there will be compiled:

- a pamphlet recapitulating the reports, for information of the various categories of person professionally interested;
- technological sheets providing all useful information on practical problems with which industrialists may have to deal in using the selected species.

In addition, in order to reach all professional users of timber (industrialists who did not take part in the experimental manufacture; architects; property developers; contractors; decorators) the articles manufactured will be put on exhibition in specialist shows, timber information centres and any other suitable place.

On the occasion of these exhibitions it is proposed to organise meetings of the trade and press conferences.

* *

The Europe-Cameroon meeting expresses the hope that, in respect of these lots, the government :

1. will facilitate their export and grant exemption from export duties and taxes;
2. will obtain for them special rates for carriage by rail;
3. will obtain for them a special tariff from S.E.P.B.C.;
4. will join with importers and exporters in approaches to shipping companies to obtain preferential rates of freight.

* *

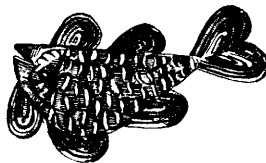
The meeting considers it highly desirable that:

1. in parallel with this external promotion campaign, a campaign should be carried out for the same species inside the country, sponsored by the Centre de Promotion du Bois, industrialists and users;
2. the government, in order to support this general promotion campaign, should within the next few years, complete the national forest survey on the lines laid down so as to define the total resources of the Cameroon forest potential.

In addition, the Europe-Cameroon meeting expressed the hope that, having regard to the capital importance of these campaigns for the Cameroon economy and the fact that the costs involved will fall in part to be met from public funds, the Cameroon government will have recourse to assistance from international external aid organisations and more especially, within the framework of the E.E.C.—A.A.S.M. association, from the European Development Fund. In this connection the representative of the E.E.C. Commission intimated that this organisation is willing to defray the cost of the following operations:

- prospecting expenditure incurred in connection with the experimental manufacture;
- remuneration of european technical centres which will be directed to follow the experiments and report on them;
- cost of preparation and distribution of commercial and technological slips and the report;
- expenditure incurred for exhibition of the sample manufactures produced by the industrialists and the organisation of trade meetings, press conferences etc.

He intimated, too, that the E.E.C. Commission is considering, at the request of the governments of Associated countries, having a study made for the standardisation and conditioning of the forest products from these countries.



President Diiori Hamani : "We should like an adapted version of Yaoundé II"

His Excellency Diiori Hamani, President of Niger and President in Office of the Economic Community of West Africa, paid a brief visit to Brussels on the occasion of the African Fortnight. He held a press conference and answered questions put to him by many correspondents. Some of them, of course, were about the E.C.W.A. and about the drought in the Sahel which are subjects

the President had already covered in two lectures, one of which is reproduced in this issue of Association News and the other will be found in the next issue. From the many other questions, we have pin-pointed below those dealing particularly with the Association, the O.C.A.M., Nigeria and the balance between tradition and modern education.

ASSOCIATION

Two questions were raised about the future of the Association after the negotiations now beginning.

1. Negotiations: Wherein lie the divergencies and how can they be resolved?

Answer. There are divergencies in Europe where there are only nine partners; you can hardly be surprised that we have them in African too, for there are no less than forty of us.

I think we should start from a practical point of view. The fact is that the africans — 18 of us to start with and now 19 — have formed this association with Europe, and that there have been changes and adaptations at each successive stage.

In my view, the best thing to do would be to continue with a policy for the 19—that is to say an improved form of Yaoundé, incorporating especially the Commission's proposal for stabilising the export receipts which we regard as a work of genius. Some method should be found, too, for making the financing more flexible. We think there should be decentralisation. The simpler projects should be processed on the spot by

giving adequate powers to the E.D.F. representatives and the government. Only the major projects should need to come to Brussels for discussion.

A great deal could be achieved by helping the Associates in this way.

And then there should be some separate arrangement for the associables. When the associables and the original Associates have been living together for five years, I think enough confidence will have been generated to carry us a very long way. But if you want to say that there is at the present moment a common front, I wonder what this really means. Are we thinking in terms of the economic potential? As things stand, all 19 of us do not add up to one Nigeria. Which side will the balance tilt? This is the way the problem arises. We think the right course is to make a real improvement in the position of the first Associates and then try to discuss matters with the others.

Then there is the question of reciprocity. In this, I can speak only in the name of Niger. We think, in the light of our experience since the Treaty of Rome, that reciprocity is something freely given on a contractual basis; and we think a contract ought to be found which both Europe and Africa will sign and which both of them will respect. There is the risk that the elimination of inverse preferences might create the groundwork for unilateral denunciation; and what we want is Yaoundé II, but readapted and corrected. Under the existing Yaoundé Convention these inverse preferences are not given either by Zaïre or by Togo. This is why I see no real sense in quarrelling over this question.

It would be quite possible for the preferences to be shaded. For example, the countries in the interior might grant smaller advantages or none at all, and the coastal countries could grant preferences in certain proportions, while others do not think they can give any.

The quarrel is not a useful one, because it is not dealing with one of the real conditions. It was not the Common Market which raised this problem of preferences.

We have set up a free trade area without any duties; but we are entitled to raise duties for fiscal purposes to deal with our budget difficulties.

This is a bad kind of quarrel, which seeks to make the negotiations hang fire. When I see the english-speaking countries, I shall tell them that such preferences exist in the Commonwealth framework. The thing I cannot understand it, that there was no trouble about this when they were all alone with Great Britain; and suddenly, now that Great Britain is associated with eight other Common Market countries the difficulties begin to crop up. Unless of course it is a fact that on contact with Europe the British angel becomes a devil. This is a european question which is quite beyond me.

It is much better to take a look at what has been done and what is still to be done. These preferences were not asked for by Europe; but some Africans considered they wished to give them. It is

not an obligation, for Zaïre, and Togo do not give them; and there is thus no complication at the European end. It is the Africans who are picking a quarrel among themselves; and for my part I cannot see why. There are the small sequels of what people call neo-colonialism or imperialism; and there are some countries which imagine that independence from Europe calls for a certain demonstration of hostility. Our own belief is that it is possible to cooperate in a friendly spirit.

2. Adjustments to be made in the present Yaoundé Convention: in what respects?

Answer. In the first instance, as I told you just now, we are very pleased with the suggestion for stabilised export receipts. In addition, even though I am not the person mandated for the renewal on this occasion, I repeat the proposal I made in the name of all my colleagues in 1968. It has to be recognised that among the Associate countries there are three identifiable classes. The first category are the States which, as of now, can accept long-term loans—repayable in, say, 50 years, with a grace period of 10 years and interest rates between 0.75 and 1 or 2%. The second category consists largely of the countries in the interior, and for them subsidies are necessary. And the third category is one in which subsidies and loans can be associated in their programmes. What is needed, however, is decentralisation, which means giving maximum powers to the E.D.F. representatives in Africa and letting it be known how much can be given to each country. We do not think there is any point in concealing the fact that so many billion francs have been given to Rwanda, so much to Senegal, so much to Niger and so much to Upper Volta. The quotas should be known from the outset.

Further, both for agriculture and for industrial goods, there should be development contracts. For groundnuts and cotton, more particularly, Europe should undertake a 5-year commitment to buy predetermined quantities from these countries; and these contracts would be immune from the dangers of currency fluctuations and would not suffer the serious penalisation which comes from the deterioration in the terms of trade. Another problem is to encourage European industrialists to transfer to Africa as much as possible of their manufacturing activity, especially the industries which use a good deal of manpower. Steps in this direction have already been taken in Niger; the Germans and the French have their oil plants; there are textiles and tanneries; and in my belief all the industries which need considerable manpower without great qualifications, would help towards raising the standard of life in African countries.

O.C.A.M.

Answer. As you know, the O.U.A. is continent-wide. We began in 1951 by setting up the U.A.M. at Yaoundé; and when the O.A.U. had been formed at Nouakchott, we made certain changes and renamed it the O.C.A.M. There are some who have left O.C.A.M. for reasons of their own, and on these I have no comment to make or judgement to pass. We think, however, that the remaining nucleus can still serve the cause of Africa and the cause of African unity. I said just now in my answer to one of your colleagues, that we have economic problems, and especially money and currency problems to solve. The fact is, that in the O.C.A.M. practically all the French-speaking countries have, for example, the serious problem of education and they have a number of other common problems, such as social security and the adaptation of the labour code. We have infrastructure problems and harmonisation problems; and we have also problems in relation to the Franc area, for we have the West African franc and the Central African. These are all problems which can be solved, in any case if there is a concerted position in O.C.A.M. It is for this reason that I am one of those who believe O.C.A.M. has still a definite part to play in coordinating the different points of view and in the consolidation of African unity.

NIGERIA

Answer. Everything depends on Nigeria undertaking to respect the Community (E.C.W.A.) in the form in which we conceive it. For our part, we have set up this Community as an instrument of complementarity and solidarity; and this complementarity has to be interpreted in terms of the aid to be given to the countries in the interior which are geographically less well placed and backward by comparison with the coastal countries. An example of our action is the provision for a Community development fund, which is to be partially fed by the richer countries which already have at least the beginnings of industrialisation. If Nigeria would accept the sacrifice of really participating in this Community development fund, proportionately to her immense potential; if Nigeria agreed to play the game and recognise that all the new industries do not have to be set up in Nigeria; if Nigeria agreed to set up a unified market of 65 million people with countries such as Niger and Upper Volta; in such a case there would be

nothing to fear. The whole problem is to know whether Nigeria wishes to play her part as an African country or play some such part as does the United States with Canada. This is the real problem.

TRADITION AND MODERN EDUCATION

Answer. At the present moment this is a topical issue throughout Africa, from the authenticity campaign in Zaïre to the general return to sources and the promotion of national culture. The Minister for Education, Youth and Sport, who is here tonight, will tell you how, for nearly 10 years, we have been running a campaign to vitalise the youth movements. Each year, a short time before our national anniversary, all the youth movements in each of the seven regions of the country are engaged in a great competition. And, on December 12 the victorious teams come to Niamey to show their prowess—whether it be in folklore, ballet, song and dance or in sportive contest. We think it is now possible to safeguard our tradition, but nevertheless to be modern. At the present moment, we are in the process of an educational reform, which will assign an important place to knowledge of the country and the national languages and cultures, in such a way that there will be no hard and fast line dividing the country from modern life. Thus, in my talk with Madame Pétri, I told her that in Niger we would prefer to have bursaries for local studies than to send our young people into the universities of Europe. The simple reason for this is, that they would thus be closer to their own realities; and it would only be at the end of their studies, in the post graduate phase, that they would go to institutes in Europe, such as the Tropical Institute in Antwerp, FORA or Val de Grâce in Paris, for training as agronomists or doctors. In this way there would be no rupture, no detribalisation. We would prefer to see our young people taking their education in Africa, and in most cases their visits to Europe would be only for the more advanced studies or refresher courses. These are the measures we have taken in our attempt to harmonise traditional development with modern development. ■

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LECTURE BY M. CLAUDE CHEYSSON

"The thing which is really necessary is that those countries of the third world which are able, should be integrated into economic growth. At present they are only the henchmen to this growth".

These were the words of M. Claude Cheysson, the member of the E.E.C. Commission in charge of Development and Cooperation, in a lecture he gave on European Development Policy during the African Fortnight in Brussels. Extracts from his important speech are given below.

Production development

For any country which is not yet very advanced, development obviously calls for increased production. We must keep the fundamental truth in mind—a dollar, a pound or a CFA franc which a country earns by its production, has a much greater impact than a dollar, a pound or a franc coming to it as a gift. With this production came employment; with this production came the chance of training; with this production, especially if it is at all elaborate, came the need for organisation, the need for building up more modern elements in society. The production, in short, it sets up a process of movement inside the society, it begins the formation of an employer class, a manager class. Increasing production is quite clearly the key to development; and aid, however abundant, will never replace whatever we can do to get production expanding.

Stabilisation of export earnings

Europe is the biggest market in the world. About 38% of the world's trade now comes from or into Europe. I think we must say quite simply that if we really believe in development, our biggest duty is to open this market to products from the Third world.

Commercial preferences are not always enough and customs preferences are not always enough; this means that we must go further. I am glad indeed that my predecessor, in his memorandum defining the attitude of the Commission, in the future Association, made it a key matter that export earnings should be stabilised or, in more precise terms, that the countries associated with us should be insured against the risk of a bad year.



Heimo Claasen

I should like to say that, in my opinion, we ought to go further than merely covering the risk of a bad export year. Little by little we should build up, for the main products exported from developing countries, a really remunerative market which we should not only build up, but also guarantee. This is not a thing which can be done indiscriminately. First we must see which of the productions are really economic; but when we find production which is competitive and profitable, I regard it as the duty of industrial countries to provide such production with a permanent, stable and remunerative market.

Whatever opposition there may be, let us admit that the objective is to see how the activities of industrial countries can be progressively transferred to the countries of the Third world. When we see the beginnings of this transfer, we shall really be able to say, that development has begun. **The thing which is necessary is that those countries of the Third world which are able, should be integrated into economic growth; today they are only the henchmen to this growth.** In my view this is the really important line of approach; and I firmly believe that it is on this road that a group of industrial countries, such as those of Europe, must now resolutely tread.

Preferences

All this argument about preferences is largely inspired by those who do not want to give these facilities, by those who believe that the deterioration in the terms of trade is inherent in the nature of things, that it is something with which we have got to live and all that is necessary is to offset it by growing quantities of aid. I do not accept this policy; and Europe should not accept it.

The question of inverse preferences is somewhat technical, but I must answer with real precision. The Deniau memorandum lays it down quite clearly that we do not ask for inverse preferences. What does this mean? We ourselves offer a preference for products which come into the European market from our partners. We offer them a preference in the sense that we are giving them a customs advantage which we do not offer to the countries of Latin-America or Asia. This is what we mean by a preference. We do not ask them for a preference in return—which means that anything they grant us they are free also to grant to any other country in the world. A specific example is that of Mauritius, which recently joined the Yaoundé Association. On the very day Mauritius decided to lower certain of her import duties on goods from Europe, she also decided to lower the same duties to the same extent on American products. There was no preference in this.

I now come to the word "inverse". In the existing Yaoundé Convention, we asked the Associated governments to undertake to lower their customs tariffs in such a way as to bring us into what is called a "free trade area", such as is recognised by G.A.T.T. This formula has the great advantage that it does not have to be submitted for world approval. All we have to do is to declare it to the world in general, but we have no need for formal approval. Any other formula would need formal approval from the world community, which might be embarrassing for us. It is for this reason that the Commission considers it would be wise to apply the same formula tomorrow as we applied yesterday. Having expressed this standpoint, we can now see how the negotiations progress on this point.

Reciprocity

To be quite honest, I have not yet fully understood what the discussion is all about; for everything I have said up to this point is necessarily connected with mutual undertakings. I recommend a policy in which Europe will have the courage to open its market and help the developing countries to secure a footing in it. It is quite obvious that such a policy is only of value if it is permanent, and

if Europe does not desire to amend it. It is obvious, too, that every aspect of this involves mutual commitment by the Europeans and their Associates. Reciprocity, therefore, is to be found everywhere in the agreement we are putting forward.

There is, however, one precise point which is, to determine how our trading system is to be described to so mystic an authority as G.A.T.T. otherwise than by reference to Article 24 and Article 25. I do not want to weary you with these problems. They are in fact a difficulty in our present discussion of the system we are anxious to build up, but I do not think it is a difficulty which will long endure. I wonder what developing country there is which could reasonably reject the policy of which I have spoken? What developing country is there which could nail its colours to the mast of total liberalism in its trading system, even for products which are most important to its own economy? Commercial relations are a world jungle in which the developed countries have all the advantages. I wonder who could propose such a thing; and I am therefore frankly optimistic about our negotiations.

Transfers of activity

I may have made some of you shudder a few minutes ago when I spoke of transfers of activity from industrialised countries to developing countries. I would nevertheless say to such people that, whether they want to or not, they must indeed act on these lines. Is it really to be our line that we must go on accumulating industries one on top of another, or are we thinking of putting them underground before long? Before long we shall have no more water and no more space and for some time already we have not had enough workers. Do we really want to go on like this? In continental Europe we already have 9 million emigrant workers. The figure I gave was indeed 9 million; but in a few years it will be 20 million. With these expatriates, of course, there come a whole series of problems. Do you not think it would be more intelligent to make jobs for them on the other side of the water? Do you not think that it would be more sensible to agree that part of these industries should be transferred to points near the sources of their raw materials wherever economic considerations may dictate.

Zero growth

It is all very well to say that now we have reached the point in progress recorded in Europe and in America, we no longer need to have any growth. When, however, we think in terms of the world as a whole, this theory of zero growth is nothing short of criminal. I must apologise for speaking so forcefully. I do not believe in zero growth. It is much

too easy-going a creed to put forward in a world in which there are people without work, people dying of hunger and people who have no chance of obtaining work or food. Let us begin by bringing these countries to the level at which growth will begin to set up problems of pollution; and then, but only then, one could perhaps talk about such problems. Before we do anything else, we must give them growth and we must give them the chance of growth. ■

JOURNEYS AND VISITS

M. Cheysson visits the Caribees

M. Claude Cheysson, member of the E.E.C. Commission dealing particularly with development and cooperation has visited the various Caribbean countries interested in the renewal of the Yaoundé Convention. He was accompanied by Mr. Foley, deputy director general in charge of coordination of work for the negotiations. During his visit to Georgetown, M. Cheysson endeavoured to reassure the authorities about the consequence of Great Britain's membership of the E.E.C. "Community aid to developing countries" he said, "will be substantial and different from what is granted by other countries. The E.E.C. desires to develop its imports on a preferential basis. It will not be asking for any reciprocity clause".

M. Cheysson visits Dakar

In the course of his visit to Dakar, M. Cheysson was received in audience by President Senghor. He also had a meeting with the Prime Minister and held a press conference.

M. Ferrandi visits Somalia

During the latter part of October, M. Jacques Ferrandi, deputy director general in charge of the coordination of E.D.F. activities, represented the E.E.C. Commission at the European Day at the Mogadiscio Fair. He also laid a foundation stone in the port of Mogadiscio.

Visit to Lomé: On the occasion of the meeting of the joint Committee of Association (E.E.C.-A.A.S.M.) Mr. H.B. Krohn, director general for development and cooperation, paid a visit to Lomé (Togo) October 25-30, 1973.

FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

The "Partners for Progress" imports from overseas fair, Berlin, September 21-25, 1973. *This year's "Partners for Progress" Fair of imports from overseas countries came to an end on September 25. The trading results were materially better than last year. The stand area was 20% greater, covering a total of 11 125 sq.m. Products were shown by 437 exhibitors from overseas; 26 representative firms with offices in Berlin; and 574 firms and organisations from 60 countries represented in addition to the actual exhibitors.*

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Central African Republic — Improvements at confluence of rivers Lobaye and Ubangui. *In Brussels, on September 27, 1973, the President of the Central African Republic, General Jean-Bedel Bokassa and M. Claude Cheysson, a member of the Commission, signed the finance Convention for the improvement scheme at the confluence of the rivers Lobaye and Ubangui.*

On the previous day the E.E.C. Commission had decided to grant non-repayable aid for this scheme for the 3rd E.D.F., amounting to F-CFA 255 million, equivalent to U.A. 918 000 (1).

NEGOTIATIONS

On Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 October 1973 a Ministerial Conference to mark the opening of negotiations between the Community and its Member States on the one hand and the Associated African, Malagasy and Mauritian States, the independent Commonwealth States situated in Africa, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean and certain other African States on the other, was held in Brussels in the main hall of the Egmont Palace.

This Conference was opened on Wednesday 17 October 1973 at 16.00 and will be chaired by Mr. Ivar NOR-GAARD, Minister of External Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark and President in office of the Council of the European Communities.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

External debt

According to figures given in the bi-monthly review of the International Monetary Fund, underdeveloped countries having an annual income of less than \$ 300 per head of population devoted more than 8% of their export receipts in 1970 to the repayment of international loans they had received. This is twice as much as in 1965, — for some fifteen countries the proportion could be over 20% in 1980, if their export receipts continue increasing only half as fast as the amount of their repayments, as has been the case since 1965;

— the total public debt of the 80 developing countries included in this study, increased from \$ 21.6 billion in 1961 to \$ 75 billion in 1971. According to other estimates it is said to be as high as \$ 84 billion.

G.A.T.T.

In Tokyo, the Finance Ministers of the G.A.T.T. countries adopted a draft declaration which will give special treatment in the world trade negotiations to the world's twenty-five least developed countries.

(1) 1 U.A. = approx \$1.20 (new parity).

 Libreville, 1-2 June 1973

C. CHIEF PROPOSALS FROM THE EUROPE-GABOON MEETING

1. The sales promotion campaign will relate to the following species:

Group 1. — Little known species requiring industrial tests for any real commercial promotion: EBIARA; EKOUNE; CHEOMBI; NKONENGU.

Group 2. — Species already known but insufficiently exploited, necessitating additional production stimulus and industrial tests: KEVAZINGO; LONLAVIOL; IZOMBE; OLON; AGBA.

Group 3. — Known species for which technical slips will be prepared and distributed by the E.E.C. organisation.

Decrydes group (OZIGO, IGAGANGA, OSSABEL) DOUKA; MOABI; NIOVE.

Group 4. — Species for which promotion is requested by countries other than Gaboon, and is to be undertaken jointly by the E.E.C. AFRICAN CANARIUM; ELEBOME; BILINGA; TOUM; BERLINIA; EKOUK; AYAN; OVANG KOL; AFRICAN PADAUK, ELOUN.

Group 5. — Little known species needing further study by technical bureaux and centres for any promotion campaign. **ANDOUNGS group:** AWOURA; ENGO; SORO; NIEUK; ALEN.

2. The promotion campaign will be carried out in accordance with the plan adopted at the previous meetings. In the same way the delivery terms for timber for experimental manufacture, the carrying out of the manufacture in question, and the information campaign will follow the same pattern.

3. Hopes regarding the attitude of the Gaboon government

The Europe-Gaboon meeting hopes the government:

- a) will revise or fix minimum diameters for certain species, having regard to the necessities for their promotion;
- b) will facilitate the export of the sample lots by giving them full exemption from all export duties and taxes;
- c) will examine the possibility of fixing preferential rates for their carriage by rail or waterway, and for handling in port;

d) will obtain preferential freight rates from shipping Conferences and shipping companies for the export of these timber samples.

The meeting takes note of the steps already taken by the government to encourage investment in the timber industry. It sincerely hopes these arrangements will promote an expansion in the sawmills in Gaboon, which are at present less than enough to satisfy the export potential to various european industrial customers.

It hopes the promotion campaign will result inside the country in a more thorough satisfaction of national requirements for worked timber.

The meeting notes the undertaking given by the Gaboon government representatives to appoint as soon as possible the organisation which will be responsible on the Gaboon side for the coordination and stimulation of the promotion campaigns.

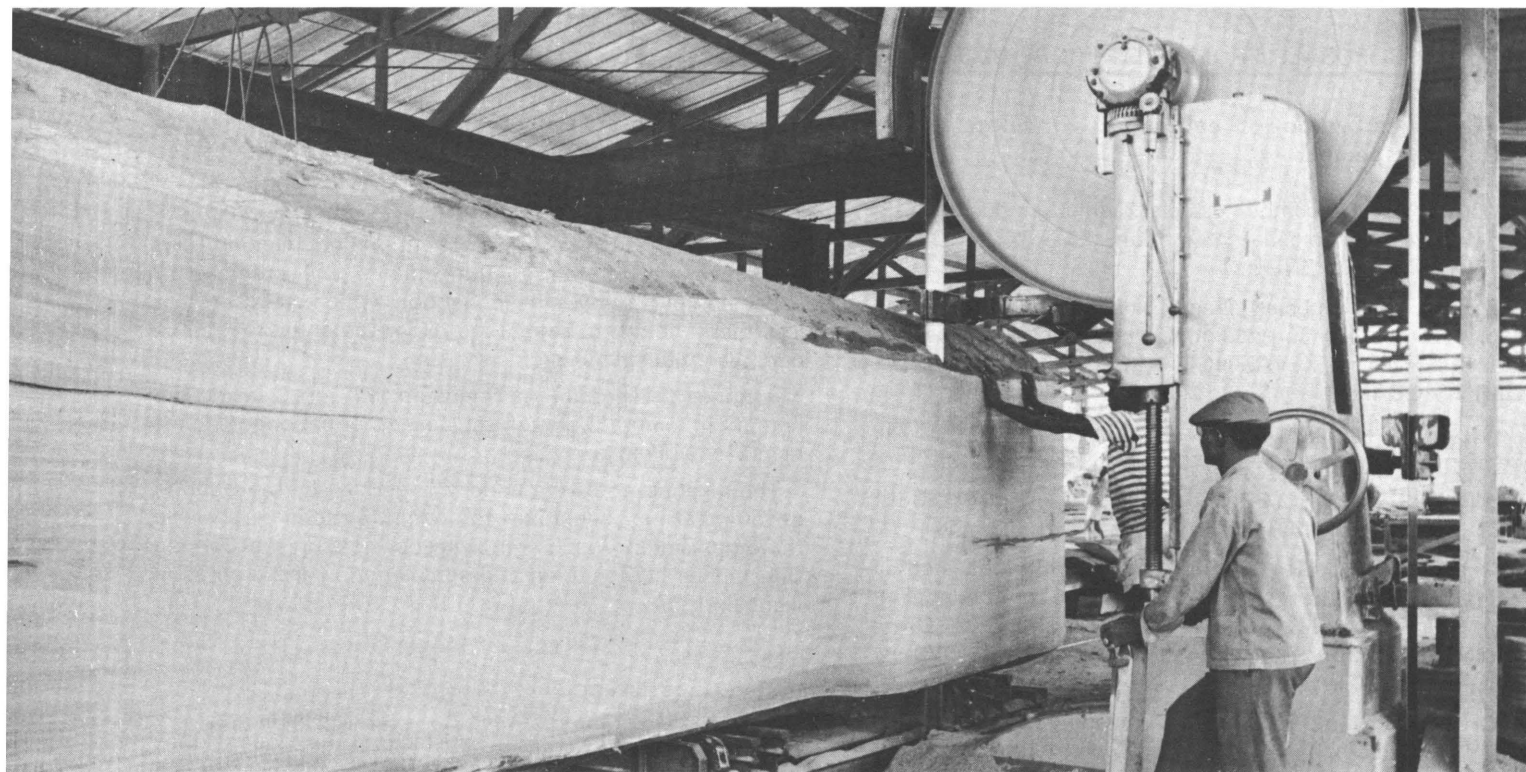
4. E.E.C. assistance

The meeting notes with satisfaction the undertakings given by E.E.C. representatives to defray the cost of the following items:

1. Study for the standardisation and conditioning of cut timber in close cooperation with I.T.A.T.T.
2. Search for industrialists agreeing to undertake the necessary experimental manufacture.
3. Supply of commercial slips on the species to be promoted.
4. Supervision of and report on the manufacturing experiments, by experts from technical centres and distribution of the results in all Community and Associated countries.
5. Preparation of technical slips depending on the results of the experimental manufacture.
6. Publicity for and general availability of the results of these experiments through exhibitions, publications and otherwise.

In conclusion, the representatives of the Gaboon government hope the E.E.C. will examine sympathetically the possibility of extending the above list to all other action linked with this promotion campaign.

IV. Technical and financial assistance from the E.E.C.



Sawing timber at Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

L. Normand — Photo Service Abidjan

During the first half of 1973, the Commission approved a proposal for finance, amounting altogether to 688 000 units of account, for carrying out a sales promotion campaign for tropical timber species hitherto unmarketed or little known, from the Ivory Coast, Gaboon, Cameroon, the Congo and Zaïre.

The operations comprising the promotion campaign to be carried out, with the technical and financial support of the Community, are as follows:

a) **Selection of industrialists** who will take part in the experimental manufacture of samples (e.g. doors, windows, furniture items etc.) from the selected species.

This operation will be carried out with the help of european technical forestry centres, who will appoint a specialist to canvass the leading wood-working industrialists in each member country. The european specialists will, if necessary, be accompanied by african experts. Since the trade and the industry in each member country is well known to the personnel of these technical centres, it should not be necessary to take an unduly long time for this canvassing, which is aimed at choosing a few industrialists in each country to carry out the experimental manufacture.

b) **Carrying out the experimental manufacture**

In principle, the manufacturing experiment will be carried

out by european industrialists at the rate of two industries per activity sector in each E.E.C. country. It will be carried out in the 6 months following delivery of the samples of timber, and will result in the production of models or samples, such as door frames and furniture items, which can then be put on exhibition in specialist shows, in timber information offices and, if necessary, elsewhere.

It is important to provide for effective cooperation from the technical centres, so that the experiments should be conducted as effectively as possible and the models manufactured should incorporate the highest degree of guarantee. It might otherwise happen, if the manufacture were badly carried out or the results misinterpreted, that a lasting prejudice would be created against these insufficiently-known species, and there would thus be a risk of their being discredited for a long period. The help of a specialist brought in from the start, and continuing through the manufacturing process, would make for the full and rational use of the knowledge possessed by the technical centres. The results of such cooperation have always been excellent.

It is expected that about ten industrialists in each Community country will take part in the experimental manufacture, making sample articles from several of the selected timber species.

This represents an average per country of 6 months work, and perhaps rather more for Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain, because of the possible remoteness of factories and the long distances to be covered. When the experimental manufacture is finished, the industrialists and the specialists will embody their conclusions in a report.

c) Report on the manufacturing experiments and preparation of commercial and technical documentation

1. The results of the experiment, recorded jointly by the industrialists and the technical centres, will be published as a pamphlet for the various categories of persons professionally interested. This pamphlet will have to be published in five languages.

2. Preparation of commercial slips or cards

The aim of this material is to call the attention of users to timbers with which they are not familiar. It will give them succinct information on the character of the wood and the way in which it can be worked or brought into use. The utilisation of new timber species has given rise to many mistakes and disappointments in the past, because of the ignorance of users who, in consequence, are apt to be shy about using a timber about which they have not sufficient knowledge. The important thing, therefore, is to give a qualitative description of these species, recording their general characteristics, mentioning in each case whether it is necessary to use any special tools in working them, and whether any of them are of doubtful or insufficient durability and require preservation treatment.

Such slips must include a colour photograph of the species to which they relate. They will have to be prepared before the experimental manufacture.

Provision is made for one slip per timber species (i.e. a total of ten) in each language, making a total of 50 slips and a printing order of 5 000 copies of each.

3. Preparation of technological slips

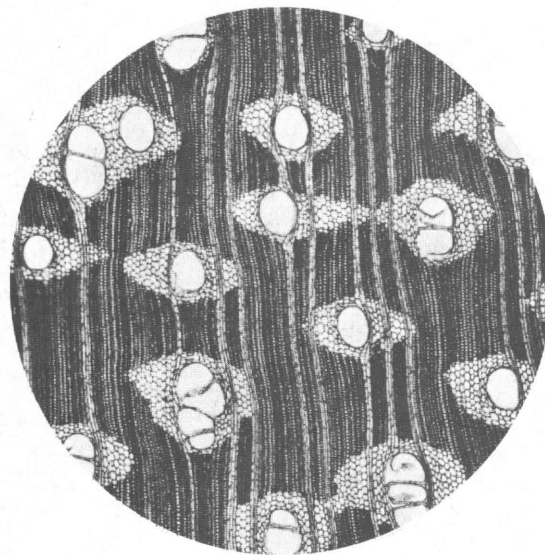
These slips will be compiled after the manufacturing experiments, so that the results may be incorporated and practical advice given to users. The slips will include the main anatomical characteristics which are needed to identify the species, and the physical and mechanical characteristics of the various woods. They will indicate, especially, any precaution which should be taken in using them, the best way of handling the drying operation, sawing and machining. They will give precise advice to users on the conditions in which the wood can be worked and the fabrication guarantee. Attached will be a selection of photographs of articles made of the wood concerned in the experimental manufacture programme. Here again provision is made for one slip per species (a total of ten) in each language, making a total of 50 slips, with a printing order of 2 000 copies each, or 100 000 copies altogether. These slips will not include photographs, but the text will be materially longer.

d) Publicity for experimental manufacture

In parallel with the distribution of the commercial and

technological slips, there is to be wide publicity for the manufacturing operation through:

— exhibition of the sample articles manufactured by the "pilot industrialists". They will be shown in specialist exhibitions, in timber information offices and in any other place considered suitable, so that all professionals in the timber trade and industry in Europe will be able to appreciate their qualities on the spot;



Section of timber seen by electronic microscope

— organisation of meetings of the trade and connected professionals and industries, at which the results of the experiment will be exhibited and discussed.

Some of the exhibitions and some of the meetings may be held as part of the programme for A.A.S.M. participation in international trade fairs. It is, however, desirable to provide for specific exhibitions and meetings outside this programme, largely because it will be necessary to approach professional and industrial people living some way from the town in which these fairs are held.

e) Standardisation and conditioning

In order to help in the promotion of these new timber species, it is necessary to bring forward both a strict classification and up-to-date marketing methods for the timber cut.

Since the rules which apply to the trade in round timber in Africa are currently found satisfactory, only the classification of the cut timber is envisaged.

The classification rule could be different in relation to the probable use to which the timber will be put. It can be seen at the outset that it will be necessary to apply special rules:

- to species used for construction joinery;
- for species difficult to preserve and requiring treatment.

Special norms could also be envisaged for different density groups; and there might be a different classification for white and for coloured timber.

The great variety of african tropical species calls for a differentiated or specific classification.



Carpentry section in the Technical High School at Libreville (Gaboon)

Naud

Standardisation

The standardisation of timber has the following advantages:

1. it produces a better yield from the raw timber, because the producer no longer has to work out his orders item by item, but can cut his round timber in advance in the specified dimensions;
2. it produces sawn timber at a lower production cost, because the yield is bigger;
3. it is line with users' requirements, for they have always hoped for standardised deliveries of sawn timber.

In order to lay down the standard dimensions, it will be necessary to consult european users, so as to know exactly which dimensions are currently used. Production has to be adapted to the demand, and the wishes of the final user must be respected.

The preparatory work for the dimensional classification will take a year's work for an engineer.

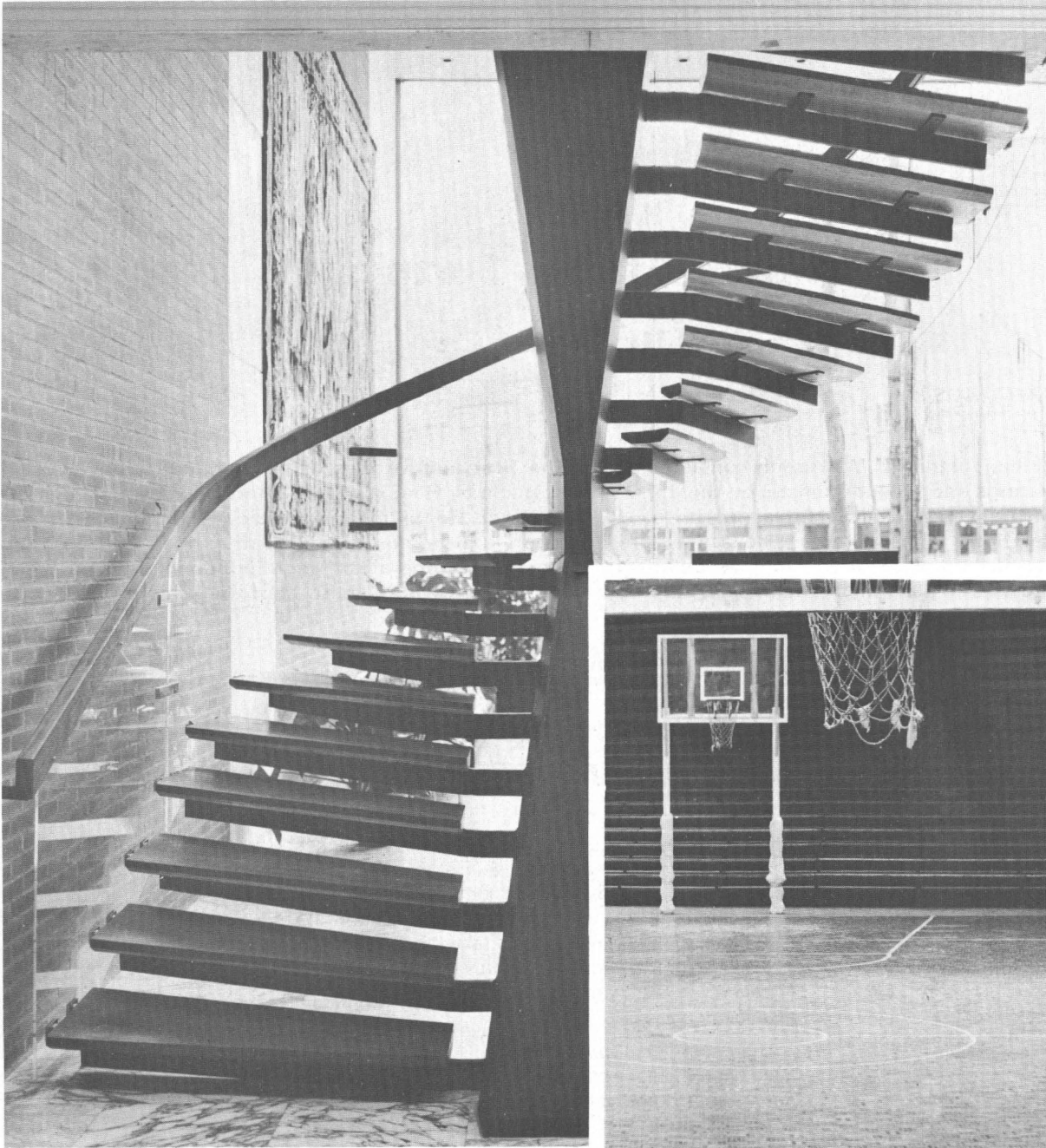
Conditioning

It is very important to be able to guarantee to buyers, that the quality of what they buy is almost invariable.

Conditioning, which is desirable for species which are already in the market, becomes indispensable for any new species introduced. It is necessary to inspire confidence in timbers which are still insufficiently known and used, and this means there must be a strict control of the quality of the product as sold. Good conditioning, which respects the requirements of the future buyer in terms of quality and presentation, will help to consolidate and improve the position of producers in the international market.

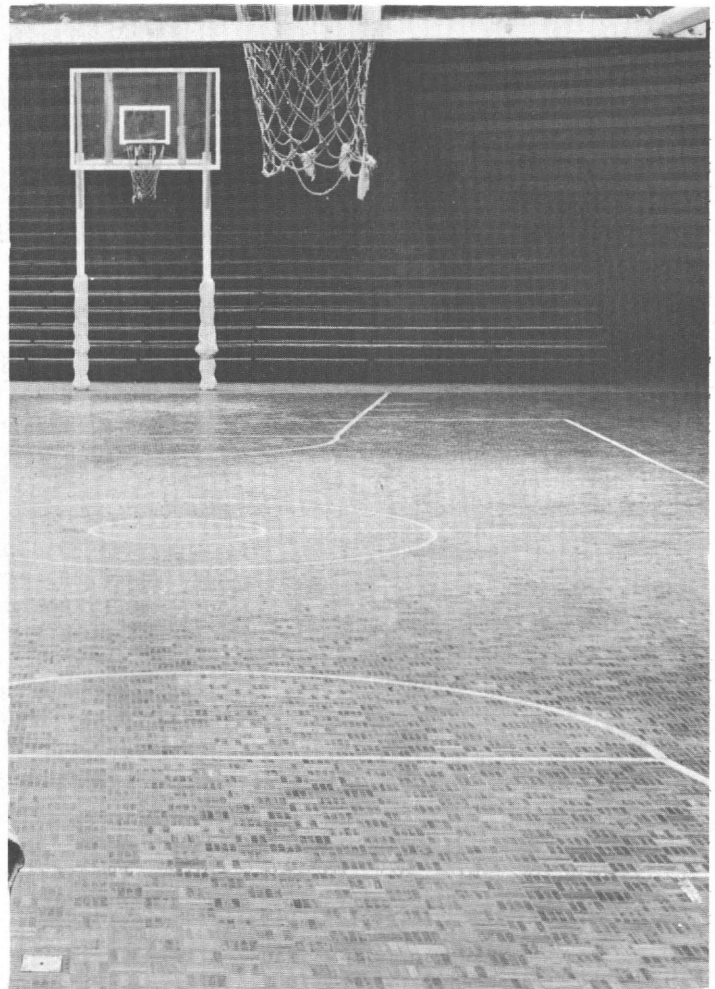
The working out of the rules in question is a matter for an expert or, better still, for a group of experts—for it would be a good plan for representatives of several E.E.C. countries to be associated in the work. They will have to be careful to take into account the results of any enquiry carried out by users, to draw a distinction between the big groups of species by reference to utilisation sectors, to make a preliminary study of norms laid down in neighbouring or distant competing countries, and draw upon their own professional experience. Their job will be to draft conditioning rules as complete as possible, and conforming both to the nature of local species and to the requirements of buyers. Finally, they will set out both the advantages and the discipline of conditioning, so that the government of the Ivory Coast will be able to make his decision with full knowledge of the relevant considerations.

This work, too, will take a year.



José Kennis

Two products of african timber: a spiral staircase and a basketball pitch



José Kennis

About the "African Fortnight"

I. TALKS AND MEETINGS

Part of the "African fortnight" in Brussels consisted of a number of meetings and talks organised by the E.E.C. Commission, with the help of the Royal Institute of International Relations. The subjects discussed were important and so were the speakers; and Association News proposes to give an account of them, partly in this issue under the present heading, and among the current news items, and also in the next number.

The first lecture was of outstanding importance. It was made by His Excellency Diouri Hamani, President of the Niger Republic and President in Office of the Economic Community of West Africa. He spoke on "Regional Cooperation and Economic Integration in Africa". Below is an abstract of the principal points he raised.

Regional cooperation and economic integration in Africa⁽¹⁾

All the States we have set up in Africa are now bent, especially in economic matters, towards a common task. This is the task of raising the standard of life of their peoples. It is a task with which everybody is faced; and we in West Africa must needs work at it together, and we approach it with close solidarity.

Moreover, the results of our action will affect us all. Either we shall win through, or our common will to be victorious in the battle for development will grind to a halt and disappear. You will see at once that the Battle of Peace cannot be won in one country and lost in others. That is why we are agreed in coordinating our action, so that the efforts of all are thrown into the most sensitive part of the line, just as the defenders of a fortress rush to fill a newly-opened breach in the wall.

We must also try to associate with us in this task those other people who can play a useful and effective role.

I am therefore glad to be able to congratulate and thank the European Economic Community for their kindness in inviting me to talk to you about economic integration in Africa. I take this as a tribute to the efforts in which we are engaged in our strife against under-development.

The economic problems of Africa have been the subject of many meetings, many reports and many speeches; and doubtless there will be many more of these. They have dealt, in particular, with the problems of under-development and the formation of economic groups; and I am rather hesitant in discussing these before so expert an audience.

Perhaps you, too, ladies and gentlemen, have found yourselves, in the same way as we heads of State and the ministers of our governments, wondering about the value of all these meetings, reports and

speeches. Can we, through them, really influence future events, channel the behaviour of people and impose action upon them? Sometimes, perhaps, you may have your doubts, just as we have.

Nevertheless, I come before you in all confidence, with the delegation which accompanies me, to talk to you about our concerns, about the attempts we were making and about our hopes.

A condition of development and an act of faith

It is no part of my aim to argue in favour of cooperation or economic integration in Africa, because it is now agreed that **this is one of the things which will indeed promote development.**

(1) The sub-headings were added by the Editor



Debaize

Brussels : President Hamani Diori is greeted at the Berlaymont building by François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the E.E.C. Commission

Perhaps because this is so obvious, and because we cannot act otherwise to bring ourselves out of our under-development, we who are now at the controls in Africa regard it as an act of faith.

There is, however, an illusion which we must dispel at the outset. The joint entities we are seeking to construct, and which will make a coherent economic whole, cannot be created overnight. Has it not taken Western Europe long years of perseverance to overcome the old antagonisms, and set up a real economic community comprising 250 million people?

I could say the same, too, about Latin-America, the organising of which dates back to 1960, with the formation of a free trade area comprising various South-American Republics on the one hand and Central American countries on the other; and was followed in 1961 by the Punta-del-Este Charter, renewed afresh in April 1967, to set up a latin-american Common Market.

We thus have the examples of Western Europe and Latin-America and also of Asia, where there are three regional and sub-regional cooperation groups. These groupings are the movement with which our planet is now a-quiver; and Africa could not agree to stand aside from the current of economic unification.

We live in a world in which international relations still bear the marks of relationships of strength and competition. Yet it is a world in which science and technology hold out their astonishing possibilities, in which the spirit of man can see that no obstacle is now insuperable. I am speaking most of all of the obstacles lying in the way of humanity's self-realisation, of the age-old misery of poverty and solitude, of hunger, sickness and ignorance in many countries, more especially in Africa. If these still linger, salvation can come only through union and organisation, for the better distribution of well-being among the community of nations.

A minimum of cohesion and a minimum of solidarity

What is it indeed that the countries of Africa are seeking, if it be not a **minimum of cohesion** in their attitudes and a **minimum of solidarity**? Without this it

would be an illusion for them to hope that their work will be equitably paid for, which means better prices for their produce.

I will not enlarge unduly on the price fluctuations in recent years for the materials we produce; nor yet on the more lasting deterioration affecting some of us, as a result of the worsening in the terms of trade. It is true, however, that this is one of the essential causes of the decline which developing countries—and especially the countries of Africa—have suffered in their share of world trade. It is for this reason that the african countries, as I shall illustrate to you, in some of their measures, have sought to channel themselves progressively towards independent development—which does not mean that they are seeking self-sufficiency, but simply to reduce their dependence on the outside world. They are doing so by the formation of capital and by the production of intermediate goods, and by themselves becoming the suppliers of specialised services for which they now depend so largely on importation from the developed countries.

Our way lies through increased intra-regional cooperation, through reduced dependence on the outside world and through the development stimulus resulting from bigger dimensions. Perhaps this is the hard way; but it is a sure one, and it brings a radical change in the position of african countries.

Such changes, nevertheless, are possible only if there are corresponding changes in ideas and behaviour. This is especially the case, as the countries of Europe have recognised for themselves, if people have still to be convinced that mutual concessions bring more advantage than rivalry, and that a policy of all for oneself and nothing for anybody else, leads finally to failure.

Technical reasons

I referred just now to the new awareness of integration between the economies of our countries, which has spread over the african continent in recent years. To the political reasons I have indicated, I must add others which are essentially technical. In appraising the regional efforts which have been made on the african continent, it must be borne in mind that most of the countries concerned

have been independent for little more than 10 years, and that many of them are very small.

Some 20 of the african countries have populations of less than 2.5 million, and a total national income of little over \$ 250 million. Each of the three main zones—the north, the tropical and the southern part of Africa—has a cultural homogeneity of its own; but, as you know, the frontiers between the countries, determined during the colonial period, take scarcely any account of the ethnic and linguistic links between the peoples.

Though the continent is politically cut into small units, there has always been a quite considerable measure of free trade, and various common currency arrangements, between the countries which were formerly linked with the same metropolitan power. From such statistics as are available, the intra-african trade can be estimated at between 7 and 10 % of Africa's total trade. This of course is small enough compared with the trade with the former metropolitan power, which is even now around 50 %.

Most of the intra-african trade is done within monetary or economic groups which result from the links of yesterday. For example, the inter-trade between the countries of East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa, which belong, or have belonged, to the British Commonwealth, represents over 80 % of all their intra-african trade. Similar figures could be quoted for northern Africa, north-east Africa and west Africa.

Industrial development, which is much less advanced than in most of the latin american countries, has tended to concentrate in one or two countries in each of the areas I have mentioned. This accounts for the fact that the exports and re-exports of industrial products play a comparatively large part—43 % in 1960—in the intra-african trade.

In these various parts of our continent, there has been a reasonable degree of success in the efforts made since independence to retain our markets outside the national framework we inherited from the colonial period.

In some cases customs duties have been increased; and in other attempts have been made to protect industrial development against countries in the regions which are industrially more advanced. In others, too, differences in the pattern of

change in relations with the former metropolitan power have led to a weakening in the links between neighbouring countries. During this period, efforts have been put in hand to give an industrial basis to situations of fact inherited from the past. Organisations have, however, been brought into existence for developing the resources of specific river basins and lake areas. Examples are the inter-government committee for the Senegal, which is now the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River; the Niger Commission and the Lake Chad Basin Commission. Conventions have been signed, too, between countries the political pasts of which were different. The countries concerned in these cases undertake to consult one another and prepare joint planning schemes.

It was only after 1966, as a result of studies carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa, that the attempts of the african countries to enter into customs unions and free trade areas made a serious beginning. The E.C.A. had divided Africa into four sub-regions, embracing 6 northern countries, 14 western, 6 central and 9 eastern countries. These were considered big enough to be economically viable, so that integrated economic and industrial development could reasonably be contemplated. This was the effective recognition of the fact, of which I told you just now, that our countries, with their small populations and low income per inhabitant, are even less able than others to permit themselves the luxury of a purely national development policy, if they really want to give a stimulus to their industrialisation.

The first result secured on the continental scale was the formation of the African Development Bank, which was specifically formed for the purpose of "giving special priority to projects or programmes which, by their nature or scale, are of interest to several member countries; or to projects or programmes designed to make the economies of member countries increasingly complementary".

With an enlarged market, the economies of scale make for increased inter-african trade. It is, to begin with, a question of stimulating the development of our industries for which construction costs will be lower; and then there is the consequential stimulus to the industrial

processing of our own raw materials, and the export of our manufactured products to countries with high standards of living, so as to mitigate (and ultimately eliminate) the ill-effects of the deterioration in our terms of trade in international markets.

Great value attaches to much objectives; but they call for lucidity, and attention to the basic principles which underly any attempt at economic integration.

Any action in this field, seriously put in hand and intended to be lasting, presupposes the equality of those who participate and the fair sharing of the advantages flowing from the integration.

Any such action presupposes, too, an adaptation of resources to very different situations in the different countries concerned; but basically the essential thing is to influence the standard of living of the populations.

These fundamental principles must necessarily be stated, however briefly; but I do not think I need enlarge upon the first of them.

The essential aim of any economic integration is balanced economic growth of the region or sub-region concerned, and to secure that this shall be more rapid than would have been possible for the national economies acting independently.

Fairness and balance in the integration process

All the economic integration agreements which have been made between african countries, and even outside the continent itself, rightly attach great importance to fairness and balance in the process of integration. I must say a word about the fairness criterion, which means that any member country in a group which is set up, must be better off, or at least as well off, as if it had not been a member. It is obvious that, if this condition is not fulfilled or recognised effectively by the partners, a country would not join the group, or would not stay long inside it, if it found its position was likely to deteriorate.

The question of balance must not be thought of in relation to the objective criterion of equity, but in relation to what is acceptable for the countries of the group, which will fall to be determined by a process of political negotiation. In a

situation, however, in which there is no compulsion, this negotiation will depend on the estimates which have been made of the costs and advantages of the integration, and the limits of whatever each country may consider is the minimum safeguard, as I have already described. I could give you various examples of this desire for fairness and balance, which has found expression in some of the integration agreements. The Treaty setting up the East African Common Market (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) provides: "The aim of the Community is to draw closer together and regulate the industrial, commercial and other relationships between the partner States, so as to secure accelerated, harmonious and well-balanced development and a sustained expansion in economic activity, the fruit of which will be equitably shared". In the same way, an example from further afield comes from the South American continent, in the sub-regional integration agreement, signed on May 26, 1969, setting up the Andean group. This records that one of the objectives is to reduce the gaps between the states of development in the member countries and to ensure a fair sharing of the advantages.

The E.C.W.A.

I now come to the second part of my lecture, in which I would begin by mentioning that the Treaty setting up the Economic Community of West Africa reflects the same purpose and the same desire to secure a harmonious economic balance between the member countries.

The Treaty and its protocols were signed in Abidjan on April 17 last by six countries of the West African group—Ivory Coast, Niger, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. This followed two summit conferences at Bamako in the endeavour to extract all relevant lessons from the experience of various economic groups already existing in Africa, such as the East African Economic Community, the Central African Customs and Economic Union and the insufficiencies which had come to the surface in applying the customs and economic union of West Africa.

This explains the novel character of the instruments brought into the service of the objectives of the new organisation we have created. My first task must be to describe them:

- furthering and accelerating the industrialisation of member countries, while attempting to secure a harmonious economic balance between them;

- promotion of trade in agricultural produce and industrial goods by the formation of an **organised trading area**;

- application at regional level of an active policy of economic cooperation, particularly in relation to industrial development, agriculture, maritime and inland fisheries, transport and communications.

The expression "organised trading area" reflects the desire of the member countries to form a new geographical area, which shall take account of the economic realities of our region. A whole series of measures are provided to give effect to this effort at economic organisation.

Thus, the Treaty setting up the E.C.W.A. contains the following provisions:

- free circulation of soil products, of which the potential of the member countries is comparable;

- the introduction of a special preferential system, in which industrial products, on a case-by-case basis (and no longer automatically), will have the advantages necessary for the development of trade in the markets of the E.C.W.A. member countries.

- compensation for the reduction in import tax receipts resulting, for the importing States, from the application of the special preferential system as applied to industrial goods manufactured in the area.

These are measures of immediate application, coming into effect with the Treaty itself, or in any case at the end of the first year of operation.

On the longer term, by a step-by-step procedure, a highly diverse set of intervention measures is provided, leading to the institution of a unified, active and balanced market for the benefit of all the Community partners.

The Treaty accordingly provides for the cohesion of the area in regard to outside countries, and for the promotion of its unity and economic homogeneity, by the progressive introduction of a **common tariff of customs duties and fiscal import taxes**.

As regards trade inside the area, as I have told you, the principle is that of free circulation for soil products and the withdrawal of import duties and taxes between the member countries. On the other hand, specific internal taxes, or ad valorem duties, will be maintained within certain limits. With the same desire to protect the resources of individual countries, there is also provision for exceptions to the general rule of free circulation and duty exemption in relation to meat and cattle.

The import into any member country of industrial goods manufactured inside the Community will in future be subject to only one tax, the regional cooperation tax, which will take the place of all other duties and taxes normally charged on imports. This will be subject to previous approval by the Ministerial Council on the basis of particulars filed by the manufacturer concerned, and on the proposal of the member country in which the manufacture is established.

It follows that the rates of regional cooperation tax will be fixed case by case, so as to ensure that the products concerned are competitive in the markets in the member countries to which they are consigned. This tax will be collected by each of the member countries for its own budgetary purposes.

Up to this point, ladies and gentlemen, you may be tempted to believe that the system I have just described is, after all, more or less in the accepted pattern. It does indeed provide for unification of import duties for industrial goods, with the possibility of differentiation between them to secure some degree of preference for the trade in products manufactured in the area. All this is quite normal.

Such an impression would, however, be mistaken. In fact the whole system of the regional cooperation tax is based on the idea that **the countries which are economically the less advanced must not suffer prejudice on account of the new taxation system**.

This is how it operates:

If in any particular country the application of the R.C.T. results in a loss of government revenue, that country will in some sort enjoy a refund of the shortfall. It will, for example, only be necessary to compare the national receipts which would result from the application to the same goods of the taxes charged against outside countries with those resulting from the R.C.T.

The difference will be made good in two ways:

— **financially**, to the extent of two-thirds of the amount, by **payment into the treasuries of the countries concerned** from a special fund to be called the **Community Development Fund**.

In a few minutes I will make another quick reference to this institution, which is one of the original features of the Community.

— **economically**, by the provision of the remaining third to finance, from the same fund, **development projects** affecting the country in question.

I think, ladies and gentlemen, we have now got beyond the unduly technical explanations which, on such a subject I was unable to avoid—and which so well informed an audience as yourselves will not have resented—and we can recognise the simple difference which exists between the system laid down in the E.C.W.A. and that which exists in the present customs union of west African States which will disappear at the end of this year. Under the Customs Union the member States grant a preferential system, without counterpart, to industrial goods manufactured within the area, and thus run the risk of suffering a cumulative shortfall in their customs receipts. This risk is virtually eliminated in our future Community. When one of the States grants the more favourable system of R.C.T. to the industrial goods which come from another, it will not suffer any loss because of the repayments and the development finance provided from the Community fund. It seems, however, that the founders of the E.C.W.A. would not have been making any innovation if they had limited their action to promoting the expansion of intra-community trade, even with the new preferential system I have just described. It is indeed the first function of any operation for regional economic cooperation of this type to

promote the development of trade between the member countries. This, however, did not seem to us to be enough. I have said, and I repeat, that the fundamental objective of our Community is to secure faster and better development in all the member countries.

An active policy of economic cooperation

For this reason we have laid down an additional objective for our organisation, calling for the operation of an **active policy of economic cooperation**. This is to relate, in particular, to industry and agriculture, and to fields such as infrastructure development, land and sea transport, fisheries and kindred sectors. For the same reasons we thought it desirable to earmark resources, at the Community level, for the planning and execution of development projects which will enable the less-favoured countries to catch up their arrear.

The Community Development Fund, which is to cover these expenditures, will be fed by contributions from the more industrialised of our countries, and proportionately to **their exports of industrial goods**. It will thus be clear to you that the E.C.W.A. embodies both the statement of a political will and the expression of a conscious and organised solidarity.

The E.C.W.A. is not a closed shop

I am pleased to be able to say, and the legal texts will bear me out, that there is no closed door and no exclusive element in this solidarity. In forming the E.C.W.A. were not thinking in terms of rivalry, but of mutual complement. You will have seen from what I have said, that the economic Community of West Africa is no mere modernised re-hash of the old union which, during its 14 years of existence, induced no progress in cooperation between the member States. I can in fact go further and tell you that the E.C.W.A., as it is now to exist, would not have been formed if the countries concerned, our countries, at the time when they were turning the customs union into a new kind of organisation with carefully marked competences extending into the essential fields of

economic development, had found that there already existed a well structured economic organisation answering the needs of our populations and comprising both english-speaking and french-speaking countries. This is an answer once and for all to the false problem of "desired cleavage" between the english-speaking and the french-speaking. In still more precise terms, it is a matter of laying the foundation for a Community of West Africa—and were we not the first to suggest this as long ago as 1966—which unites the peoples of the north and the south, of the east and of the west, of the western african continent.

This means that membership of the Community does not prevent the member countries from belonging to, or joining, other regional or sub-regional groups in which only some of the other members are concerned, with or without outside countries. In the same way, it does not exclude existing preferential agreements between any member country and an outside country. In all cases, provided there is compatibility with the provisions of the Treaty, any of the member States may conclude preferential agreements with any non-member country, or become a member of a group of states which are not members of the Community.

The Treaty also embodies, in its Article 2, the Declaration of Intent in the protocol of agreement dated May 21, 1970, concerning the accessibility of the Community to any african State which so requests, laying down that the admission of such a country shall be subject to the unanimous vote of the member States.

It also permits of association agreements, or agreements covering specific fields, between the Community and one or more non-member african States, the provisions of such agreements being settled by a summit conference.

With such provisions so clearly expressed, therefore, it is impossible for anybody to claim that the E.C.W.A. is a

closed shop, or an organisation which sets limits on the freedom of its members.

* *

I must now draw towards my conclusion.

I will do so, in the first instance, by referring to the report of the African Ministerial Conference on trade, development and monetary problems held in Abidjan last May. This is entitled "Economic Cooperation in Africa and Relations between Africa and the European Economic Community". It contains the following passage:

..... "Africa has the greatest number of countries described as the least developed among the countries in process of development. This problem has been made the more serious by the smallness of a large number of african economies, and also by the fact that some of the countries have no access to the sea. While special measures have been proposed for dealing with the problem of the least developed of these countries, and those of the countries without a seaward access, it has come increasingly to be recognised that such measures, if they are to be fully effective, must be undertaken as part of programmes for regional cooperation and economic integration. Indeed, the promotion of regional integration among developing countries is an essential development strategy; and the developed countries have specifically undertaken to provide special assistance and support for this purpose".

This is in fact confirmed by paragraphs 39 and 40 of International Development Strategy. The quotation is as follows:

"Developing countries will continue their attempts to negotiate and enter into other engagements with a view to implementing regional and sub-regional development projects or measures pro-

moting the expansion of trade between themselves. In particular, they will draw up systems of mutual commercial preferences and advantages which will favour the rational expansion of production and trade, and avoid prejudice to the interests of third parties including other developing countries.

Developed countries practising a market economy, by increasing their financial and technical assistance and by actions of commercial policy, will support steps toward regional and sub-regional cooperation between developing countries. In this connection they will pay special attention to the support to be given to concrete proposals put forward by the developing countries".

The fact remains, however, and this is the note on which I would end my talk, that there is **no magic remedy by which we can dispense with the effort of personal labour and production**. In regional cooperation the forms and institutions, however well conceived, are not a jot better than the spirit put into them by those in charge. The development of inter-State economic cooperation requires a continuing long-term effort by all the countries concerned. We are well aware of that; and indeed we have the example of you europeans to remind us of it. If, as we have every reason to expect, this joint effort is carried on unremittingly by all the member countries, and with help from the international community, there can be no doubt that Africa will, in the years to come, register outstanding progress in every field of economic development and integration.

This is the message of **hope and confidence** that I was anxious to give you in the name of this Community which, for the moment, links six countries of Africa in a constant and continuing effort of association and economic integration, each member of which is individually strong in its experience of fourteen years cooperation with Europe. ■

II. TRADITIONAL ART FROM BLACK AFRICA

The African Fortnight included two exhibitions of exceptional interest of traditional art from Black Africa. One consisted of sculptures and masks from Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Gaboon, Madagascar, Mali, Chad, Togo, Zaire and also from Nigeria, Guinea, Ghana and Sierra Leone. The other comprised 150 items of various kinds, and of various ethnical origins, from Upper Volta.

In both cases the exhibits were of some antiquity, though it is difficult to hazard any close estimate of their dates. In many cases they had been badly exposed to weather, which accounted for the furrowed surfaces of some of them, which had in fact been difficult to preserve.

Some of these items may have come as a surprise to European visitors, who know little of Africa and were not accustomed to seeing masks and sculptures so different from those they customarily admire in the museums of classical antiquity and in the art galleries and exhibitions of Europe. Even, however, if they did not in all cases understand the exact importance and the function of the exhibits, they were nevertheless interested, impressed and anxious to look with respectful care at the valuable specimens of ancient civilisations in which these exhibits had played a very important part, in the same way as have some of the more venerated relics to be found in Europe.

In actual fact, these items of traditional art were, in many cases, a former object of real veneration, and were handed down from generation to generation. In many cases, too, the high quality of their sculpture, combined with the social and ritual functions they had fulfilled, imbued them with an astonishing bearing and beauty, to which European visitors were undoubtedly sensitive. It is not possible in the present issue of Association News to give a full account of these; and we are therefore limiting our report to further details of the exhibition of traditional art from Upper Volta.

Exhibition of traditional art from Upper Volta

The exhibition of 115 items of traditional art from the various races which inhabit Upper Volta (the Mossi, the Bobo, the Gourounsi, the Marka, the Kouroumba, the Libi and others) was a collection belonging to the Upper Volta Republic and exhibited in Brussels for the first time in the world.

As in most of the negro-african civilisations, the art of Upper Volta is essentially religious, rural in character and functional in nature. The masks and statuettes are, therefore, to be regarded as sacred objects and their function in the traditional society of old arose only in ritual ceremonies. The extreme wealth and complexity of the cosmogony and religion of negro-african society, are such that only a brief note of some of

their components is possible here. The occurrences have been analysed and the significance interpreted by many of the world's most brilliant ethnological and anthropological specialists, among whom we should mention Marcel Griaule, Geneviève Galame-Griaule, Germaine Dierlerlen, Michel Leiris, Jacqueline Delange, Jacques Maquet, Jean Laude, Father Mveng, Jean-Baptiste Obama and Luc de Heusch.

Nevertheless the contact between so-called negro art and the non-african public is apt to give rise from the outset to confusion regarding the interpretation of signs and language and the deep feelings to which such works give rise. Only a few poets (such as Appolinaire, Tzara, Breton and a few others) and



Myth-mask known as "Do" (Tarzila region)



"Doyo" mask (Léo region)

some painters (including Picasso, Matisse, Braque) have ever seen in negro art this specific aspect which gives it, at the same moment, the dimensions of magical religion and the strength of formal language. "These fetiches have not been without their influence on the modern arts. All spring from the depths of religious passion which is the most pure among the sources of art".

Though in some cases the materials used are precious, the essential interest is in the plastic form. It is always powerful, though far from our own conceptions, and it is singularly apt to inspire the artist as the poet Guillaume Apollinaire wrote in his "chroniques d'art".

In 1945, too, the poet Léopold Sédar Senghor, who is now President of the Republic of Senegal, wrote:

"Art (negro-african) springs from integrated technique and is not divided against itself. In more precise terms, the arts in Africa are linked to one another and with one another. This applies to poetry and music, to music and dancing, to dancing and sculpture and sculpture and painting".

More recently the african-american dramatist and sociologist Leroi Jones, in writing his "People of the blues" adopts the same approach as Senghor, describing also its mystic dimension:

"In the african tradition, even today, it is impossible to separate music, dancing, singing or any other product of artistic activity from the existence of man and his worship of the gods".

All creative work in Black Africa is thus linked with religious ritual, springing from the ritual forms of the black man and taking its inspiration from nature.

The traditional religions of Black Africa are dominated by the cult of ancestors. It is they who intervene before a god (often a single god, as is the case in Upper Volta); and the relationships which man maintains are with the ancestors and the spirits.

The great art is to keep these relations harmonious and to conciliate the spirits. This would be ordered around a whole collection of ritual ceremony, in which a part is played by a number of objects of mystic significance, such as masks and statuettes. This is the case with the peoples of Upper Volta, as it is with other people belonging to the negro-african civilisations. In Upper Volta, too, these masks are sacred objects and are

used only in ritual ceremonies, which gives this art a religious and functional character which is to be found in all negro-african art.

This creative conception, however, does not exclude aesthetic consciousness. The african artist does not copy nature but takes inspiration from it, and invests it with divinity in the sense that he works on themes determined by the mythology which is the foundation of the society to which he belongs.

The creative work of the african artist thus lies in the reproduction of a model, or of gestures, in conformity with ritual and a sacred language; but it leaves each artist master of his own spontaneous creativity. Thus, in the same way as with our own mediaeval art, the statues and masks play their part in the religious order of the conditional negro-african world, but also have their place in the aesthetic order.

In Upper Volta the traditional religions predominate, for only 25% of the people are islamic and only 5% christian. There is thus a great variety of masks and statuettes, and in many cases their making and their use depends on a Society of Masks. It should be noted that one cannot really speak of "Volta art" any more than there is really a "Niger art" or a "Zaire art" or a "Mali art". In Black Africa the art, like the language, belongs to the ethnic community which created it and of which it is a part. In Upper Volta, for example, we can identify a style which belongs to the Mossi people, another for the Bobo and so on. It is indeed true to say, that in Upper Volta there is a mossi art, a bobo art and others.

Diversity in art, as in language, is one of the characteristics of the negro-african civilisations. It is this which makes them so astonishingly rich; but it does not exclude a certain common character, a sort of "unity of language", to the extent that the processes of negro-african thought and creation all spring from a mystical religious apprehension of the universe, linked with ancestor-worship.

This extreme variety, coupled with this deep unity of style, is well illustrated in the exhibition of traditional art from Upper Volta. All the exhibits are imbued with the spirit of the negro-african civilisations. ■

III. OFF-THE-PEG and HAUTE-COUTURE FROM AFRICA

During the African Fort-night, some of the countries which were taking part gave the Brussels public its first show of some of their fashion models, choosing from their collection the garments of greatest wonder.

The great dress houses of Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Kenya and Senegal, after the success they had scored in Paris and London, gave the people of Brussels their own chance of discovering models which retain the pleasantly exotic touch which tradition demands, but created a new fashion for Europe and brought enchantment to all those who had a chance of seeing them.





Photo "Courrier du Personnel" C.C.E.

Four lovely outfits shown by four lovely models



Photo "Courrier du Personnel" C.C.E.

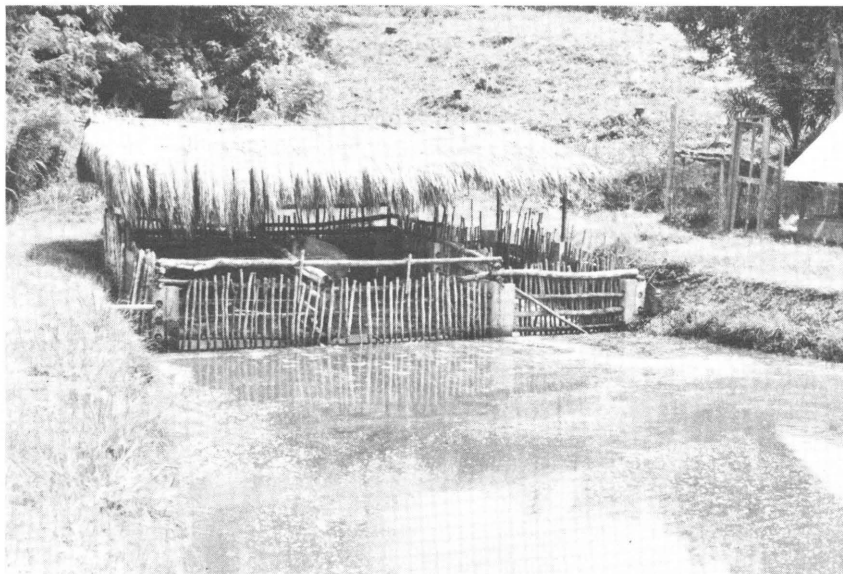


Fish-farming in Africa

by Jean-Claude MICHA(*)

In the first part of this article, which appeared in issue No. 21 of Association News, Jean-Claude MICHA made it clear that "fish-farming might provide at least a partial solution to the problem of malnutrition which, throughout Africa is characterised by a deficit of proteins". He told some of the story of african fish-farming, recording the hopes entertained at the outset and the ultimate setback. This was the first part of his article.

The second part describes the new attempts which are being made, and discusses the prospects for the future. It begins with the interest taken in warm freshwater fish. The research on this question is proceeding in five directions. The first is concerned with controlled reproduction of tilapia; and the second with experiments with new local species. The previous issue brought the account to the beginning of the discussion of this second point.



Joint breeding—liver and fish

2. Experiments with new local species

Attempts have been made to replace the tilapia as basic production, and recent efforts have been directed especially to the siluri, or catfish, species. At present new research is in hand on the domestication of various siluri species in Egypt, Central African Republic, South Africa, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda and elsewhere. The tests are not entirely at the experimental stage; and the first results confirm the potential interest. This relates especially to a catfish of the clarias type, cultivated at Bangui in the Central African Republic.

The first experiments with this fish in low-density association with tilapia dis-

closed a very rapid growth rate, with fish of 600 g growing to 2,500 g in 80 days. The feeding study shows that the fish will eat almost anything; and experiments with artificial feeding stuffs indicate that it easily absorbs and digests local sub-products, such as brewing draff, rice bran and oil cake made from cotton, groundnut or sesame. Its pond reproduction is possible, but only occasional. A method of induced reproduction has accordingly been worked out, so as to obtain it as required throughout the year. The problem of young fry, however, has not been completely solved. In practice the catch a month after reproduction from an area of 100 sq.m is only between 100 and 200 young fish, which is less than enough. The mortality is mainly due to a predatory influence, and solutions are being sought.

In some cases the survival rate was better, running to 400 or 500 young fry per 100 sq.m and a few production experiments have been started. It will be seen from table I that in high-density monoculture breeding (200 units per 100 sq.m) and using artificial feed, claria shows excellent growth characteristics. In 23-31 weeks the average weight reached, depending on the feed, ranges from 97 to 603 g; and the production was very good in the two last cases shown, with production of respectively, 16 760 and 12 200 kg/ha/pa. It should be emphasised that these production rates are for fully marketable quantities of fish.

3. Artificial feed

It has been seen that the feeding of tilapia with vegetables does not give

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Table I. Monoculture production of Claria

Feed	Time (in weeks)	Production (kg/ha/pa)	Average weight (g)
Cotton grain	27	2 710	97
Draff	27	4 200	185
Granulated PV	31	16 760	603
Granulated PA	23	12 200	377

very good yields, and the conversion rate is extremely high. Attempts were therefore made to use local by-products of much richer content, such as cotton, groundnut or sesame oil cake. These foods given by themselves show good conversion rates of only 3 or 4; but there is a pollution risk and the use of them often leads to deficiency maladies which interfere with growth. For this reason the possibility of using composite feeds in granulated form is now being examined. In the Central African Republic two types of granulated food have been tried, one containing 30% of animal protein (PA) and the other 30% of vegetable protein (PV). In the former case the ingredients for the animal protein are dried blood and fish flour, and in the latter case the essential ingredients are brewery draff and cotton and groundnut oil cake, all of which are local by-products available in large quantities.

The results obtained with tilapia are shown in Table II. They show a definite improvement, for a feed of brewery draff alone gives production of only 2 400 kg/ha/pa, whereas the use of granulated feed leads to production of 5 345 and 6 751 kg/ha/pa. In addition, the operating period is reduced from 34 to 14 and 13 weeks, and the percentage of light-weight fry is lower. The average weight of tilapia is still around 100 g, but for a much shorter operating time.

It is also to be noted that for tilapia, as for clarias in Table I, the vegetable protein feed (PV) yields higher production than the animal proteins (PA). The observation has still to be confirmed; but it is specially interesting because in Africa the oil cake, which is the basic material, is more abundant and least expensive.

Table II. Monoculture production of tilapia

Feed	Time (in weeks)	Production (kg/ha/pa)	Weight of 40 g fry (%)	Average adult (g)
Draff	34	2 396	44.0	101
Granulated PV	14	6 751	37.0	114
Granulated PA	13	5 345	29.5	99

Moreover, the conversion rates obtained from these composite feeds range habitually between 1 and 2.5 meaning that it only needs this number of kilograms of granulated feed to obtain a kilogram of fish. Depending on the composition, the ingredients for granulation cost between 8 and 17 CFA francs per kg. The pro-

4. Fertilization

A distinction must be drawn between two types of fertilization—mineral fertilization, which is costly and organic fertilization, which usually costs nothing. The results obtained from mineral fertilization have not hitherto been really



Joint breeding—ducks and fish

cessing cost, unfortunately, adds to this figure and the production cost works out between 30 and 39 CFA francs. Even so, the profit is appreciable, for the fish is bought from the producer at Bangui at 180 francs CFA per kg.

profitable, but organic fertilization is interesting enough. In Congo-Brazzaville, for example, the practice is now to ret the manioc in the fish pond, which leads to a considerable development of plancton, resulting in a tilapia production of about

4,00 kg/ha/pa. Ducks, chickens or pigs on the edge of the pond, too, lead to a fall of excrement and surplus foodstuffs into the water, and this can be used by the fish. Productions of between 1 500 and 5 000 kg/ha/pa can thus be obtained with tilapia and between 4 000 and 7 000 kg/ha/pa with claria. These are far from negligible and cost absolutely nothing,

5. Profitability

I cannot, as a biologist, say much about profitability, but fish breeding cannot be considered without mention of it. I would, however, only discuss profitability in existing operations, without going into the cost or the depreciation factor. It seems a distinction must be drawn between the backyard and small breeding operations and the big pisciculture centres where considerable material is required. Many factors come into it, but the size of the operation seems to be determinant. In Congo-Brazzaville, it has been shown that a small fish farm of between 15 and 20 ares (i.e. up to about half an acre) can produce the breeder an adequate income for a moderate amount of work. In the case of a bigger operation, which needs a truck to be used, it has been proved that a fish farm of 4 ha (10 acres) is always in deficit, however the fish be fed. If the accounts are to balance out the area must be twice as big, so that a reasonable profit requires an area of at least 10 ha (25 acres).

Cold freshwater fish

Cold freshwater fish has been mentioned in the foregoing, as the first type of breeding practised in Africa. It is based on species introduced for the sporting fisherman and is usually limited to producing young fry to re-stock rivers and streams. This has been done in Morocco, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius. The main species used have been trout, pike, American black bass and various others. The breeding does well in Morocco and is expanding in South Africa, with the increasing amount of leisure. It is also developing in Kenya, where there has been a considerable growth in the tourist trade.



Feed-granules on demand

The breeding of saltwater fish

In 1962, the F.A.O. drew the attention of governments to the possibility of fish breeding in the famous lagoons of West Africa. The first pilot saltwater fish farm was set up in Nigeria, in the mangrove area of the Niger Delta. Since then Tunisia has undertaken the development of breeding grounds for eel and mullet in some of the bays along the coast. Studies in the Dahomey lagoons, which are largely populated with tilapia, show extremely high natural production rates. Madagascar also intends to attempt the breeding of mullet, and Mauritius is concentrating its efforts on the invertebrates, such as shrimps and oysters. There has lately been an increase in piscicultural research, particularly in Nigeria, where attempts are being made to domesticate further species in salt or brackish water; and results which are apparently interesting and promising

have been obtained with some of the siluri species.

Conclusion

A better use of natural fresh water would very soon come up against the high cost of transport and storage; and in any case it could never be on a scale to cope with Africa's protein deficit. It would therefore be a good move to set up fish farming close to the urban centres, which would also make it possible to use local by-products to the best advantage. In this connection, it should be emphasised that for various biological reasons, fish are the best converters of artificial foodstuffs.

Fish farming was first introduced into Africa around 1924, using cold water fish needed for sporting purposes. It was only after the second world war that studies were put in hand on the breeding of fish as an article of consumption, and the fish concerned were the tilapia. During the fifties there was a spectacular growth in fish farming. The drive came through a considerable availability of advisory personnel and thousands of fish ponds were built. This subsistence pisciculture on a family basis was wholly angled on the tilapia.

Within a few years after the african countries had acceded to independence, there had been a bad setback in fish farming which was in fact almost abandoned. The causes were manifold, consisting largely in the absence of advisory personnel, the smallness of the operating areas, the lack of adequate feeding stuffs, confusion about the species of tilapia, their uncontrolled reproduction and the slight attention which had been paid to the profitability of this type of breeding.

At present the african governments are becoming conscious both of the food value and of the economic value of fish farming, whether in warm or in cold freshwater or in salt or brackish water. In warm freshwater pisciculture particularly interesting results have been obtained from tests of new local species, artificial foodstuffs, and organic fertilization. The most promising results are certainly those obtained with the african siluri (between 12 000 and 17 000 kg/ha/pa, using artificial feed in granules),

There can be no doubt that fish farming in Africa has a future. This is primarily because, in these hot countries one can, with correct feeding, obtain high production rates throughout the year. Secondly, species have been identified for which the growth-rate is very rapid,

which take kindly to high-density breeding and which use local by-products to the best advantage. Thirdly, the africans are great eaters of freshwater fish. This provides a highly favourable background for the development of fish farming; but the best way of setting about it has still to

be determined. The lessons learned from past setbacks suggest that the main african population is not fully alive to the need for improving its diet from the backyard pond. Many of them, however, are beginning to be profit-conscious, and it only needs a few profitable private ventures to rouse interest in commercial fish farming. This, however, can only develop around the urban centres, for it is only here that it can find both the by-products needed for feeding the fish and the customers with sufficient purchasing power to buy it. ■

J.C. MICHA



The "crop" of siluri

Acknowledgements

I am specially grateful to the Food and Agriculture Organisation and to the Central African Republic Ministry of Forests and Waterways for authorising me to use some of their original data, resulting from the regional piscicultural training and research projects in which, for a period of three years, I took part.

E. D. F. Assistance for school building

In school attendance the Republic of Zaïre holds a leading place among the countries of Africa. The expansion in primary education has been remarkable; but with the growth in the population of school age, the authorities have been

concerned about the quick training of recruits for staff jobs to satisfy the pressing needs, alike in the public and in the private sector, which are characteristic of a young country.

The unduly fast development of the quantity of education has been to the detriment of its quality. The shortcomings of the teaching profession arose through the insufficiency of teachers' training schools, from which pupils would emerge with a teachers' diploma. In secondary education the number of native teachers was insufficient.

The most urgent need, therefore, was to train school-masters for secondary education, especially for its lower grades, and to stimulate education for girls who at the secondary school level, were quite seriously behind the boys.

This was why the Zaïre authorities asked the European Development Fund in 1964-65 for help in financing high schools for training teachers.

Existing schools turned out less than enough holders of diplomas each year; and the extension of secondary education called for the training of Zaïre teachers, not only to keep pace with the future demand, but also for the gradual replacement of teachers brought in under foreign technical assistance programmes. There was a lack of female teachers qualified for the lower secondary school cycle, and for preparing girls for jobs as teachers at the primary levels.

The E.D.F. finance came in the form of non-repayable grants; and it was with this that the following schools were built and provided with their fixed mobile and scientific equipment:

— **Lubumbashi Teachers High School** with 5 alternative courses: French, English, Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry.

— **Mbanza-Ngungu (formerly Thysville) Teachers High School** with four alternative courses: French, Biology, Physics, Mathematics.

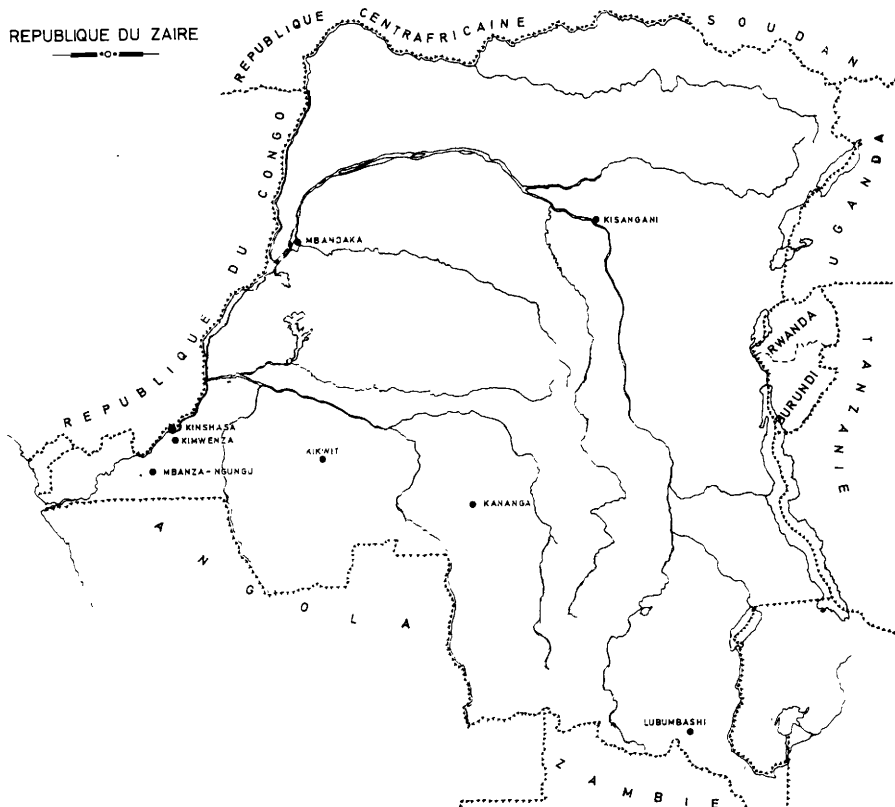
(both these are schools for boys who are given priority over girl candidates)

— **Kinshasa/Gombe Teachers High School (for girls)** with five alternative courses: French, English, Geography, History, Biology.

— **Kimwenza School Group for Girls**

Secondary level—orientation course—long literature course—long teacher-training course.

In each of the teacher training establishments, and for each alternative course, there is a full-time 2-year theoretical course, and the third year is given up to seminars and training courses.



Sites for school buildings financed by the E.D.F.



Secondary school at Kimwenza

TECHNICAL SURVEY OF THE BUILDINGS

1. Kimwenza School Group for Girls

The buildings were laid out for 500 pupils, including 280 boarders. They were so arranged that those using the complex can organise a complete cycle of primary and secondary studies, because there is already a primary school next door. The school group stands on a plateau, some 25 km from the centre of Kinshasa.

The buildings are all on one level and have the look of a chequer-board composition, with a number of pavilions separated by green spaces and linked by a long covered corridor following the natural slope of the ground, which is the backbone of the complex.

The buildings lie around an east-west axis, which gives the premises north-south ventilation. Weather protection for pupils is provided by wide roof overhang, which has the effect of a covered passage.

South of the covered corridor is a yard where pupils have access to the pick-up point for the school buses. On a slightly lower level, at the south-east end of the site, is the living accommodation for teachers, separated from the rest of the buildings by a sharp fall in the ground level.

East of the yard the different classrooms stand on steps allowing for the slope.

Also on the east, but on the other slope of the plateau, is the accommodation for boarders.

North of the yard is an all-purpose hall, built on a single level, but of double height, suitable for all kinds of meetings, such as religious services, lectures, receptions, gymnasium classes.

The administrative and general departments lie on the western side of the yard, and are the link between the new school group and the older buildings of the primary school.

The construction consists of a framework of reinforced concrete beams, prefabricated on the site and tied with

longitudinal girders, the modulated facade elements being then incorporated in the framework. The end walls and internal cross walls are of brick, and the walls of the all-purpose hall are of stone blocks. The internal partitioning of the dormitories is in properly treated plywood. The premises and connected surfaces cover 12 105 sq.m.

In the execution of the project, it was necessary to build a road 4 km in length, linking the school group with the Kinshasa campus, and thus with the urban roadway system. The existing access roads were of compacted earth and would have been impracticable for school buses for 4 months every year.

Finance for this road was not provided for in the initial project, but it was possible to cover it from the surplus available.

2. Teachers High Schools at : Kinshasa/Gombe, Mbanza-Ngungu, Lubumbashi

These three schools exist for training teachers for secondary schools.

Details apart, the three buildings are of very similar conception. The accent is

put particularly on protection against the sun, which is accentuated by projecting roof ledges and terraces and by a façade composition based on sun-breaking elements.

In all three schools the buildings lie on an east-west axis, so that there is constant transversal ventilation on the north-south line.

The buildings consist of a reinforced concrete framework, with sunk-transom floors and façades of open or coated brick.

The windows are in metal chassis and the doors of plastified wood.

The living quarters for teachers and married pupils are built on exceedingly simple lines with uncovered parpen support-walls and troughs fixed in the roof structure forming a ventilated air space.

2.1. High School at Kinshasa/Gombe
Building for 330 pupils, including 180 boarders

The new buildings are in the heart of Kinshasa in an administrative and residential district.

The space available was small, and part of it already occupied by the buildings of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, including a primary school. It was therefore necessary to divide the premises of the new school into three sections separated by the existing buildings.

At the south-eastern end of the site, the new complex consists of the schoolroom building (ground floor and two upper floors) with the administration annexe (ground floor and one upper floor) and the physics and chemistry laboratories (ground floor and one upper floor). This

section is built round a nucleus consisting of the main reception hall, which is fitted with sliding partitions and can be transformed into two lecture rooms.

At the north-eastern end is the accommodation for boarders, separated from the school itself by a building of primary school classrooms, which was already there when the project was worked out. The accommodation is in two buildings (ground floor and two upper floors) lying parallel and slightly staggered, joined together by the main staircase.

The southern corner of the site is the accommodation for teachers, with five villas lying close together, but arranged separately and lying back from the road.

The premises and connected surfaces cover an area of 8 565 sq.m.



Kinshasa-Gombe High School: classrooms



Lubumbashi High School: accommodation for boarders

2.2 High School at Mbanza-Ngungu
Building for 270 pupils, including 130 boarders

The school is built on a site with a rather sharp downwards slope (around 22°), above the town of Mbanza-Ngungu in Lower Zaïre, about 150 km from Kinshasa.

The lie of the land and the necessity for setting the buildings on an east-west axis, obliged the architect to work out a rather special composition for each of the main buildings.

The administrative departments, the library, the reception hall and the physics and chemistry laboratories are grouped in a building consisting of two superposed volumes staggered to follow the slope.

The classrooms, however, are a group of buildings on a single level, lying in chequer-board pattern on either side of a covered corridor and ventilated with adjustable panels.

Close to the corridor, and lying perpendicular to it, is the building for boarders, consisting of a ground floor and two upper levels.

On an annexed site south-west from the school, are the three blocks of living quarters for married pupils and, on a slightly lower level, the five villas for teachers.

This is an architectural group of sober line and balanced volumes, which is happily set on the steep hillside among the surrounding vegetation.

The premises and connected surfaces cover a total of 8 350 sq.m.

2.3 High School at Lubumbashi
Building for 500 pupils, including 120 boarders

This complex of buildings lies on a big site beside an important residential avenue.

The buildings are so arranged as to leave the centre of the site free. The aim is to leave space for new buildings to be erected as future needs develop.

The arrangement of the buildings around the perimeter facilitates independent access to each building.

The general orientation, as was the case in the other schools, follows a longitudinal east-west axis.

At the northern end of the site is the school-room block, consisting of a ground floor and two upper levels. Lying perpendicular to it is the reception hall, an annexe to which contains the physics and chemistry laboratories (ground floor and one upper floor). These buildings are articulated around a central block containing the main staircase and the services accommodation.

The premises and connected surfaces cover an area of 10 452 sq.m.

FINANCE

The finance for these projects was provided in the form of non-repayable grants from the 2nd E.D.F.

The total cost of the four schools described above amounted to U.A. 10 174 745.85. To this figure must be added the planning and design costs and the cost of supervision and direction of the works. The total is sub-divided as follows:

— Construction of buildings and general arrangement, including roadways	U.A. 8 942 507.93	— 88 %	of total cost
— Special fixed equipment for kitchens, wash-houses, refrigeration	U.A. 235 601.18	— 2.35 %	of total cost
— Furniture and equipment	U.A. 724 104.15	— 7.2 %	of total cost
— Scientific and didactic equipment	U.A. 245 532.59	— 2.45 %	of total cost

Comparing this with the built-up surfaces, the construction cost works out at U.A. 226.49 per sq.m.; and the cost per sq.m. built and equipped is U.A. 257.70.

It should be mentioned here that, in addition to the four schools, the E.D.F. also financed the construction and equipment of the Faculty of Human Sciences on the Kinshasa Campus and the National School of Law and Administration.

The Faculty of Human Sciences, which has been reconverted since the university reform, to become the Faculty of Law and Theology, is a building with a ground floor and two upper levels, with three parallel wings leading into a main building with an annexe of 3-fold height which contains the main university lecture rooms.

This complex, covering an area of 9 920 sq.m., is part of the town-planning project for the university campus (formerly University of Lovanium), which lies on a hill overlooking the city of Kinshasa.

The total cost of this work, which was financed from the 1st E.D.F., was U.A. 2 438 418.76.

National School of Law and Administration has since been converted into the Commercial High School. It is part of the National University and lies in the middle of Kinshasa.

It consists of several buildings of various heights, each of which has a specific function.

- 2 buildings for boarders (ground floor and 3 upper floors) for 240 boarders;
- 1 classroom building (ground floor and 1 upper floor) designed for 400 pupils;
- 1 auditorium building (ground floor only) with 3 amphitheatres;
- 1 library building (ground floor only);
- 1 administrative building (ground floor and 1 upper floor);
- 1 student centre (ground floor only) with miscellaneous services, such as refectory, kitchen, workshop, wash-room.

The total cost of the complex, which covers 10 564 sq.m. and was financed by the 2nd E.D.F. was U.A. 2 659 774.38.

CONCLUSIONS

The construction of the school buildings financed by the E.D.F. was carried out by firms of European origin, which have been established for many years in

Zaire and are thus considered as Zaire firms.

The results obtained may be considered encouraging. The quality of the work reached a very satisfactory level, though it is a matter for regret that there are not enough high-specialised workers among the local labour force.

Most of the material used was of local origin. It is gratifying to note that almost all the moveable equipment was made by Zaire firms, either in big factories or in small quasi-artisan workshops. The quality of the work was excellent.

There is one problem which tends to grow more perplexing from year to year. This is the urban population, which is growing at an increased rate and overloads the various distribution services. For example, the electric supply networks are old and were not able to provide a normal supply for these complexes, where the load-density is very high. Accordingly the E.D.F., at the request of the Zaire Administration, also provided finance for the building and equipment of high tension cabins, which had not been included in the original projects.

The Republic of Zaire is continuing the build-up of its educational system; and taking into account the requirements of all the secondary schools, it has requested finance from the 3rd E.D.F. for the building of four new teachers high schools at Kananga, Kikwit, Kisangani and Mbandaka. The planning and design work will be put in hand very shortly; and the new institutes will be added to the existing seven at Gombe/Kinshasa, Bunia, Lubumbashi, Mbuji-Mayi, Mbanza-Ngungu-Bukavu and the National Teachers Institute (Institut Pédagogique National I.P.N.). ■

B. GUICHETEAU
P. MAZARAKY

BOOKS

Joseph KI-ZERBO. — **Histoire de l'Afrique Noire d'hier à demain**,— Paris, Éditions Hatier, 1972.

Africa, busy as it is with its development problems, has little thought to spare for revitalising its past; yet its history is an integral part of its development, even on the economic side. The man who would be concerned with the future needs must feel that he is the heir of the past; and african unity presupposes that africans should know about the whole of Africa. In 13 exciting chapters we are brought through the Africa of the early ages, and so onwards to the african problems of today, through a landscape of history in which the broad lines of the continent's development stand out in stark perspective, sometimes unexpected and harsh. The author gives us an unsparing analysis of the obstacles and the grounds for hope, and calls for a version of modern society which will be specifically african, but nevertheless angled on international understanding and co-operation. Professor KI-ZERBO is an historical scholar and a Deputy in the National Assembly; and his lucid and poetical expression bears the authentic mark of an african who has retained his identity but taken inspiration from the methods of western science.

* * *

Tropical and Mediterranean products.—Special supplement of the review *Marchés Tropicaux* (December 22, 1972).

This extremely important work contains a considerable documentation—technical, economic, commercial and statistical—on all products from the tropical and mediterranean zones. The studies cover 293 products, from the major ones, such as coffee, cocoa and tea, to the spices and seasonings, the essential oils and the animal products, and including also the fruit and vegetables, the cereals, the oil-bearing materials, rubber, gums and resins, timber and its derivatives and much else.

In the first part, the work analyses all the export and marketing machinery for the products, especially in Africa. It goes on to study the marketing, export, consumption and industrial use of each product. It is an original study which, though it excludes the local subsistence products, covers all the specific export items from the production stage to their outlet in world markets.

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Guy de BOSSCHERE. — **Clés pour le Tiers-Monde.** — Collection "Clefs" Editions Seghers, 1973.

The aim of this work is to offer in condensed form a summary of the knowledge and information so far gathered about the Third World, its origins, its geography, its population, its history, its current circumstances and its future. It is an attempt at description in such terms that realities are felt and experienced by the people who live with them, and not through the eyes of europeans. The few suggestions the author makes, and the hopes he expresses, are indications of a keen desire to see these countries emerge from their difficulties. The pointing out of desirable objectives, and suggesting how they might be reached, however, does not imply that everything can be done at once, immediately and everywhere. It throws light, however, on contemporary experiments which seem the most appropriate for seeking out everything which can ensure the development and growth of the Third World.

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Bruce LARKIN. — **China and Africa 1949-1970. The foreign policy of the Peoples' Republic of China.** — University of California Press, Berkeley, 1971.

The connections of communist China with Africa have been building up for several years, and are becoming the more intense since several african Heads of State have visited China. This

work describes what has been going on. The chinese policy has worn different aspects, depending on the countries concerned and their political colour. Some of the african leaders seem to think of Pekin as a menace, while others see in popular China a source of economic aid and have reinstated normal relationships with it. The author scouts the widely held belief that chinese policy has failed. He shows that a number of occasional checks cannot be seen in the same light as a total failure for the whole policy. Though the particular situations of the different african countries may not always coincide with the chinese long-term objectives, the african policy of the Peoples' Republic is based on assumptions which went through the test of China's own development and must not be lightly discarded.

* * *

Margret CAREY. — **Myths and Legends of Africa.** — Hambyn Publishing group Ltd., 1970.

Word-of-mouth tradition plays a very important part in Africa. It is the vehicle, alike for the myths of folklore and for history, and its recounting is accompanied by music and mime. The narrators are a privileged class and fall into two groups. The one consists of priests or elders, who know the oral traditions and the literature of the tribe, and who are able to recount the origins of its history and customs. Some of these go back more than five centuries, and their basis is in many cases authentic. The other group consists of professional story-tellers of popular tales, where rogue and hero are matched in a realistic background, and where the merry villain may be rewarded and the hero may be unlucky.

The selection of stories in this book is interesting from two standpoints. One is the grouping by region of origin, accompanied by a presentation of the country and its peoples, and the other consists in the fine illustrations, including pictures of traditional african sculptures, prehistoric carvings and drawings by contemporary artists.



DITTE NRC

East African Standard

Nairobi, Friday, 7 September, 1973

Kesha 70 cents

'Keep right' soon in E. Africa

Standard Staff Reporter, Nairobi.

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania would in a few years time, the right-hand side of the East African Community. The East African Community Authority accepted yesterday in the city of Nairobi the terms of the L.A. Mombasa summit of the L.A. Community Council.

'Economic uhuru essential'

Standard Staff Reporter, Mombasa.

President Kenyatta yesterday urged efforts to intensify their efforts to business so that they contribute fully to the achievement of economic independence.

President Kenyatta made it very clear that foreign investors willing to come to Kenya and work with local people for economic development were welcomed. He called for more African investment in Kenya and called for more Kenyan investment in Africa and the world.

Le Soir

quotidien ivoirien d'information

COOPERATION INTERAFRICAINNE

UNE DELEGATION TOGO ET D'ARRIVEE

La délégation togolaise-nigérienne a été reçue par le ministre togolais de la Reconstruction et du Développement Economique, et a été accueillie dans notre capitale.

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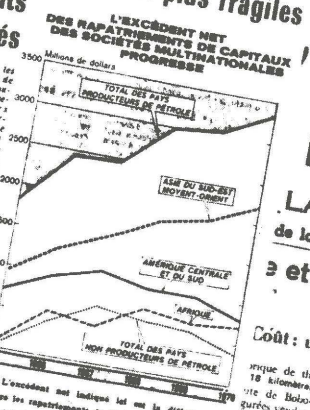
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Le Monde

UN APPEL DE L'ONU

Les sociétés multinationales rendent plus fragiles les balances des paiements des pays sous-développés

Les sociétés multinationales rendent plus fragiles les balances des paiements des pays sous-développés. L'ONU appelle à une action plus vigoureuse pour réduire les déficits des balances des paiements de ces pays.



Het belang van de internationale handel wordt hoe langer hoe meer onderkend, ook meer dan ooit door de uitbreiding van de economische politiek van importsubstitutie. De landen die in de wereldmarkt concurreren met een groot tekort aan buitenlandse valuta, moeten hun economie openstellen voor de internationale handel.

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Le Soleil

L'Agence de Coopération Culturelle et technique prépare le festival de Québec

Une commission internationale de l'Agence de Coopération Culturelle et technique prépare le festival de Québec. Le festival aura lieu en 1974.

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THE GUARDIAN

EEC investment in the Third World urged

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WEST AFRICA

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MEMBERS OF ZAMBIA

FORWARD WITH THE NATION 'WE WANT LINKS WITH THE EEC'

By Times Reporter. ZAMBIA, along with several other countries, will open talks for relations with the European Economic Community on October 17. This was said in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Soko.

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