

*Classified to be 120213
Number - 16 June 1960*

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

TAB B

Survey of Publications and Graphic Materials
Available in Africa
South of the Sahara

Purpose of the Survey.

Africa is in a state of remarkable and rapid change. These changes are being reflected in the publications issued by and about the various colonies now emerging as countries. We wanted to see what was available and where. In our discussions with Foreign Service Officers, we stressed the fact that it is essential to Washington to have access to publications. In addition, we re-emphasized the value of the graphics-coordinator program which provides Washington with films and photographs. Finally, we checked on the availability of Communist Chinese publications.

Conclusions.

1. The independent or near-independent countries (Ethiopia and Ghana) are publishing very little on their own. Literacy is a priority goal - except for elementary textbooks in vernacular languages, publishing will have to wait.
2. The countries under Commonwealth aegis (Kenya, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and South Africa) have some local publishing, with good bookstores. Much publishing about them is available in London as well.
3. There is no need at the present time for a full-time Publications Officer to be appointed in any country in Africa south of the Sahara.
4. The ad-hoc Publications Officers and the Graphics Coordinators in each country should be continuously reminded of the importance of vigilance and action in their respective collection efforts. They should receive more personalized attention.
5. Though we saw very little direct evidence of the receipt of Communist Chinese publications in any of the countries visited, we believe it is only a matter of time before such publications become more readily available, particularly in the independent countries. We were told that officials in some of the countries are on mailing lists and receive some publications.
6. The full-time Publications Officers in Berlin, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Paris, Hong Kong and Tokyo should be instructed to procure all publications on Africa issued in their respective countries.

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

- 2 -

7. In some of the more specialized bookstores in Nairobi and Salisbury, we found material that has considerable potential for use in foreign language training programs (Swahili, Kikuyu, Masai, etc.). Many valuable phrase-books, grammars and glossaries are available.

8. We recommend that publications procurement activities in South Africa be centralized at the Embassy in Pretoria, instead of at the Consulate General in Johannesburg.

9. We stressed the importance of current reporting on the newspaper situation to appropriate USIA and Embassy officials in each country visited. Washington often needs the most recent information on editors, political leanings, ownership, etc., of foreign newspapers.

Cities Visited.

1. Addis Ababa: By far the best bookstore is the one owned by a conservative old Greek, G.P. Giannopoulos, with two ambitious young sons and one daughter as assistants. The store is called International Press Agency, Haile Selassie I Star Square, P.O. Box 120. We suggested that these people put out a list of all material available on Ethiopia and copies be sent to the State Department, Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, Department of Agriculture and Northwestern University. The USIA Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Stephen W. Baldanza, offered to help produce such a list. Giannopoulos bought up the entire USSR exhibit of books and has them on sale, selling Galsworthy's Forsyte Saga in English, bound in hard covers, for 90 U.S. cents. This is the same price he gets for U.S. paperback editions. He also had one issue of an English language magazine from Peking. There were no other bookstores worthy of the name in Addis Ababa, where we were told the literacy rate for Ethiopia was 3%.

We visited the National Library and saw Mrs. Pankhurst, the Librarian, who is one of the three non-Ethiopians on the staff with library training. The Library has a collection of about 68,000 including duplicates, with about 45,000 items cataloged. A small "manuscript collection" is available, mostly copies of older originals which they have trouble getting away from the churches. The Library's book budget is \$4,000 per year. There is no such thing as copyright. With no centralized publishing industry here, each author is his own publisher. He keeps all copies, may or may not sell them or allow a bookstore to handle for him. The National Library has been trying to get a deposit law passed with no success (even appeals to His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor have failed). We were told the local university (which is a college) is also building a library and plans to publish an Amharic bibliography. The National Library has nearly a complete set of the Italian laws, statutes, etc. from 1863-1940, in good bindings, which it will make available to the Library of Congress on exchange, if shipping costs can be provided.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- 3 -

At the Embassy we discussed our program with the Ambassador, Mr. Don C. Bliss, and Mr. Thomas M. Recknagel, 1st Secretary and part-time Publications Officer. The Graphics Coordinator was not available, but we answered the questions he had listed, and left requirements. In conversation with Mr. Baldanza, USIA, about locally produced films, we were told that there were none. Three years ago USIA produced one called Ethiopia Hoy.

2. Nairobi: There are two outstanding bookstores here. One, East African Standard Ltd., P.O. Box 380, has a fine collection of local, British, French and German publications arranged by subject and language. It also handles periodical and newspaper subscriptions and will accept orders for publications available here, including maps. One member of the staff has sent us a list of available newspapers and periodicals he was compiling.

The other good bookstore, specializing in school books, is the Educational Supply Association, P.O. Box 360. There is heavy emphasis here on African studies, with text-books in Swahili, Kikuyu, Luo, Masai, etc. For example, dictionaries and grammars are available in English-Kikuyu. We visited six other bookstores but found them inadequate.

We also called on the Director of the East African Literature Bureau, Mr. C. G. Richards. Part of the East Africa High Commissioner's administration, this Bureau was established in 1948 to meet and foster the demand among Africans for books of all kinds and to encourage African authorship. Mr. Richards, a truly dedicated individual, told us that ICA is interested in his program and may send him to the U.S. Certainly any African program in the U.S. should be interested in seeing this man.

We also saw the High Commissioner's Library which occupied one room. The various departmental libraries are housed separately.

At the Consulate General we had the opportunity to thank Mr. Charles D. Withers, the Consul General, for his cooperation in the graphics program. We discussed the publications program with Mr. Hugh K. Campbell, Vice Consul, and had occasion also to express our appreciation to Mr. Gordon R. Schlubatis, the Agricultural Officer, who has also done fine graphics work. At USIA, Mr. Edward Stansbury, the Public Affairs Officer, and Mr. William N. Lyons, the Cultural Affairs Officer, confirmed our findings above. We were told by them that Henry Toluzzi of NEC has produced some documentary films on Kenya. USIA is also hoping to prepare a film on Tanganyika which it plans to complete by the end of 1960.

3. Dar-es-Salaam: The bookstore situation here was similar to that in Nairobi. The Tanganyika Standard Bookshop, P.O. Box 9033, is a complete shop with fairly large Africana selection, mostly of materials published

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- 4 -

the United Kingdom. The Dar-es-Salaam Bookshop, P.O. Box 237, is the outlet for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and also has basic local language materials. There is very little published in Tanganyika; what there is is published by the government. Another small bookshop we visited, the Tanganyika Mission Press, P.O. Box 2381, had an American young man from Los Angeles, Frank L. Bohler, running the store. He told us that this Catholic organization has three presses in the provinces, producing Swahili material. He also said that there are over 1,000 Tanganyikans studying behind the Iron Curtain. Mr. Bohler gave us the name of Father van den Hout, W.F. (White Fathers), Tanganyika Mission Press Book Dept., P.O. Box 314, Tabora, who is most knowledgeable about the availability of other country publications in his area. We did not see him.

Mr. William R. Duggan, our Consul here, was sick and back in Washington. Miss Ruth Torrance a Consul from Nairobi, was detailed here. We saw her and Mr. Robert Huddleston, Vice Consul and ad-hoc Publications Officer and discussed our programs.

4. Salisbury: We reviewed our list of bookstores with the part-time Publications Officer, Vice Consul John M. Dupont at the Consulate General, and also with two local librarians. Out of ten bookstores visited, the best one according to all available evidence, is the Book Centre, P.O. Box 8220. Mr. Victor Tarica, the proprietor, is a locally born individual who got a degree in chemical engineering from Carnegie Tech, decided to return to Salisbury, 5 years ago opened his bookstore, and has already expanded twice. In addition to his job as a bookseller, Mr. Tarica is also a member of the City Council, which gives him an added advantage on official publication sources. He will undertake to get anything published South of the Sahara, including back issues of professional journals. Mr. Tarica impressed us as a real bookman, energetic and able.

Extensive visits were made to the Legislative Assembly, where Mr. Norman Wilding is Librarian of the Federation Library, and the Legislative Assembly of Southern Rhodesia Library, Mr. Philip Laundry Librarian. These two libraries serve as legislative reference services for their respective parliamentary bodies. The two librarians are both British trained, have good control of their collections and are capable.

The National Archives here is a most progressive institution, with a modern records management program (their man trained in the U.S.), Records Center and a good photo-reproduction plant. The Archives offered to honor requests for back issues of government publications from U.S. libraries. There seemed to be a conflict as to which of these three institutions described above is or will be the National Library for the area.

Mr. Joseph Palmer, our Consul General, was on leave, so we discussed the purposes of our visit with Mr. Edward W. Mulcahy, Consul, in addition to Mr. Dupont, who is also Graphics Coordinator.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- 5 -

5. Johannesburg: Of the many bookstores in this area, two are most significant. The Central News Agency, Ltd., Commissioner St., has the largest organization, with many branches throughout the city. One of its branches is located at the University of Johannesburg. Not only is this firm a bookseller, but it also publishes and lists its publications. The other fine bookstore is Vanguard Booksellers, Ltd., 23 Joubert St., specializing in quality books in the field of art, sociology, anthropology and Africana. Both of these firms offered to search for items not readily available.

We discussed our programs with Mr. Arthur E. Beach, Consul General, and Vice Consul N. Hunt Heubecke, the part-time Publications Officer. Mr. Beach is also the Graphics Coordinator. We also visited our Embassy in Pretoria. The Ambassador and some senior staff members were at Capetown for sessions of the Union Parliament, so we conferred with Mr. Paul E. Eckel, Charge. It was evident to us that the Embassy was not aware of the publications procurement responsibilities of the Consulate General in Johannesburg, nor did it have any record of its fiscal responsibilities in this program. We are recommending that the situation be rectified by assigning the procurement responsibility to the Embassy in Pretoria.

6. Accra: There is very little publishing being done in Ghana, except that by the government. Accra itself has not a single bookstore worthy of the name. The University College of Ghana, about 15 minutes' drive from Accra, has a good bookshop where publications of the College and local societies are available.

At the Embassy, we conferred with Ambassador Wilson C. Flake, Counselor Ernest de W. Mayer, and 2nd Secretaries Stephen G. Gebelt and Earl H. Link. Mr. Gebelt is the ad-hoc Publications Officer and Graphics Coordinator. We left with him our requirements, including a request from the Library of Congress to see whether an executive agreement should be set up between Ghana and the U.S. for an exchange of official publications. Mr. Gebelt also reported that a project is underway to revise and print the laws and statutes of Ghana within the next 18 months.

7. Conakry: We were refused a visa by the Republic of Guinea and therefore could not visit this city.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY