

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

JPRS L/9671

17 April 1981

# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 717



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

COPYRIGHT LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING OWNERSHIP OF MATERIALS REPRODUCED HEREIN REQUIRE THAT DISSEMINATION OF THIS PUBLICATION BE RESTRICTED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

JPRS L/9671

17 April 1981

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

FOUO No. 717

CONTENTS

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Estimates of Socialist Bloc Countries' Presence in Africa (L'EXPRESS, 14-20 Mar 81) .....	1
--	---

COMORO ISLANDS

President Abdallah Brings Up Mayotte Question (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 20 Feb 81) .....	2
---	---

Briefs

National Documentation and Research Center	3
OPEC Loan	3
Metro Project	3

CONGO

BADEA Loan for Airport Modernization (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 13 Mar 81) .....	4
--	---

ETHIOPIA

Official Interviewed on Tripartite Cooperation (Yilma Tadesse Interview; SUDANOW, Mar 81) .....	5
--	---

GABON

Briefs

Defamatory Pamphlets	9
----------------------	---

GUINEA

Toure's Economic Plans Are Not Materializing (Sennen Andriamirado; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 25 Mar 81) .....	10
---	----

MALI

Briefs

Out-of-Favor Dissident Jailed	14
Dissidents' Candidate	14

- a - [III - NE & A - 120 FOUO]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

REUNION

Reunion Development Aims, Report on Dijoud Visit  
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 20 Feb 81) ..... 15

SENEGAL

West, Moderate Arabs Providing Foreign Aid  
(Sylviane Kamara; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 28 Jan 81) ..... 18

BADEA Finances Stockraising Development Feasibility Project  
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 13 Mar 81) ..... 20

Kaolack Electric Power Station  
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 13 Mar 81) ..... 22

Briefs  
Canadian Food Aid 23  
National Rural Development Institute 23

SIERRA LEONE

Briefs  
OPEC Loan 24

UPPER VOLTA

Head of State Cited on National Recovery Drive  
(Saye Zerbo Interview; AFRIQUE-ASIE, 2-15 Mar 81) ..... 25

New Government's Intentions Remain Unstated  
(Ferid Boughedir; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 1 Apr 81) ..... 28

- b -

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ESTIMATES OF SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES' PRESENCE IN AFRICA

Paris L'EXPRESS in French 14-20 Mar 81 p 122

[Excerpts] A surprising speech... Fidel Castro speaks behind closed doors on 27 December 1979 to the National Assembly meeting in Havana. In his 5-hour speech, which will fall into the hands of Western diplomats in Havana a few weeks later, Castro lists the countries where "our wonderful youth" is operating, or, in other words, the expeditionary and technical Cuban corps: "Yemen, Iran, Laos, Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana, Nicaragua."

For Africa alone, where the first Cuban contingents disembarked in November 1975 following Angolan independence, his figures practically correspond to those provided by Western intelligence services.

Most of the Cuban military forces are in Angola (nearly 10,000 soldiers) and in Ethiopia (from 15,000 to 17,000). To these figures must be added 2,000 to 3,000 civilian technicians in Luanda and 1,000 to 2,000 in Addis Ababa. Next comes South Yemen, with 5,000 to 6,000 Cuban soldiers. Elsewhere, the presence of military advisers (MA), civilian technicians (CT) or physicians (P) is mentioned. These are the best available estimates: Mozambique: 650 MA, 350 CT. Tanzania: from 500 to 800 MA, 15 P. Congo: 320 MA, 110 CT. Equatorial Guinea: 210 MA, 20 CT. Guinea: 200 MA, 200 CT. Sierra Leone: from 150 to 200 MA. Sao Tome and Principe: several hundred MA and CT. Guinea-Bissau: 80 MA, 60 CT. Zambia: from 60 to 80 MA. Libya: 243 CT and some MA. Madagascar: 35 MA and 5 P. Algeria: 74 CT and some MA. Burundi: about 100 CT. Benin: 20 security advisers and 17 CT. Cape Verde: 8 P. Mali: 6 CT.

Equally active, some 5,000 military and civilian advisers of the GDR's "Afrikakorps" have been assigned to highly specialized duties such as cadre positions in the intelligence and police services in Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique, where they are also busy reorganizing the army.

However, the Soviet Union is not only content to operate in Africa through the Cubans and the East Germans. Thus, 200 Soviet advisers arrived in Bissau following the coup d'etat which overthrew Luiz Cabral on 15 November 1980. Before that, there were only about 100 Soviet technical advisers in Guinea-Bissau. More recently, Liberia has accepted the presence of 120 new Soviet "diplomats," and Madagascar has just acquired 3 Soviet radar watch systems. In "Red Africa," it is now commonly said that the "captain is Russian, the sergeant-major Cuban and the sergeant an East German." And this is not only a legend.

COPYRIGHT: 1981 S.A. Groupe Express  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COMORO ISLANDS

PRESIDENT ABDALLAH BRINGS UP MAYOTTE QUESTION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 441

[Text] President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane of the Comoro Islands attended the third Islamic summit (see MTM, 6 Feb, p 287) from 25 to 28 January in Taif. He had prepared a speech for this conference but he, as well as other heads of states in fact, was unable to deliver it due to a lack of time.\* In the speech, he brought up the question of the island of Mayotte, besides more general problems, such as the Middle-East, Afghanistan, and the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

"It is a serious problem," he said, "which has kept the attention of all countries concerned with liberty, justice, and brotherhood. And since France is one of those countries, I believe that we can hope for a successful outcome to this problem in the near future despite the delay in negotiations."

"However, my government, sensitive to the full significance of the resolutions of the United Nations, the African Unity Organization, and that of the Islamic Conference and the non-aligned movement, remains convinced that the actions of all these organizations must be increased in order to reestablish the legitimate national rights of my country. This is why I am asking our organization to show once again today its fraternal support for the just, peaceful, but determined fight that the Comoran people are leading for the integrity of their national territory.

\* The speeches not given in Taif will be published in the conference report.

9592  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COMORO ISLANDS

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTER--The national documentation and research center on Comoro (CNDRC), already operational for three years, was officially inaugurated on 29 January in Moroni. The Comoran minister of National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Dr Mouhtar Ahmed Charif, noted in his speech that this center should meet the need for information and training of all social and cultural groups and should be considered capable of helping train research workers. It should also be considered a welcoming center for foreign visitors. Dr Charif also emphasized the efforts of UNESCO, of the Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agency, and of the National Center for French Scientific Research, which supplied financial and technical aid in this project. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 441] 9592

OPEC LOAN--Among those developing countries granted loans from the OPEC special fund totaling 62 million dollars on 10 February, Mauritius received a \$2 million loan with no interest, refundable over 20 years, with a five-year respite of debt. This loan was granted for implementation of the Mauritius electrification plan. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 441] 9592

METRO PROJECT--The Mauritius Minister for Planning and Development, Mr Ghurburrun, during his recent visit to Brussels, signed an agreement for the study and implementation of a surface metro transportation network intended to connect the capital, Port-Louis, with neighboring urban centers. The project is estimated to cost approximately two billion Belgian francs. The text of the agreement was signed with 'Compagnie d'Entreprise' (CFE) acting in the name of an association which includes Transurb, Tractionel, and Belgian Overseas Consultants Bureau (BOCB) for the studies; BN and 'Ateliers de Construction Electrique de Charleroi' (ACEC) for the rolling stock; and CFE, mentioned above, for the civil engineering. The rolling stock is to be a vehicle of three connecting cars on rail, with overhead contact wire. One must be mindful of the fact that for several years now, Mauritius has had no railway system for mass transportation. Thus, the project is a new attraction for the island's inhabitants. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 441] 9592

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONGO

BADEA LOAN FOR AIRPORT MODERNIZATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 684

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

[Text] Improvement of Brazzaville Airport: \$10 Million BADEA Loan

The administrative council of the /Arab Bank for African Economic Development (BADEA)/ approved in February the awarding of a \$10 million loan to the Congo for the financing of improvements to Brazzaville international airport. The project thus to be financed at a total cost estimated at \$30 million, involves improving the Brazzaville international airport, more accurately promoting and modernizing the airport infrastructure with a view to encouraging growth in the air transport sector.

Built in 1949, the main runway of the Brazzaville airport has been lengthened three times, in 1950, 1952, and 1961. Since then, the runway has hardly changed its configuration, but has been able to receive the first-generation ocean-going jets (/DC-8's and Boeing 707's/); nevertheless, its condition has deteriorated little by little despite various repair efforts. The airport-improvement project consists therefore in strengthening the runway and in modifying it to the standards for receiving the /Boeing 747/. Improvements (which were recommended by the Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation meeting in Arusha in November-December 1979) involve reinforcing and improving the traffic zones of the strip as well as the access braces in the parking area, by means of an overlay of asphalt concrete of 15-cm thickness and a 5-cm layer of tread, the building of anti-wind strips here and there along the runway, improving the parking area, installing an appropriate system of luminous devices to permit the airport to direct the big carriers, and to enlarge the fuel depot.

The work, which is anticipated to begin in August 1981 and to be completed in a 12-month period, will be carried out under the surveillance and control of the /National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC)/ and the /Agency for Air Navigation and Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA)/.

In addition to BADEA, financing for the project will come from contributions of the /African Development Bank (ADB)/, \$12.3 million; the /Development Bank of the Central African States (BDEAC)/, \$12.3 million; the /FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund [Fr]]/, \$1.36 million; and the Congolese Government, \$5.12 million.

COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie., Paris, 1981

9516

CSO: 4400

4

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ETHIOPIA

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON TRIPARTITE COOPERATION

Khartoum SUDANOW in English Mar 81 pp 16-18

[Interview with Yilma Tadesse in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text]

*With improved relations with Sudan and growing relations with the West, Ethiopia has recently made the headlines, both locally and abroad. Yet many questions remain, among them the status of the conflict in Eritrea, the Ethiopian government's position on the disputed Ogaden territory, and the possible outcome of tripartite cooperation between Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.*

*Ambassador Yilma Tadesse, Ethiopia's highest-ranking diplomat in Sudan, who has served in Khartoum for six years, recently spoke to Sudanow about the past, present and future of our eastern neighbour. The interview:*

**SUDANOW:** *How would you assess the present and future relations between Sudan and Ethiopia following President Nimeiri's visit to Ethiopia last November?*

**YILMA TADESSE:** *The visit of President Nimeiri to Ethiopia has, among other things, led to the signing of a very important document – a Declaration of Principles that will govern the conduct of relations between our two Governments. I believe that the results achieved by the visit, about which we are very pleased, have injected significant momentum into the process of normalisation. Since the visit of Comrade Chairman Mengistu to the Sudan last May and President Nimeiri's visit to Ethiopia in November, a number of Governmental delegations have visited each other's country to agree upon*

*further ways and means of consolidating relations to the benefit of the two peoples. Given the historic fraternity of our two peoples and the desire on both sides to make our neighbourliness meaningful, I am optimistic that our relations will continue to be strengthened.*

**Q:** *President Nimeiri seems to be going on in his attempts to negotiate a peaceful settlement in Eritrea. In November, the EPLF came out with a peace proposal offering three alternatives – independence, federation, or regional autonomy – to the Eritrean people in a supervised referendum. What is your Government's position on this?*

**A:** *To reply to your question, I have no reaction to the so-called declaration which I'd rather describe as a transparent manoeuvre.*

**Q:** *Does this mean that you still stick to the Nine-Point Programme concerning the nationality problems in Eritrea, or are you prepared to go to the UN resolution of 1950?*

**A:** *You will recall that the Revolutionary Government of Socialist Ethiopia issued in May 1976 a Nine-Point Declaration to resolve the problem in Eritrea and subsequently accepted the initiatives of friendly Governments to meet with the secessionists to discuss*

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

the modalities of resolving the problem within the framework of our National Democratic Revolution programme.

As for your question on our preparedness to go to the United Nations on the matter, the categorical reply is no. We believe the UN has done its job. There is no reason that would call for an intervention by the UN — thirty years after disposing of the question. It had then ascertained, through Commissions dispatched to the region, the wishes of the population in Eritrea as to their future political relationship with Ethiopia. It was because the UN was convinced that the Eritrean masses wished for their historic unity with the rest of their brothers in Ethiopia that it did not dismember the territory. The federal structure was subsequently dismantled as unworkable and artificial by the decision of the then regional Eritrean Legislative Assembly — the members of which were elected in accordance with the terms provided for by the UN.

We are aware that those known quarters in our region who failed to secure the dismemberment of Eritrea, for their own strategic or religious reasons, despite fanning the flames of war and fratricide through the delivery of money and arms to the separatists, are now talking about a UN involvement in the matter. The Revolutionary Government will obviously resist such attempts and I don't believe even the UN itself would wish to set the dangerous precedent of revising its own earlier decisions. It would not be difficult to find examples from among former colonial territories disposed of by the UN who have later and by themselves opted to change their status into a more suitable form of political existence.

**Q:** *Do you mean that you are not willing to restore the federal status of Eritrea?*

**A:** In 1962 the federal structure in Eritrea was voted out by the representatives of the Eritrean people, who were then elected on the basis of rules set up by the UN, when it prescribed a federal formula. There is no reason for us to go back and nullify the decision taken by the then Eritrean Assembly in 1962.

**Q:** *It looks like Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya are moving towards closer co-operation. How will it work, given the fact that the three regimes have different political outlooks, and that Sudan and Kenya are not in favour of Soviet and Cuban military presence in Ethiopia?*

**A:** Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan are reviving a machinery for trilateral co-operation which has been in existence since the early 1970's. The bad state of relations between Sudan and Ethiopia has impeded the functioning of the machinery for the last few years; but with confidence now restored between our two countries, the leaders of the three states have agreed to the resumption of the activities of the Tripartite Ministerial Commission, and the next meeting shall be convened in Addis Ababa soon.

I do not share the view that the different political outlooks of the three States will make cooperation impossible. Don't forget that the three countries are neighbours whose peoples are inextricably bound by such factors as geography, history and culture. Political outlooks are evolved in the exercise of sovereignty. I believe the three Governments respect the right of each other in choosing their respective friends. Our relations with the Soviet Union or Cuba threaten none of our neighbours.

**Q:** *Don't you think that this policy of Tripartite arrangements is an attempt to woo Ethiopia into the Western camp?*

**A:** I do not agree with attempts to attribute motives to this exercise, because, as I said, this machinery was already in existence before the Ethiopian Revolution. Any attempt to link it to this or that objective is not only speculative but also unproductive, I think.

**Q:** *What do you think of Sudan's position on Eritrea at the Islamic Summit Conference in January?*

**A:** The position taken by the Sudan at the Islamic Conference in Taif relative to strenuous efforts made by some members to antagonize Ethiopia by meddling in her internal affairs was

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

indeed commendable. The constructive and independent role played by President Nimeiri during the Conference is highly appreciated by the Ethiopian Government as being principled and consistent with the requirements of our fraternal relations. We are satisfied at Sudan's withdrawal from a so-called committee set up by the Conference on Eritrea as well as its registration of reservations on the resolutions on Eritrea and the Horn. I don't believe the purpose of the Conference is served when it operates in flagrant contradiction with principles Africa considers supreme.

*Q: Western diplomats say that they have a policy of helping Ethiopia economically and trying to cool down the military situation so that the Russian influence will decrease. They say they have tried to contain guerrilla actions from neighbouring countries so that the Soviet military presence is not needed and Ethiopia can improve relations with the West. Is this the way you see Western policy now, and can it work?*

A: Some interesting points are raised in the question — one of the important ones being the admission of a fact to which we've been pointing all along: that Western countries have been interfering in our internal affairs by promoting secession and counter-revolution. Cooling down guerrilla activities against us implies its generation in the first place! What more reason is needed for a deterioration of relations with the West?

As for relations with the Soviet Union, I hasten to point out that they are not confined to the military sphere alone. The military assistance received from the Soviet Union for which we are grateful, continues to be of critical importance to the defence of the country and the revolution. But our relations with Soviet Union are also ideological, economic, cultural etc. However, this relationship does not preclude all others. We follow an anti-imperialist non-aligned foreign policy and as such are prepared to conduct relations with all on the basis of equality, mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's

internal affairs. Relations with some countries continue to be strained because of the desire of the latter to impose their choice of system on the Ethiopian people.

*Q: But it is obvious that the West is worried about Soviet and Cuban presence in Ethiopia. Why do you think it is helping you?*

A: No one should worry over what you call the Soviet and Cuban presence in Ethiopia. They are there at our request and, as I mentioned earlier, because of the kind of relations we have with them. The Soviet Union and other peace-loving states supported us when our revolution and territorial integrity was in jeopardy. Such assistance rendered to a victim of aggression is legitimate even under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

As to why the West is helping Ethiopia is a question that must be addressed to the 'West' itself. But as to why Ethiopia should be assisted, I would say firstly because Ethiopia is one of the least developed among the developing countries and, in the context of the prevailing conception of international cooperation, such countries merit priority consideration in matters of assistance and the developed countries have, at the very least, the moral obligation to help us help ourselves. Secondly, I personally see nothing wrong with such assistance so long as it does not seek to infringe upon our sovereignty. On the other hand, some Western countries do assist other Socialist countries and why should whatever assistance that comes to Ethiopia from the West be conditional or a subject of unwarranted speculation? In any case, the commitment of the Revolutionary Government of Ethiopia to socialism is unwavering.

*Q: There have been reports that Ethiopia might consider joining the Arab League if the Arab countries stop supporting the Eritreans. Is this true?*

A: As far as I know, there is no substance to such reports. In any case, if the Arab countries refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Ethiopia, then certainly our relations with these countries would improve.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Q: With your recent success against the WSLF in the Ogaden, Ethiopian forces are now reported camped all along the Somali border. Meanwhile, there have been reports of bomb explosions in Mogadishu, which might be attributed to the Somali Salvation Front. Where do you see the military situation going in general, and what is your position regarding the Somali Salvation Front?

A: The Ethiopian Government has issued a statement recently denying the allegation from Mogadishu that our troops are massed along the border. This is the usual lie from the regime designed not only to disguise its own continued acts of provocation against us but also to divert attention from its own internal troubles. The bombings in Mogadishu, the riots in Hargeisa, the formation of what you referred to as the Salvation Front and its activities or the student demonstrations in London, Bonn and other capitals against the Embassies of Somalia are all manifestations of the growing wave of anti-Barre sentiment in Somalia. As for our recent successes against the so-called 'WSLF', it is not a success against the 'WSLF'--for 'WSLF' does not exist. It is in reality a success against the regular forces of Somalia infiltrated into the Ogaden under a supposedly non-incriminating label.

What I feel about the Somali Salvation Front is really not that important: its struggles and successes against the regime in Mogadishu are in the first instance the prime concern of the masses of Somalia alone.

Q: A Soviet official at the United Nations recently gave a radio interview in which he said that one of the Eritrean movements is now willing to consider regional autonomy. I presume this is the ELF. Can you describe your recent contacts with the ELF, and explain the results of these meetings?

A: First of all, I have not listened to the interview, and I am therefore in no position to comment on its substance. As far as contacts with the so-called ELF are concerned, or whether or not it is willing to consider autonomy, suffice it only for me to reiterate that the Ethiopian Government has made its position clear on the modalities of resolving this problem and to that end has, as I indicated earlier, proved itself unafraid to seek the path of peace. Whatever contacts made earlier turned out to be futile not because of us: rather, the efforts failed because the secessionists were obdurate in seeking to achieve from the conference table what they were unable to attain from confrontation on the battlefield. In any case, we have a clearly enunciated political platform in our National Democratic Revolution Programme, and I am certain that any group or individual prepared to accept fully and work toward the realization of the principles of our Revolution will not be denied the opportunity to do so.

COPYRIGHT: All rights reserved, Sudanow 1981

CSO: 4420

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

GABON

BRIEFS

DEFAMATORY PAMPHLETS--On 16 March President Bongo asked the minister of defense to reinforce the gendarmerie, police and presidential guard military structures in order to "rapidly" discover "rumor-mongers." On 14 March, the head of state, in a speech at the council of ministers, stigmatized "the acts of banditry, the circulation of defamatory pamphlets and the propagation of lies" impugning "his honor and that of his wife and family, as well as of his government." The authors of these "falsehoods," no matter who they happen to be, will be brought to court "and should be punished according to the law," President Bongo declared. Already in 1980, following a series of incidents among high school students in Libreville, the head of state had complained about the distribution of defamatory pamphlets against him or his family. [Excerpt] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Mar 81 p 791]

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

GUINEA

TOURE'S ECONOMIC PLANS ARE NOT MATERIALIZING

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 25 Mar 81 pp 24-26

[Article by Sennen Andriamirado: "Change at Eye-Dropper Speed"]

[Excerpts] Karamoko Sankou, a Malinke griot [witch doctor cum minstrel] who had emigrated to Touba, Senegal, had predicted it: "When a man called Ahmed Sekou will reign in Malinke country, the sons of my sons will leave with their families. But their sons will get ready to return the year Ahmed Sekou will be abandoned by his totem bird. It will be the last year of his reign."

Against the President

This was about 130 years ago. No direct descendant of old Sankou lives in Guinea any longer. But it seems that in mid-February 1981, the man called Ahmed Sekou Toure was abandoned by one of his totem birds that flew away. Gossip maintains that the head of the Guinean state has since ordered that an army helicopter search for it.

Skeptics and Western pseudo-rationalists may well smile, but an African would not dare. If it is actually untrue that a helicopter is searching the skies for the runaway bird, a degree of concern does exist in the Conakry Palace of the People. All the marabouts are almost on a war footing.

On 21 February 1981, the Gbessia-Conakry international airport was rocked by the explosion of a number of mines set along a runway. For the first time, the assassination attempt was not perpetrated by amateurs. On that day, it was a serious alarm. Professionals reportedly are members of the mysterious Patriotic Front which was unknown until last year, to the extent that if Sekou Toure, as usual, suspects the existence of plots everywhere, he must be asking himself whether the East Germans--who are building an extension to the Gbessia airport--did not have their hand in this spectacular operation. His mistrust is liable, once again, to stop his slow march toward the economic take-off that he had decreed exactly 2 years ago. Once again, businessmen fear that the deterioration of the political climate will affect new investment projects.

Ghost City

Guinea is really in need of a genuine economy. Conakry, the capital, has remained frozen in the condition in which independence found it in 1958. It is just more dilapidated. Each neighborhood has a right to its own power shortage. Diplomats

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

and the dignitaries of the regime resort to their own generators. In certain sectors, water leaks from ancient pipes into the maze of little streets that it transforms into stagnant pools.

However, Conakry residents are relatively privileged. Elsewhere, electricity has disappeared. Guinea's second-most important city, Kankan, looks like a ghost town: candles are the only source of lighting, since generators are out of the question due to the high price of fuel. The large houses with beautiful balconies that were the pride of the city stand empty; they used to belong to either businessmen (mostly Lebanese) or local dignitaries who long ago emigrated or disappeared as fast as real or imagined plots were uncovered in what used to pass for the country's political life.

#### Foreigners' Mistrust

Since 1978, slowly and gradually, businessmen are exploring the country. Europeans, Americans or Guineans from the diaspora, they are taking Guinea's pulse and are evaluating the regime's chances of survival before deciding whether to stay and invest.

Foreign firms are signing agreements that should rebuild the production apparatus. Thus the Canadian Lauda group is participating in the SOGIF (Guinean Forestry Industry Company) which is working in the reforestation of the southeastern region at the foot of Mount Nimba, and also will establish industrial saw-mills in N'Zerekore.

#### Negotiations Are Too Slow

However, agricultural production in itself is not attracting the interest of foreign partners. A French businessman back from Guinea admits: "Investors do not demand special treatment. Like many other African leaders, Sekou Toure is wrong: we can deal with anyone under any conditions--everything is negotiable--but we do demand one thing, a stable political climate. Unfortunately, this condition is not met in Guinea."

Therefore, negotiations are very slow. The take-off coffee production will not happen soon, and there are only a few isolated projects for pineapple growing.

In every other sector, production has stopped, just like the Romanian tractors left to rust in each village for lack of spare parts.

#### Nothing to Sell

Another of Sekou Toure's obsessions has survived: collectivization. The FAPAs /Agro-Pastoral District Farms/ are no longer productive. Peasants are growing millet and sorghum, but barely enough to cover their needs. As a result, state stores in towns and villages have nothing to sell.

The liberalization of trade, decreed after the "women's march" in August 1977, has still not borne fruit. Lebanese merchants have come back, but a young Guinean woman living in the Ivory Coast told us: "There can be no trade if there is nothing to sell or buy. I returned to Conakry and stayed for 3 months. True, the political atmosphere is more relaxed, but I cannot do business. I prefer to remain here."

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

An official from an international organization says: "Do you know Bamako? Well, Bamako is a paradise of opulence compared to Conakry." This says a lot when one is aware of the chronic shortages affecting the Malian capital.

Why such poverty? Because Guinea, which only exports bauxite--whose receipts are entirely consumed by fuel imports--has no other source of foreign currency to buy anything at all. The country lives on what it produces, and therefore, on very little. People are living off the "parallel" market, largely supplied by certain foreign communities. In their neighborhood, for instance (nicknamed Little Moscow), Soviet experts, directly supplied by the USSR, flood Conakry with canned goods, cigarettes and even wine from the Caucasus.

Undercover

The black market reigns supreme. The state looks the other way because, after all, any kind of foreign exchange serves the purpose. In Conakry, the International Hotel and a state store only accept payment in foreign currency, thus effectively barring any Guinean nationals.

No Money

Deep in poverty, Conakry has not been invaded by the rural emigration; unemployment is almost unknown. It is also true that famine does not bleed Guinea to death. West Africa's water tower, this country blessed by the gods produces what it consumes; even if they do not sell anything, peasants are able to live on what they produce.

The real problem, therefore, is monetary. In rural areas, commerce is non-existent, for lack of products as much as for lack of buyers. Salaries are very low, but, according to a Guinean civil servant, "it does not matter, there is nothing to buy anyway." Without products, without money, Guinea can thus go on for years in such self-centered fashion, until something else happens, something economists call "an innovation."

Since 1980, and while waiting for a gradual take-off, Sekou Toure's regime has found 2 safety valves: diamonds and gold. There are some small artisanal gold-digging projects. In Kerouane in the southeastern region, in the Milo River valley, traditional gold washers freely exploit a number of deposits and sell nuggets and gold dust even in the smallest villages. The state does not intervene, only to happy that this activity is re-establishing a degree of monetary circulation, no matter how restricted: the more the Guineans will earn, the more they will buy and the more goods will continue to arrive...

Slowly, economic detente is making its appearance. Small shops are opening in Conakry. True, they are empty: but they at least shine by their presence. Merchants still hesitate to fill them, just like businessmen are hesitating to invest. However, the consensus of the foreigners is unanimous: even though Guineans are extremely poor, they are extremely dignified.

The 22 November 1970 attempted coup by Portuguese mercenaries reportedly served the purpose of uniting Guineans behind their intractable leader, enhanced by an aura of invincibility. But more than 10 years have passed since then. A new generation of Guineans has grown to adulthood, and they have not gone through a revolution.



**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

According to Sekou Toure's forecasts, theirs should have been an economic revolution. But it is only coming at the speed of an eye-dropper. It may become political: Sekou Toure's overthrow, or, once again, his victory over an opposition which is hounding him.

COPYRIGHT: Jeune Afrique GRUPJIA 1981

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MALI

BRIEFS

OUT-OF-FAVOR DISSIDENT JAILED--Didi Demba has been in a Swiss jail since 11 March 1981. The Malian citizen who wanted to assume power in Bamako with al-Qadhdhafi's assistance fell into disfavor in Tripoli following his statements about the Libyan project for the United States of the Sahel. He was jailed in Libya for 15 months. However, thanks to his disclosures, Swiss authorities were able to trace him and issued an international arrest warrant, not because of plotting, but on the basis of fraud, for an amount of 80,000 to 90,000 Swiss francs, perpetrated between March 1977 and June 1978 during his frequent stays in Switzerland. At the request of the Tripoli government, Swiss authorities then decided to dispatch two policemen to Libya to arrest him. Since that time, Didi Demba Medina Soumbounou has been waiting in the Lausanne Bois-Mermet prison for his trial to start. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 1 Apr 81 p 40]

DISSIDENTS' CANDIDATE--Mahamane Alassane Haidana: this name is unanimously invoked by all Malian dissidents against the regime of Gen Moussa Traore. However, there is a problem: the former president of the National Assembly (during the Modibo Keita regime) is seriously ill and has been undergoing treatment in Paris for the last month. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 1 Apr 81 p 40]

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

REUNION

REUNION DEVELOPMENT AIMS, REPORT ON DIJOU VISIT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 448

[Text] During his trip to Reunion from 29 January to 1 February, Mr Paul Dijoud, state secretary to the minister of the interior in charge of Overseas Departments and Territories, attended the "Economic Conference of Reunion" organized on 31 January by three departmental and regional assemblies. At the end of the conference, he gave an address summarizing the department's economic and social situation at the beginning of 1981 and defining the means and objectives for development.

Three points clearly can be made from a rapid examination of the situation, he stated initially:

- The political and administrative departmentalization is a complete success.
- Social departmentalization is nearly completed.
- Economic departmentalization is well on its way.

Concerning the first point, the minister emphasized that the departmental constitution, which is 35 years old and has an irreversible character, has given Reunion a political and administrative framework comparable in all aspects to that of a metropolitan department.

On the social level, the state secretary recounted the achievements over the past years--protection against unemployment, insurance regulations regarding old people, illness, and maternity, etc.--and confirmed the new decisions concerning old people and the activity criteria to obtain family allowances. Furthermore, an effort had been made regarding schooling (193,000 children attended school in 1980 compared to only 13,700 in 1970), sanitation, and social needs: a "decisive effort" has been made to eliminate insanitary dwellings.

The economic departmentalization is based on five fundamental measures: training men, equipment, outside connections, Europe, and access to the Indian Ocean. These measures are intended to implement four essential objectives: agricultural development, handicrafts and industry, ocean-related activities, and tourism.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Measures for Economic Development

Regarding training men, an overall study of the impact of existing structures will be started, and new formulas will be researched to replace those that do not fit the present organized actions. Training sessions could be organized in view of the development of new enterprises. At the same time, exchanges between the parent state and Reunion will be encouraged and the Bumidom mission reinforced with the objective of 6,000 to 7,000 migrants per year. Reunion will be equipped with a special antenna so that Bumidom may best carry out its selection mission.

Considerable progress has been made these past years concerning equipment essential to economic development: an international airport opened in 1977, an ambitious road transportation policy, and hydroelectric equipment satisfied needs.

Of all the projects, four have priority:

1. Creating a second harbor in the bay of Possession, with 480 million francs financed by the state and chamber of commerce. The contribution of the latter will be limited to 240 million and will benefit from guaranteed loans. The state must unfreeze 80 million as early as 1981.
2. Regarding the telephone, FIDOM [Overseas Departments Investment Fund] will make an effort to equip the Hauts in 1981.
3. Regarding resorption of unsanitary dwellings, the government decided this past 19 December to start a program that will last several years for all DOM [Overseas Department]. Reunion will receive in 1981 a sum of Fr 175 million (140 million in 1980).
4. Protection of inhabited locations from flooding, with two priority operations: (1) the Galets river and (2) the Ravine des Patates in Durand. The state will subsidize 60 percent of these operations.

Regarding air transportation, new Air France fares have made possible an increase in exchanges between the parent country and Reunion; however, a satisfactory solution must be found to encourage natives of Reunion to return to their country. Regarding maritime transportation, studies are in progress to organize a framework for competition; however, more restraining formulas will have to be put into effect if reason does not prevail.

Integration within Europe represents a capital and irreversible achievement. Paul Dijoud wants to request a special on-site Franco-European mission to inform the elected and socio-professional classes of methods of access to community aid.

But this integration with Europe does not contradict being open within one's geographic zone, and Reunion must establish friendly and cooperative relations with its surrounding neighbors. These relations can be commercial, economic, and cultural. The minister would even like to propose that a business consultant be assigned to Saint-Denis.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Four Priority Objectives

Agriculture. According to Mr Dijoud, agriculture is the basis for Reunion's economic development.

Concerning sugar, the modernization plan has made it possible in the last 5 years to clear 13,500 hectares and to replant 17,000 hectares. Production went from 226,000 tons in 1975; to 261,000 tons in 1979. The objective for 1983 is to reach 300,000 tons. The industrial reorganization plan will be followed, and the state will keep its commitments. Propositions to revalue the sugar non-products, namely for energy purposes, will be carefully studied.

Geranium must remain a leading production sector of the department's agricultural economy, and a production of 80 tons of "Bourbon" extract must be achieved. A modernization plan for the essential oils sector must be drawn up, with an improvement of productivity and diversification of crops.

As far as breeding is concerned, corrective measures carried out in 1978 have yielded results. Meeting the local needs for beef went from 20 percent to 30 percent in five years. The local production of porc ensures 80 percent of total consumption. However, development plans must be pursued so that Reunion does not need to import 75 percent of the dairy products that it consumes.

Still in the agricultural sector, the development plan for the Hauts received loans of Fr 69 million in 1979 and 120 million in 1980. It will be the recipient of 160 million in 1981. SAFER [Real Estate and Rural Development Company] plays an important part in this program.

Handicrafts and industry. A plan of development for handicrafts must be drawn up; 800,000 francs will be set aside for this operation on FIDOM. A position of "delegate for handicrafts" will be created, as well as a coordination commission for public markets. The intervention of popular banks will be maintained by Mr Dijoud.

Industrial development is well on its way. However, the system of investment aid must be fully tested before it is modified. The state secretary's office will continue to support the Reunion Bureau of industrial development in its search for investors, and the office is ready to examine a project for an industrial fair. As for new energies, a program is being studied with COMES [Saharan Methane Trading Company] for solar energy, and with BRGM [Geological and Mineral Prospecting Office] for geothermics.

Ocean resources. The Reunion maritime zone covers 312,000 sq km. Modernization and renovation of the small-scale fishing fleet must be pursued, and marketing the products must be better organized. As for deep sea fishing, an agreement must soon be reached with Maurice to preserve the rights of Reunion's fishermen. Furthermore, Reunion is the home base for French fishing within the French southern and antarctic waters.

COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981

9592  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SENEGAL

WEST, MODERATE ARABS PROVIDING FOREIGN AID

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 28 Jan 81 p 30

[Article by Sylviane Kamara: "Credits From All Directions"]

[Text] (1) Drought, (2) decline in the terms of trade, (3) the oil bill, and (4) rain clutter:

The familiar theme explaining Senegal's economic situation. Of course the gang of four struck hard. Who can deny it? But in Senegal, as in China, the four scapegoats are collecting and taking it for everybody.

Nobody breathes a word about unsuitable organizational structures, malfeasance, administrative mistakes, accommodation, errors in understanding the country's problems, inordinate ambition, or the uselessness of certain projects. Yet, a country as precarious as Senegal needed an especially sound and inflexible administration, failing which it was obvious that it would quickly find itself on its knees and even on its back.

Realizing this, in 1980 Leopold Sedar Senghor increased steps in all directions to find aid, funds, and loans to leave, if not a decent economic balance sheet, at least the necessary (but insufficient) resources to straighten it out.

A Difficult Situation

For a year, a week did not go by without the country's daily LE SOLEIL announcing on the first page a new loan or another extension--proof that the country was still enjoying a certain credibility, but also that the situation was really very, very difficult. The biggest chunk was France's allocation of a 21.5 billion CFAF loan in July (JEUNE AFRIQUE, No 1022). But in the euphoria, people forgot to explain that the government was to use almost half first to pay several billion it owed French companies.

Special Loans

As far as Senegalese contractors are concerned, they are still waiting. France announced an overall assistance of Fr 600 million (30 billion CFAF) for 1980, but 147 million were used to pay the salaries of 1,400 volunteer workers (their numbers are going to be reduced). Moreover, Senegal pledged 43 percent of its income, compared with 25 percent in 1977.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

The French Central Bank for Economic Cooperation (CCCE) granted three loans for an overall total of 14.55 billion CFAF (Fr 291 billion), and the European Investment Bank granted a loan of 782 million CFAF, raising the total of its loans to 18 billion CFAF. Kuwait contributed 4.8 billion CFAF and Abu Dhabi 900 million. International organizations did not lag behind. In January 1980, the IMF announced that Senegal could take advantage of 140 percent of its quota in the IMF. On 30 June, the total of the World Bank's loans and the loans granted by IAD (a branch of the World Bank) amounted to \$296 million.

On 11 December, the European Development Fund released 275 million CFAF for native handicrafts. On the 12th, the German Federal Republic gave 1,000 tons of rice. The 18th, the CCCE released Fr 120 million (24 billion CFAF: a special loan "to cope with difficult overall circumstances"). The 26th, Saudi Arabia lent \$50 million (11 billion CFAF) in order to back the recovery project. The 29th, the United States, which had already promised 2.2 billion CFAF in irrigation projects and contributed 150 million CFAF to communication and research projects, granted additional assistance in the amount of \$7 million (approximately 1.6 billion CFAF) to assist Senegal in achieving food self-sufficiency.

It Is Not Over

On 13 January 1981, Canada promised food assistance of 1.1 billion CFAF. More than 100 billion CFAF have fallen into Senegal's coffers in 6 months. And everything leads us to believe that it is not over.

Because the West and the moderate Arab countries seem to be taking pains to save Senegal at any cost. For strategic and political reasons, is not Senegal one of the rare, stable, moderate countries in this threatened region?

COPYRIGHT: Jeune Afrique. GRUPJIA 1981

9064  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SENEGAL

BADEA FINANCES STOCKRAISING DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY PROJECT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 671

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

[Text] The administrative council of the /Arab Bank for African Economic Development (BADEA)/ approved in February, in Khartoum, a grant of \$46,000 to Senegal to finance a feasibility study for a stockraising improvement project. The study is supposed to produce an economic and financial analysis of a proposal for integrated development of stockraising in the wooded pastoral zone that extends over some 18,000 square kilometers in the north central part of the country. The feasibility study will be carried out with regard for the overall stock-raising policies set out by the fifth quadrennial economic and social plan and by the /Association for the Development of Stockraising in the Wooded Pastoral Zone (SODESP),/and in conjunction with the general and particular objectives for exploiting the wooded pastoral region through the combined development of human, animal, hydraulic, and plant resources.

The study will also attempt to prescribe a 4-year plan of organization and protection and to determine the various things required to implement the project: logistical infrastructure (buildings and technical installations); hydraulic, agricultural and technical equipment, and transport as well as other production inputs such as, in particular, organizational and management personnel, veterinary care, bank credit, etc. When one sees the full extent of the harsh blows inflicted on the livestock of Senegal by the drought, the fact that 2 to 3 percent of the Senegalese population subsist off livestock-related activities and the fact that the agricultural sector contributes some 30 percent of the nation's income and 65 percent of the currency earnings; when one also knows that the market for meat is presently suffering a serious imbalance, the supply being unable to meet demand, one imagines the importance of the project being attempted. This major project aims at developing the Senegalese Sahel through integrated development of human, animal, hydraulic, and fodder-plant resources. This project is especially important because it aims at overcoming the problems which in general handicap stockraising in Africa: non-integration of stockraising with agriculture; inadequacy of stockraising methods and techniques and veterinary care; insufficient food resources. BADEA has already given out a loan of \$1.6 million in a stockraising project in Senegal, a fairly major project since it covers 500,000 head of livestock and extends over 60,000 square kilometers. Three other actions have been taken by the bank in that country: development of small irrigation projects (loan of \$927,000); improvement of a fishing port

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(\$7.2 million) and development of chemical industries (\$10 million). Senegal is also one of the African countries where Arab aid tends to be concentrated. Thus, at the end of 1980 it had benefited from capital on the order of about \$556 million.

COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie., Paris, 1981

9516  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SENEGAL

KAOLACK ELECTRIC POWER STATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 672

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

[Text] During his trip to Sine-Saloum (23 February-7 March), President Abdou Diouf laid the foundation stone for the Kaolack electric power station that will be built in the Kaolack industrial area.

The general manager of SENELEC [Senegalese Electric Energy Distribution Company], Mr Issa Diop, reviewed on that occasion the various phases of the project which was put out for bids in 1977, but which because of new needs of industry and the population required additional studies.

Kaolack consumed some 6 million kilowatts in 1975, a figure which grew by 12 percent between 1975 and 1980. The concern of EDS-SENELAC in building this station is also to decentralize its operation on the whole. Work on this new station will begin next April, and it is expected to go into service in November 1982.

The first installment will represent an investment of 2,856 million CFA Fr financed by the /Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE]/ through a loan, the remainder being credit provided by the /Alstom/ company.

In addition to the production of electricity for Kaolack's industries and populace, the station will supply the towns of Diourbel, Fatick, Niore, Sokone, and Foundiougne, through an interlock with Gambia.

Also, President Abdou Diouf announced that a call for bids will soon be issued on electrification of the old quarters of Kaolack, made possible by 500 million CFA Fr of financing provided by the /West African Development Bank (BOAD)/.

COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie., Paris, 1981

9516  
CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SENEGAL

BRIEFS

CANADIAN FOOD AID--Canada will provide emergency food aid consisting of 14,000 tons of corn to Senegal in April, by the terms of an accord signed in Dakar recently. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 672] 9516

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE--Rural Development: Foundation-Stone of a National Institute. The national rural development institute, which should train 650 engineers between now and 1995, will be officially opened in 1982. The corner-stone of the building was laid on 27 February by the minister for higher education and scientific and technical research, Mr Djibril Sene. This advanced institute will recruit students who will spend their first year--what is called the common trunk--in the science department. Three more years of study will be required of them, in one of the following fields: plant, animal, forest, or horticultural production, and agro-food industries. The number of students expected, once the institute hits full speed, is about 120 for the preparatory year, with graduation of 40 engineers per year. The institute should cost about 2 billion CFA Fr. It is financed jointly by the World Bank and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE]. The Senegalese counterpart is being supplied by the provision of 50 hectares of land. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Mar 81 p 671] 9516

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SIERRA LEONE

BRIEFS

OPEC LOAN--The OPEC Special Fund approved loans totaling 62 million dollars for several developing countries on 10 February. Among them, Sierra Leone received a \$7 million loan for its road transportation program. Refundable over a period of 20 years, this loan was approved with no interest and has a five-year respite of debt. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Feb 81 p 430] 9592

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

UPPER VOLTA

HEAD OF STATE CITED ON NATIONAL RECOVERY DRIVE

LD111123 Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 2-15 Mar 81 pp 29-30

[Interview with Upper Voltan Head of State Saye Zerbo by Rommert Kruithof: "At Present Our Main Aim Is To Prevent Mistakes"--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, the Upper Volta population seems to have welcomed with relief and hope the change which came about on 25 November last year. Some measures which were adopted immediately received the population's approval. What do you intend to do to maintain this favorable atmosphere?

Saye Zerbo: This upsurge of patriotic feeling will be sustained and promoted by our determination to reveal all the facts about the way in which the Third Republic dignitaries ran public affairs. A special investigation committee has been set up to do this and, since its formation, it has been working intensively. We also intend to constantly pursue our policy of social appeasement.

[Question] Can you explain what you understand by "recovery" and "national progress," which were fixed as objectives in the 25 November proclamation?

Saye Zerbo: All in all, recovery is the application of our dear Upper Volta motto: "Unity, work, justice." As La Palice said, "You only straighten things that are bent." Mistakes were made in the past, and if it is to be real and far-reaching the recovery requires national solidarity, the affirmation of authority, an awakening of professional conscience, the development of patriotic feeling, social justice and the correct administration of public affairs.

The definition of recovery leads to that of national progress, which combines all the nation's vital forces.

[Question] So far the curfew has been maintained. Why?

Saye Zerbo: Since 1978 our country has imported, proportionally, many more weapons than in previous years. It would be unwise to assume the real destination of those arms. Thus, to avert the worst, the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress [CMRPN] deemed it necessary to establish a curfew, which is one way of guaranteeing our population law and order, peace and public security.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Question] When do you think things will return to normal?

Saye Zerbo: As regards the return to a civilian government--assuming that is what you mean--it should be noted that for the time being our main concern is to prevent the mistakes which twice, in 1970 and 1978, brought men to power who, on each occasion, led the country to the brink of disaster.

[Question] After the 25 November events Western press reactions were, on the whole, negative. That press chiefly saw the change as the "death of Upper Volta democracy" and the "end of trade union freedom." Other, less numerous commentators admitted that the former government's laxity had encouraged a degree of anarchy and, according to them, the president "was sitting on the fence," with career politicians on one side and the army on the other. The army has just seized power again. What political prospects are there?

Saye Zerbo: As soon as the change came about on 25 November some sections of the press did indeed talk of the death of democracy in Upper Volta. That is understandable when you know that the previous regime had painted a very flattering picture of what it called "Volta democracy" to the outside world. But we Upper Voltans are well acquainted with the true face of the regime under which we were living. That regime was one of intrigue, irresponsibility, favoritism and fruitless discussions.

We want to establish a regime which, while asserting the state's authority, guarantees collective and individual freedoms while strictly respecting the law and social justice.

Of course we know that, to the West, "democracy" implies elections, a parliament and so forth. In Upper Volta we have lived under several regimes claiming to follow that type of democracy. We really do not have much reason to be proud of it, judging from the results we have achieved after 20 years of independence.

With regard to our political prospects it should be noted that, on the domestic scene, our action will be aimed primarily at establishing national unity. At the same time we will give new value to work in a context of social justice. We will seek and mobilize all the available resources to overcome the water problem and to attain self-sufficiency in food as soon as possible. The exploitation of our mineral wealth could effectively contribute to this effort. Some projects have already been drawn up and studies have demonstrated their profitability. The difficulties which might arise would stem from the problem of financial resources (Note: In this connection Col Saye Zerbo hopes that in the framework of clear cooperation Upper Volta might benefit from Western help for the financial resources vital to its economic development).

In the overseas sphere Upper Volta reaffirms its adhesion to the nonalignment principle. In addition we will respect all decisions already taken in full sovereignty. We advocate cooperation with all nations which love peace, freedom and justice, and it is in that framework that we remain attached to the principles laid down in the charters of the United Nations, the OAU and subregional organizations. We are convinced that solidarity and friendship among nations are not empty words, and we will work to achieve them.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Question] The CMRPN has promised to establish structures "for the installation of real democracy involving all the nation's vital forces." Do you envisage the drafting of a new constitution?

Saye Zerbo: The CMRPN intends that Upper Volta regain its real personality and its soul, in keeping with its desire. The sons of this country must regain their ancestors' confidence in the future of their land. The CMRPN's priority task is to gather all the country's energies so that together we might work for a better life for the national community without losing sight of autonomy and individual freedoms. It is a "new deal," a gamble which the CMRPN will win with the Upper Voltan people's help.

The drafting of a new constitution, moreover, does not strike us as appropriate at the present time. More urgent tasks await us for tackling pressing issues. As I have already said, our main aim in the short term is to avoid the mistakes which have twice brought to power men who have led the country to the brink of disaster.

[Question] Foreign missions in Ouagadougou seem to have been caught completely by surprise by the army's return to the forefront of the political scene. The secret seems to have been well guarded....

Saye Zerbo: The foreign missions in Ouagadougou were surprised by our 25 November action because the secret was indeed well guarded--and that was, moreover, bound to be the case. It is generally thought that there can be no change of government in West Africa without Paris' consent. The Upper Voltan people have always known what they wanted. In other words, aside from the principles of cooperation and solidarity among nations, they will never accept intervention from any source in affairs which come under their sovereignty.

COPYRIGHT: 1981 Afrique-Asie.

CSO: 4400

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

UPPER VOLTA

NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS REMAIN UNSTATED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 1 April 1981 p 32

[Article by Ferid Boughedir: "Unanswered Questions"]

[Text] The action they have taken since their takeover of the government on 25 November 1980 has buttressed the military's image as "righter of wrongs." Eight days after the coup d'etat by the CMRPN (Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress), elementary teachers began receiving their pay. It has been frozen because of a 7-week strike (1 October-21 November 1980) that had the support of the four central trade unions.

Prohibitions

That prolonged strike was one of the indications of the crisis of confidence widely attributed to the previous administration's strongman Gerard Kango Ouedraogo, leader of the UDV-RDA (Upper Voltan Democratic Union-African Democratic Rally), who was chairman of the national assembly at the time.

Other action included shutting down the bars during government employee working hours, wage ceilings for civil servants managing government concerns (salary plus allowances not to exceed 150,000 CFA francs per month); abolition of "tokens of attendance," bonuses awarded to administrative board members of government or mixed companies, and of government vehicles assigned to individuals; a ban, effective immediately, against any transfer of buildings or property by government agents.

Arms imports and sales have also been outlawed. As a precaution hunting too has been prohibited and ammunition outlets are going to become a government monopoly.

Ranking members of the former administration are still imprisoned (the expression here is "administrative internment") in various of the country's barracks while investigations of their activities continue.

They appear to be reasonably well treated and they are being put up in officer housing. In late February, for reasons of security, detainees from the center and the east of the country were moved to the west, to a barracks at Bobo-Dioulasso. In the meantime the ranks of the prisoners both here and at the other locations are being swelled by fresh "suspects," many of whom are chairmen of the board of national companies.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All Upper Volta has its attention riveted on the investigations and the rumors are flying. Even government employees who are not targeted by the thorough preliminary investigations find their jobs in jeopardy: the CMRPN has decided to get rid of the professional bureaucrats to demonstrate clearly that it is above party concerns.

Open Letter

The only protest (albeit muted) lodged since 25 November has come from the trade unions that are quite active in Upper Volta (JEUNE AFRIQUE No. 1040). An "open letter" distributed on the street on 12 February demands a return to freedom of assembly. Public opinion, however, considered the document premature and did not approve of it. It was issued by the CSV (Upper Voltan Trade Union Central) office only.

The CMRPN is enjoying favorable publicity since it has been restoring order. Moreover, it doesn't make sense to irk the military. They have given repeated assurances that press and union freedoms will be respected. Besides, the unions form part of those commissions investigating the III Republic's running of the country. All the less reason for them to create a ruckus.

Wait-And-See Attitude

On all levels there is a wait-and-see attitude. Strongmen like professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo and Joseph Ouedraogo, leaders of the former Upper Voltan progressive front, are no longer squaring off. How long a honeymoon will the CMRPN get to fix up the situation? What's going to become of the political parties (all suspended)? Is the CMRPN contemplating a new party or movement (president Saye Zerbo has mentioned future "youth organizations")? Exactly how many weapons have been discovered? Who own them? What's going to happen to III Republic officials found guilty? The curfew was suspended for the FESPACO (Ouagadougou Pan-African Cinema Festival) (JEUNE AFRIQUE No. 1053). Following that it was restored effective midnight. When will it be lifted?

All Upper Volta is waiting for answers. It is also waiting for the colonel-president's program speech covering the new administration's grand designs. Designs that are still quite blurred, apart from the reform package.

COPYRIGHT: Jeune Afrique GRUPJIA 1981

CSO: 4400

END