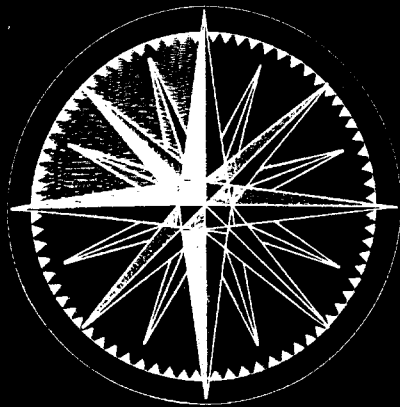


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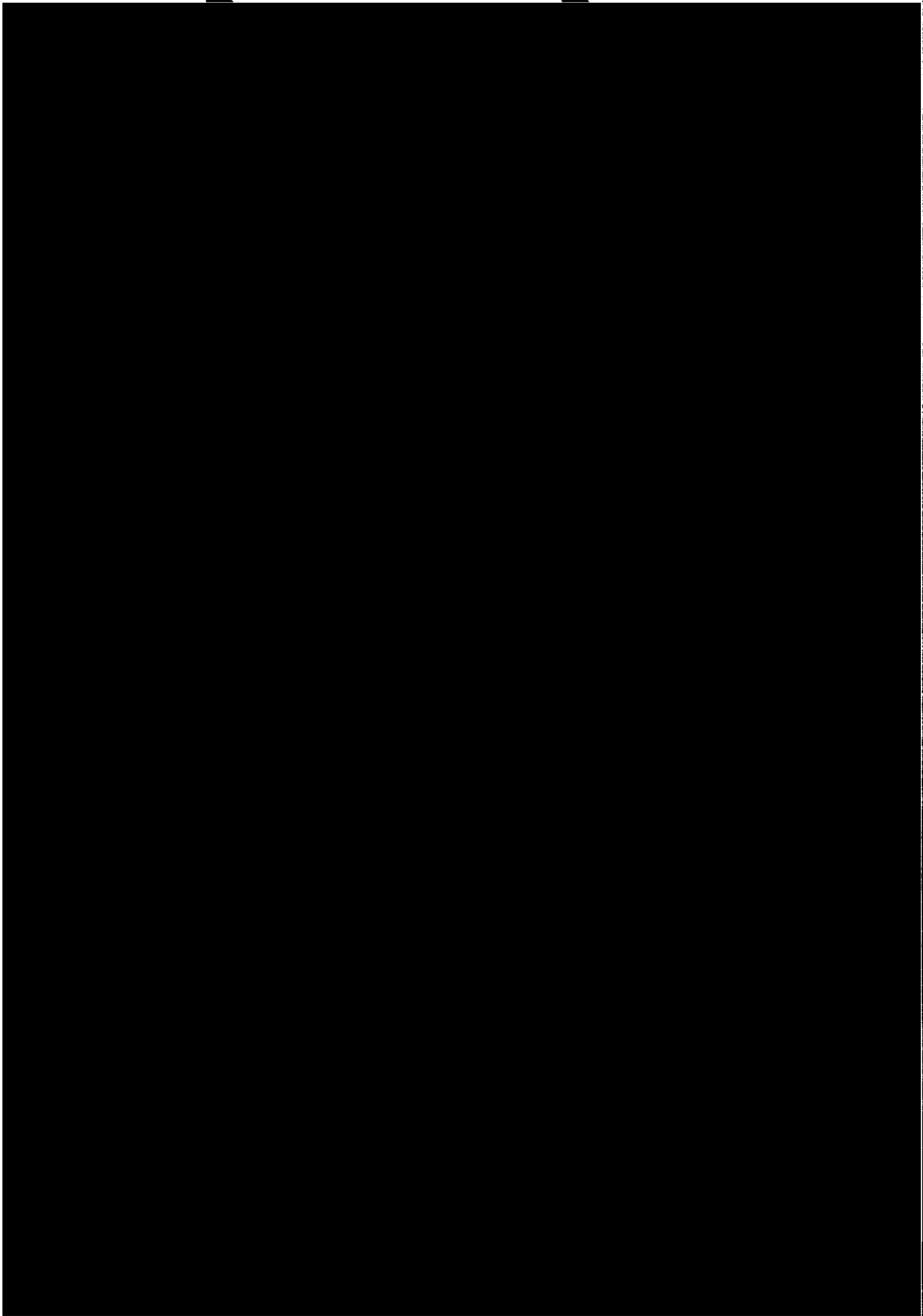
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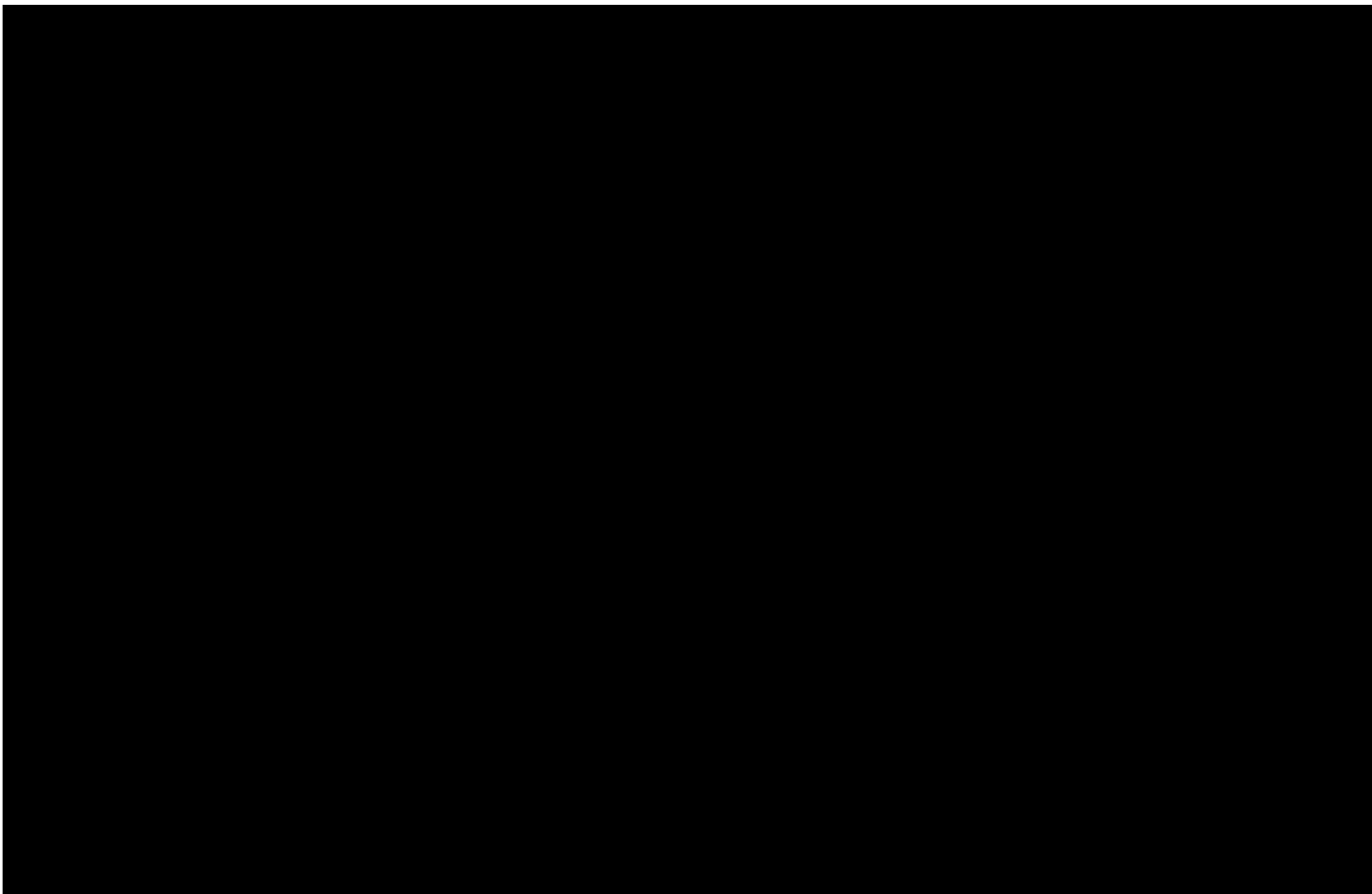


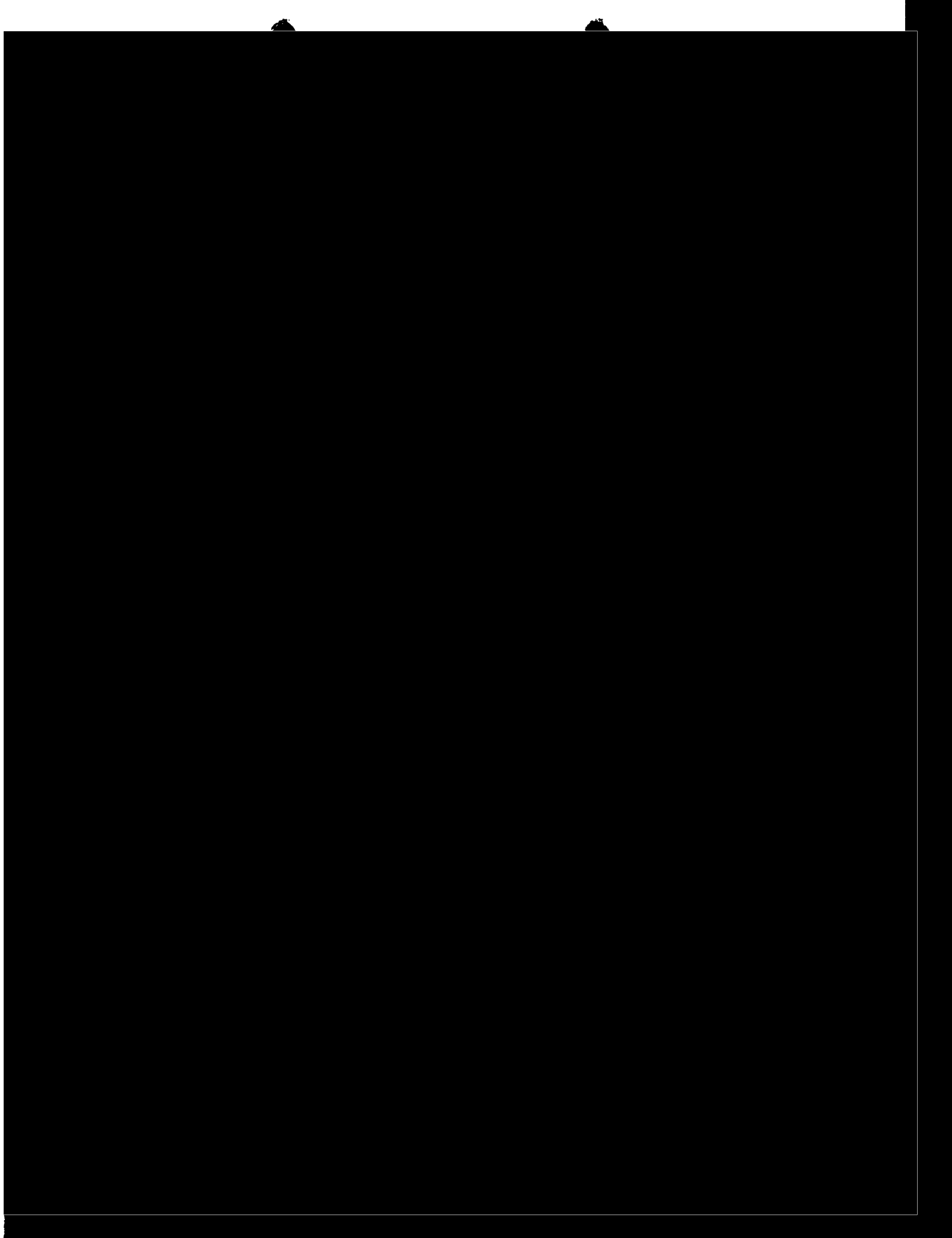
Asia-Africa

NEW REGIME MAKING IMPORTANT CHANGES IN GHANA

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The leaders of last week's coup have consolidated their control and are moving to end Ghana's estrangement from the West and the moderate African states.





Asia-Africa

NEW REGIME MAKING IMPORTANT CHANGES IN GHANA

The pro-Western army and police officers who toppled Kwame Nkrumah's radical regime last week have consolidated their control of Ghana and are implementing some basic policy changes. The effect will be to reverse Ghana's progressive estrangement from the West and to transform it into a moderate African state.

Most of the widespread public expressions of support for the army take-over appear genuine. Although Nkrumah's popularity was massive when he led Ghana to independence nine years ago, in recent years major segments of the country's society had become alienated by his oppressive rule and a tightening economic squeeze.

Ghanaian affairs are now in the hands of a National Liberation Council (NLC) of eight army and police officers. It is headed by popular General Ankrah, fired by Nkrumah last summer, and includes police chief Harlley as well as Colonel Kotoka--now major general--who lined up the military support essential to the coup. Civil servants, who in general adapted quickly to the

new situation, have been given wider latitude in running the government.

Detailed policy formulation apparently will be the responsibility of several new committees staffed by senior civilian specialists, most of whom are competent and Western oriented. This is particularly true of the committee charged by the NLC with the priority task of steering Ghana's currently severely strained--but basically rich--economy onto a sound course again. The committee, which is reported already developing new austerity programs, has made preliminary approaches for major Western assistance. On 2 March Ankrah indicated that henceforth free enterprise would be given wider scope in Ghana.

The new leaders have promised a new constitution, free elections, and a return to representative civilian government. However, on 1 March Ankrah reportedly indicated privately that the NLC would be in no hurry to turn power back to the politicians, including any of the anti-Nkrumah exiles who now may try to resume

an active role in Ghana. For the present, all political parties and political activity are banned.

On 28 February, as Nkrumah was flying from Peking to Moscow aboard a special Soviet aircraft, the NLC told the Soviet ambassador that the several hundred Soviet technicians in Ghana were to leave promptly along with specified intelligence officers at the embassy. Subsequently the approximately 50 technicians from Communist China and the small East German trade mission were also ordered out. Two of Ghana Airways' IL-18s began evacuating Soviet personnel on 1 March, and the Chinese exodus has also started (see also preceding article). Reported pressure from NLC members for a complete break with Moscow and Peking apparently has been overruled by concern for the credibility of the new regime's professions of nonalignment. Ankrah has even indicated that some Soviet technicians would "eventually" be allowed to return to complete certain projects.

Although Nkrumah's prospects for a comeback now appear very dim, he evidently has not abandoned such hopes. Before leaving Peking on 28 February he announced his intention to fight back and took steps to rally support among Ghanaians and other Africans. However, this netted him little more than expressions of solidarity from other radical African leaders, notably President Touré of Guinea. Nkrumah arrived in the Guinean capital on 2 March still claiming to be

"on my way back." Touré's welcoming gesture designating Nkrumah the new "President of Guinea" provides some indications of the political gyrations Touré is preparing on Nkrumah's behalf.

Moderate African states have now begun to extend recognition to the new regime. This has been facilitated by the seating of the NLC's delegation at the current Organization of African Unity meeting in Addis Ababa after a heated wrangle provoked by Nkrumah's radical allies. The NLC's measures to liquidate Nkrumah's African subversion program--the secret Chinese-supported guerrilla training camp was closed the day of the coup--and to mend Ghana's long-troubled relations with neighboring moderate states should further strengthen the new regime's African position.

Soviet reaction to Nkrumah's ouster has been cautious and noncommittal. The expulsion of the technicians can be expected to elicit a negative response, but this will probably be tempered by a desire to maintain some presence in Ghana. Soviet press reaction has implied Western intelligence involvement, but the new regime has not been attacked directly. Remarks made on 1 March by two officers of the Soviet Embassy in Accra suggest that, for the present, Soviet policy toward Ghana will be based on acceptance of the coup as an accomplished fact and on a desire to minimize Soviet losses.

