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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

No. 2673

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

LISBON DENIAL--A spokesman for the president of the Portuguese Republic categorically denied the presence of Portuguese military in the People's Republic of Angola. Since UNITA affirmed that its forces had killed two Portuguese officers in an ambush near Caluquembe, the presidential spokesman added that the victims may have been former Portuguese military who decided to remain in Angola after abandoning the Portuguese armed forces. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 52, Jul 82 p 32]

CSO: 4719/241

FRENCH LINES OF CREDIT

Cotonou EHUZU in French 7 Jun 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] At the Ministry of Finance last Saturday, the minister of finance, Comrade Isidore Amoussou, and Mr Deram, director of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE] in the People's Republic of Benin, signed a credit agreement for 2.15 billion CFA francs.

The signing of this agreement with the CCCE, the French Republic's organization for development assistance, is consistent with French-Beninese cooperation.

The credit granted is for the partial financing of an Office of Posts and Telecommunications project to include:

--the construction of a land-based antenna for satellite telecommunications in Abomey-Calavi,

--adaptation of the microwave network,

and technical assistance to the Office of Posts and Telecommunications.

The total cost of the project amounts to 4.15 billion CFA francs and is distributed as follows:

--Office of Posts and Telecommunications: 200 million;

--the French Republic's Aid and Cooperation Fund [FAC]: 600 million;

--the CCCE: 2.15 billion;

--commercial loans guaranteed by COFACE [French Insurance Company for Foreign Trade]: 1.2 billion.

The CCCE loan was granted at a 6 percent interest rate for 16 years, including a 7-year grace period.

The loan is being guaranteed by OCAM's Fund for Guaranty and Cooperation for 1.15 billion CFA francs, and by the Council for Understanding's Loan Guaranty Fund for 1 billion CFA francs. The two guaranty agreements will be signed very shortly.

The CCCE's involvements in the People's Republic of Benin are numerous and take many forms.

In 1980, the Fund contributed 1.9 billion CFA francs in financing to work to enlarge the Cotonou International Airport and to the construction of the Akpakpa thermal power plant.

In 1981, the Fund participated in the construction of a land-based antenna and in the Beninese Development Bank's Study Fund in the amount of 2.2 billion CFA francs.

Comrade Amoussou thanked Mr Deram and expressed the desire that the favorable atmosphere of cooperation which exists between France and the People's Republic of Benin be developed and strengthened in the direction of the mutual interests and advantage of our two countries.

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CSO: 4719/1103

OIL EXPLORATION SET TO START

Cotonou EHUZU in French 7 Jun 82 pp 1, 6

[Article by H. Akponikpe]

[Text] In a few weeks the first gushes of Beninese oil will flow--true or false? Either way, the preparations or arrangements aimed at culminating in this result are proceeding at a rapid pace. In this connection, the Beninese state has just acquired two more ships: a supply ship and a jack-up platform, which are themselves one of the central parts of the project.

The christening ceremony for these two ships took place last Saturday on the Autonomous Port of Cotonou's new pier in the presence of heavy Party and State representation and a large Norwegian delegation. The presence of executives of the SAGA-Petroleum Corporation, which has been contracted to develop the Seme petroleum deposit, was also noted.

As at any christening, each of the two ships was entitled to a christener.

Therefore, in christening the supply ship "TENDER BEHANZIN" in the name of the Beninese people, the christener, Comrade Tossou C. Marie, (age 14), daughter of the late Tossou C. Mathieu, a martyr of the Beninese Revolution, wished her godchild long life and good luck everywhere on any sea.

As for the darling young Abdoulaye Rockya, (5 years old), daughter of the lamented Abdoulaye Issa, a martyr of the Beninese Revolution, she wished the jack-up platform which she christened "AMAZONE" in memory of our warlike Amazons, much success and a long life for the prosperity of our country, the People's Republic of Benin.

In the three speeches delivered in succession by Messrs Leif Landverk of Wil Wilhelmsen Offshore Services, Van der Hagen of Stord Verft, and by the representative of the general manager of SAGA-Petroleum, we must note the determination of the Norwegian delegation to work to strengthen and deepen relations between our two countries, and the desire of the Norwegian executives responsible for developing our petroleum wells to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

In reply to the preceding speeches, our minister of industry, mines and energy, Comrade Barthelemy Ohouens, noted that according to Beninese custom, a christening is not just a ceremony during which the parents give their child a name, but that in Beninese tradition, the christening is the newborn's official presentation to society.

The christening of the jack-up platform "AMAZONE" and the supply ship "TENDER BEHANZIN," continued Comrade Ohouens, goes beyond the basic tradition observed when a ship is placed in service, and there are several reasons for this:

First of all, the choice of the christeners, Comrades Tossou C. Marie and Abdoulaye Rockya, has a deep meaning for the Beninese people, since these two christeners are daughters of heroes and martyrs of the Beninese Revolution.

Then, the delivery of the jack-up platform "AMAZONE" is a decisive stage in the progress of the project to develop the Seme petroleum deposit. In fact, of all the project equipment, the "AMAZONE" is the most complex, the most important, and the most expensive. It is the central part of the project. It represents more than 1 quarter of the capital invested, at a cost of 10.5 billion.

Finally, the "AMAZONE" is the property of the Beninese government. The supply ships "TENDER BEHANZIN" and "TENDER BENIN" have been leased for 11 years.

In concluding, the minister of industry, mines and energy addressed his warm congratulations to the executives of SAGA-Petroleum and Kvaerner Engineering who have been working untiringly since 1976 to observe the schedule for all the project work.

"We are taking advantage of this solemn occasion to renew our deep appreciation to the government of the Kingdom of Norway, and in particular to the financial institutions DNC, EKSPORT-FINANS, and Garantie Institute for their positive contributions to the resolution of the project's financial problems."

The ceremony was followed by a tour of the "AMAZONE," during which Comrade Barthelemy Ohouens signed the jack-up platform's guest book.

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CSO: 4719/1103

BRITISH AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY MISSION

Libreville L'UNION in French 8 Jun 82 p 4

[Excerpt] The mission of British businessmen and experts travelling under the aegis of the British Agricultural Export Organization, which began on Monday, 24 May, was completed on Tuesday, 1 June. During their visit, the goal of the 11 companies represented in this group was to study the possibilities of agricultural and forestry development.

The Embassy of Great Britain at Libreville indicates that the results of this first mission are quite positive, especially when one learns that certain members of the delegation might soon be returning to Libreville in order to conclude agreements.

In fact, some companies found our country to be an area conducive to investments in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Thus, in the fishing sector, Fishkey Ltd. plans to build a domestic fleet of fiberglass trawlers, easy to use and not requiring special training. For Mike Beacham, it's a question of promoting traditional fishing methods by providing very practical equipment.

As for Massey Ferguson's agricultural machine representative, Mr B. Van Nieuwenhuyzen proposes setting up an agricultural equipment assembly plant in Gabon.

Concerning the forest, Mr Ellis of the EFG Corporation [expansion unknown], which is part of the PLC Group [expansion unknown], the largest private forest management organization, is particularly interested in reforestation and in Gabonese woods for the British market. In fact, as Michael Horne, second secretary at the United Kingdom's embassy, later affirmed, Gabon possesses many species which are still unknown in the country.

Messrs R. Gilmour and M.T. McNeill were surprised while visiting Port Gentil by the success of the Agripog project. As a result, they are planning to build a similar unit in the vicinity of Libreville.

The British mission, very enthusiastic about the results achieved during its first contacts, intends to inform the United Kingdom's businessmen about Gabon's potential, with the goal of promoting exchanges between the two countries.

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CSO: 4719/1108

VISITING MITTERRAND IMPRESSED FRIENDS, UPSET 'EXPANSIONISTS'

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 29-31 May 82 pp 1, 28

[Article by Auguste Miremont: "A Disturbing Presence"]

[Text] There is still room for discussion of French head of state Francois Mitterrand's official visit to Africa.

A number of observers have claimed that the trip was undertaken to "reassure and convince" France's African partners that the political changeover in that country did not affect the continuity of French-African relations.

As for President Mitterrand himself, he affirmed at Yamoussoukro that he did not need to "reassure." Indeed, we are aware of France's loyalty to its commitments and its friendships. Governments may change in tone and ideology, but secular France's respect for its commitments endures, in the interest of not losing its credibility. Moreover, France's voice would not be as strong in the international community if it lost the confidence and friendship of our states which enable it, naturally because of the historical ties of culture and language, to play the role of defender of our interests.

However, it was useful for our continent to hear the voice of the "Mitterrand France," the France with socialist colors.

Also, it was beneficial for the French leader to reaffirm the major principles of his African policy: maintenance of privileged relations with French-speaking Africa, French presence but not interference, and guarantee of our country's security, but refusal to be its "gendarme."

How sweet this voice was to our ears affirming that France wanted to escape from the infernal cycle of East-West relations in order to bring the wealthy nations to reason: to commit itself to endeavors of co-development with the Third World.

How inspiring it was to hear this voice calling for preservation of peace as the world's greatest asset; appealing to our "old man" to use his prestige to help end African conflicts; urging that we master the "two main dangers threatening the very existence of mankind"--nuclear proliferation and the worsening of the gap between the rich countries and the poor countries; and advocating that we work toward food self-sufficiency in order "to assure our children the opportunity to live in harmony."

How firm this voice was in criticizing the old, rich nations which do not understand the solidarity and complementarity which they should have with us; calling on them not to reject the comprehensive negotiations which would bring about a just economic system, including among other things stabilization of raw material prices; castigating the speculators in London, Chicago, and New York, those "sharks" who care only about accumulating money and pay no attention to the fate of the producers; and adding the true remark that it is not up to the powers to act on our behalf.

Yes, they needed to be reaffirmed, these principles which are also those of President Houphouet and of the Ivory Coast. Thus, the two heads of state were able to reconfirm a total identity of views.

A certain element of the French press, presenting itself as expert in African realities after only a short visit, took malicious pleasure in misrepresenting, in petty and spiteful terms, our development efforts because they do not correspond with their views. However, that press element is certainly not going to prevent us from continuing in our path and our struggle for relationships founded on respect for dignity, and on justice. Why indeed should they have wanted to appear as censors, moralizers, and guides, rather sticking to the facts, which speak well enough for themselves?

Note also the ridiculousness of that certain Arab-African radio, whose officials, well known for their fanaticism, attack in full verbal delirium the "African peoples... (who) speak the language of the colonists, and adopt the colonists' religion," and the "salaried African agents who go along with the French policy game." This same radio called Francois Mitterrand's visit to our country the visit of a "colonizer to his colonies," and called on our people to "take up arms to avenge their dignity, downtrodden by the white man."

Where can mindlessness lead? To what imbecilities? Certainly, the outmoded reactions of a blind nationalism under the thumb of the imperialism of an Eastern state and a religious intransigence leading to a dangerous madness are not going to cause us to end our relations with anyone we choose, particularly with France.

We are proud of France's friendship and its support, and we are grateful to it for having understood our concerns and having supported them everywhere.

Francois Mitterrand, though he may not have sought to reassure, did convince, as I have already said, by the sincere, fervent tone of his statements, and by the firmness of his stands.

This is exactly what disturbs, both on this continent and elsewhere, the lackeys of other imperialisms with their impulses toward territorial or religious expansionism.

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CSO: 4719/1113

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES DRIVE FOR FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 9 Jun 82 p 28

[Text] The Political Bureau met yesterday from 1000 to 1230 hours at the Presidential Palace, chaired by the head of state, the president of the party.

The main topics of this important meeting were: analysis of the political and economic situation in the country, a review of events in Africa and elsewhere, the search for genuine neutrality, and a major agricultural campaign to achieve food self-sufficiency.

There follows the text of the communique of the Political Bureau executive committee issued yesterday evening.

Communique of the Political Bureau

As announced, the president of the party and head of state, Felix Houphouet-Boigny presided yesterday, Tuesday 8 June 1982, from 1000 to 1230 hours at the Presidential Palace, over a meeting of the PDCI-RDA Political Bureau.

This important working session of the high party leaders took place, as usual, in the atmosphere of calm, frankness, and confidence which is characteristic of PDCI meetings.

Before analyzing the political and economic situation in our country, the party president gave a broad and thorough review of events in Africa and the world.

After expressing regret at the conflicts and tensions currently affecting some areas of Africa and disturbing other countries in the world, President Houphouet-Boigny again referred to the necessity to resort to dialogue and negotiation, which he has always urged, in order to resolve the conflicts and seek peace--the precondition for development.

Africa: Genuine Neutrality

Concerning our own continent, the president stated that Africa must seek a genuine neutrality in order to avoid becoming the battleground for disputes between the two blocs which are dividing up the world.

President Houphouet-Boigny emphasized: "Such neutrality is essential to the African continent if it wants to overcome its great lag in economic and social development."

Our party president then gave the Political Bureau members an interesting account of the proceedings of the recent summit of ECOWAS heads of state and government held in Cotonou 28-29 May 1982.

In this connection, the head of state praised the excellent organization of the meeting and expressed his congratulations and thanks to the fraternal people of Benin and their leader, President Mathieu Kerekou. President Houphouet-Boigny also cited the high standard and quality of the work, which reflected the great maturity of the leaders of our region. He then reaffirmed his faith and hope in ECOWAS, framework and symbol of a happy and united future for West Africa, a strong link in African unity.

"Depend on Ourselves"

President Houphouet-Boigny then turned to the Ivory Coast domestic situation, which he discussed at greater length. He expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere of peace and stability which has prevailed in the country since the recent reconciliations in all areas following the appeal by the president and party.

The president said: "The Ivory Coast now has a single objective: development. Each day that passes strengthens our profound belief that our only chance to get out of the crisis is to depend on ourselves."

The president, whose great interest in agriculture is well known, then took the opportunity to again appeal to the party leaders, and through them to the dynamic people of the Ivory Coast, to increase their efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency, which must no longer be merely a slogan but become a concrete reality.

President Houphouet-Boigny then announced that "in a few weeks, party missions, veritable crusades for development, will travel through all areas of the country to launch, explain, and stimulate a vast agricultural campaign to increase production of food crops, the basis for the feeding of our people," thereby giving substance to one of the important decisions of the latest PDCI congress.

This great agricultural campaign, which is awaited expectantly by the country, will be supported by the government, party, and all the dynamic forces of the Ivorian nation, which, through general mobilization and work, will undoubtedly win a new wager, that of achieving food self-sufficiency, which should be the major objective of all the African peoples.

After a very informative exchange of views on the president's important address, the members of the Political Bureau, responding to the head of state's appeal, decided to form party missions to undertake shortly the tours of the country.

Prefects, subprefects, and party secretaries general, as well as elected officials of the youth, will all participate in this major campaign of consciousness-raising and mobilization, on which depends the continued harmonious development of our country.

Before adjourning, the Political Bureau members expressed their respectful thanks and hearty congratulations to the party president for the always lucid, wise, and accomplished way in which he conducts the affairs of the country.

They once again assured him of their unfailing support.

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CSO: 4719/1113

FINANCE MINISTER EXPLAINS DEVALUATION

Tananarive MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 8 Jun 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Madagascar franc is floating against a currency basket. Mr Pascal Rakotomavo, the minister of finance, disclosed this news at a press conference last Thursday at the Central Bank headquarters at Antaninarenina.

Today we continue with the finance minister's remarks, which were made in French. But first we must correct a "typographical error" in the Friday 4 June edition. Talking about the economic circumstances surrounding the national debt, and nevertheless maintaining that there should be subscribers from all walks of society, Minister Rakotomavo said: "Otherwise how can we claim that the rich are less rich and the poor less poor?" (and not the converse).

Here, then, is our Chancellor of the Exchequer's explanation of the "new" Malagasy franc and the devaluation:

"You ask me what is the percentage breakdown of each of the currencies in the currency basket. This is a problem linked to the deposit of documents with international authorities. So I will just give you the names of the currencies making up the basket. They are the French franc, the dollar, the yen, the German mark, and the pound sterling. These are the currencies which make up the basket that determines the value of the Malagasy franc. In other words, the Malagasy franc is tied to the average value of these currencies in relation to their fluctuation. For the sake of convenience, we still make use of the French franc in our calculations. But that is only a mode of calculation, and we also continue to refer to the daily fluctuations of these currencies.

"So when we devalue, we are devaluing in relation to the basket. We are not devaluing with respect to any particular currency.

"Why should we have devalued, when we are not an industrialized country, at least for the time being? The answer leads us to a vicious circle. Devaluation is one technique, among others, for suppressing inflation. Up to the present time, our exports have been basically the so-called industrial crops, export crops. You know, coffee, cloves, vanilla, pepper, etc. They account for 70 percent of our exports. Our diversification effort is

concerned with the other 30 percent. Why? Indonesia, for example, is moving ahead with an intensive clove cultivation project. The only thing that saves us, for the moment, is that Malagasy clove extract does not produce an oil stain on cigarettes, since our clove is less oily than Indonesian clove. But there can be no doubt that with advancing technology our main buyers will someday manage to produce a clove equal to our own. What will happen then to our clove exports? Vanilla? This is still the most stable product, even though it has shown some stagnation for the last year or two. But there is competition from synthetic products.

"So we must, once and for all, get out of this impasse. We must find a way to better deploy our resources and maximize the profitability of export industries. And one of the simplest ways to do this is to devalue the currency, since this improves the competitiveness of our products on the international market.

"Take meat, for example. My generation learned that there were more zebus than Malagasies. But it turns out that our meat is no longer "marketable" because of its price on the international market. The price [charged for meat by] some competing countries is lower than ours, and we hope that with the devaluation of the Malagasy franc our meat industry will start off again on a more sturdy foundation. The same is true for a number of other products: sisal, graphite, etc...

"And this might mean a change, a mutation. Strictly domestic production might drop" in favor of exports. I am thinking of tallow. Here in Madagascar we have tried to make tallow. When you have cattle, you wonder why we import tallow from abroad to make soap. Who is there who has not suffered from the soap shortage? Well, our tallow is more expensive than the imported product; and so our industries prefer to buy it from foreign sources. With the 15 percent devaluation, it becomes more profitable to produce tallow locally. If you look at other products in the same light, you will see that the devaluation does not have negative effects. So it is certain that we are moving toward a diversification of our production and toward a situation in which our economic sector is more competitive internationally."

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CSO: 4719/1110

JUGNAUTH ON NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, PRIORITIES, PLANS

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 17 Jun 82 pp 5-6

[Interview with Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth by various unnamed journalists; date and place not specified]

[Text] At the end of his press conference, Mr Jugnauth was congratulated by editorial staff member Lindsay Riviere, who spoke on behalf of the Mauritian corps of journalists. Mr Riviere conveyed to Mr Jugnauth the best wishes of the Mauritian press for the success of his government program in coming years. Mr Riviere said that he hoped that the government would develop cordial and candid relations with the press and that the people, through this press-government dialogue, would have access to this policy of truth, which the new prime minister himself desires.

This is how the interview developed between Mr Jugnauth and the journalists:

LE MAURICIEN: Because of the absence of a parliamentary opposition, the role of the press during the next 5 years will be extremely delicate and important. It is important for the press to be able to play its role in the society which we want to build. Can you tell us the main features of your policy concerning the press and whether you can pledge to the country to undertake a constitutional reform to guarantee expressly, in black and white, freedom of the press in the country?

Mr Jugnauth: Thank you for your congratulations. Concerning the absence of an opposition in the Legislative Assembly, I must say that we are also aware of this and as a result, we also think that, of course, the press will have a special role to play. Not only the press, but also the "backbenchers" in the assembly. As for our policy, freedom of the press will be protected 100 percent. In fact, it is already guaranteed in our constitution, but if there is something to be added, we will do so, because we want complete freedom for the press. But freedom which is, of course, in accordance with the law. The press must function without any hindrance, without any obstacle. We want the truth to come out, for the public to be constantly informed. Thus in the name of this government, I give you every possible guarantee that there will not be any handicap, any constraint which would keep the press from playing its role 100 percent in the next 5 years.

LE MAURICIEN: This morning you presided over the first meeting of the Council of Ministers. What are the government's priorities for the next 3 months?

Mr Jugnauth: First of all, there is a problem left behind by the former government, which recruited 25,000 persons or more. We have heard that there are letters, perhaps written for purposes of the election campaign, which were randomly distributed to people. These letters are reportedly still being distributed to people, according to the information which we received this morning. Thus as a result of these letters, people are now going to locations where there is no work, nor even anyone to receive or direct them. They were only requested to report to this or that location. This is therefore one of our first concerns. This is an unusual problem which we will have to face.

We have even learned that people who were already working left their jobs to go to the locations indicated in the letters to get a so-called new job. We have to get all the necessary information in this regard and establish order. Our second priority will be to establish order throughout the government. We will try to do as much as possible to end waste, to eliminate fraud and corruption. We will tackle customs first of all. The third priority is social. It concerns drugs. We want to combat this scourge right away and prevent it from continuing to spread, as it has been doing, particularly in the recent past.

Another priority: stimulating the economy. We have to take every possible measure concerning the free zone and industrialization in general, small and medium-size businesses in order to create productive jobs. In this way we could channel unemployed young people to such jobs. In every country, after reaching a certain age, anyone must be able to use his strength and intelligence to earn his living, if only to maintain his dignity, to survive.

LE MAURICIEN: What is the legislative calendar for the next few months? You have announced a number of constitutional reforms. Will they take place before the end of the year?

Mr Jugnauth: I myself, at any rate, would like to move as quickly as possible. But as we know, it will first be necessary to seek legal counsel, to prepare documents. As for ourselves, if additional work is required, meeting two or three times a week, we will do so. We will try to go as fast as possible. But at this stage it is quite difficult for me to tell you precisely how that will take place. But we will do as much as possible and also go as fast as possible.

LE MAURICIEN: Questions are being asked about possible changes of department heads in the government. What will be your general policy in this regard in coming weeks?

Mr Jugnauth: Our general policy, as we have said, will not be a policy of vengeance or spite. Of course, there will be changes and that is necessary because of the very fact that we have reorganized certain ministries, but in general there will be nothing unusual and I ask all members of government to have no fear. We met at 1300 hours with the executive secretaries of the ministries, the PS [expansion unknown]. I pointed out that they are there only as civil servants and that if they owed loyalty to the former government in the past,

which is completely normal, such loyalty must now be shown to the new government, because their duty is to the country and the government. We have confidence in them and hope that they will have no more fears. We hope that they will cooperate with us 100 percent.

LE MAURICIEN: You have indicated that the municipal representatives appointed by the former government will be replaced with new, politically neutral representatives. When will you go ahead with this change?

Mr Jugnauth: I discussed that with the parliamentary group just today. We had said that we would appoint neutral persons, but there were other positions expressed, to the effect that former elected municipal representatives should be appointed, before the next elections. But we have not made any decision as yet. The leadership will discuss this. We have also learned that there were scandalous appointments recently in municipalities. This is why we want to set up limited groups to only administer municipalities until the next elections, which we will organize as quickly as possible. I just received today a letter from the election commissioner, Mr Harold Glover, who told me that if we want to hold the elections as quickly as possible, we must contact him right away because it takes time to begin the necessary procedure and organize the elections.

THE NATION: Could you tell us what are your foreign commitments in the coming days and whether you will attend the next OAU summit in Tripoli?

Mr Jugnauth: I will perhaps go to the OAU summit in Tripoli, since tradition dictates that the head of the country attend that African summit. But that does not necessarily mean that that will be the case. Everything depends on our priorities. Regarding my foreign commitments, I have none at the present time and in any case, I don't plan to leave the country and I don't plan to do so for matters which I do not consider important. I will leave the country only when I feel that it is absolutely necessary for me to do so.

THE NATION: Can you tell us whether the new government will keep its promise to repatriate the 900 Mauritian workers currently on Diego Garcia? When will the procedure get underway for returning the Chagos Islands to Mauritius?

Mr Jugnauth: What we said was that the already existing agreements concerning the workers will be kept. Of course, we do not approve of the base and our policy will consist of campaigning to transform the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. Regarding action which we will undertake to recover the Chagos Islands, it is obvious that we cannot wage war as in the case of the Malvinas. What we have always said is that we will make every necessary effort at all diplomatic levels and in all existing international forums, with the aid of countries such as India and other neighboring Indian Ocean countries so that our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which includes Diego Garcia, will be recognized. We will then continue the campaign for demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. And when we say that, in our opinion, whether it is the USSR or the United States, it is the same thing. All foreign powers must withdraw from the Indian Ocean and we will make every effort so that those powers feel no need or threat in the region. Such conditions must be established so that those powers will hoist anchor and go establish their bases close to their own shores.

THE NATION: If that approach fails, as it has failed in the past, what will be the new government's position regarding the United States?

Mr Jugnauth: Listen, we shouldn't be pessimistic! I prefer, without committing myself, to do a job, to make an effort, and then to view the results. We will act in the light of those results.

THE NATION: Can you keep your commitments concerning the implementation of the PRB [expansion unknown] report and payment of a 30-percent wage compensation?

Mr Jugnauth: With regard to the PRB in any case, the question is not applicable for the time being, since there is no longer any PRB report. It was rejected by both the former government and the trade unions. When we have a new report, we will make a decision in the light of the new recommendations. As for the wage compensation, we think that the burden is very heavy, especially for wage earners who are below the scale, particularly farm workers, craftsmen, the people with the lowest wages in this country. Those people deserve 30-percent compensation. I hope that my finance minister will agree with me on giving a 30-percent increase to certain categories of workers. I don't agree that those receiving the highest wages should have the same percentage. This will have to be discussed, but in my opinion graduated compensation, based on a certain scale, would have to be granted. Actually, our priority is to raise the living standard of the most underprivileged classes in this country. That is our priority.

THE NATION: Another priority concerns unemployed persons with diplomas. They were estimated at 700, but when they registered, their number came to 2,000. What will the government do in their case?

Mr Jugnauth: In our opinion, there is not just a problem of unemployed persons with diplomas. All unemployed people constitute a problem in our eyes. We must work, do as much as possible, and we will see. But we cannot create artificial jobs which would lead the country into financial ruin. We want to do a serious job. We have just assumed power; I am not yet familiar with the exact situation. But what we promise is that we will do everything possible to gradually absorb all unemployed persons into the labor force.

THE NATION: It appears that the government's composition has caused some dissatisfaction in the ranks of the MMM/PSM [Mauritian Socialist Party]. According to Mr Jagdish Goburdhun, a GRSE/Montagne Blanche Legislative Assembly representative, meritocracy has not been respected.

Mr Jugnauth: That is an opinion. Everyone has his own opinion. When I do something and then ask the opinion of 50 people, each one will have an opinion different from that of the others. In any case, I can assure everyone that the primary criterion was meritocracy. And we are satisfied that every member of the government can fulfill his responsibilities, is competent and can "deliver the goods," as they say in English. The public will judge us in 5 years.

THE NATION: Are you going to recall all Mauritian ambassadors abroad?

Mr Jugnauth: We cannot leave the embassies empty, obviously.

HORIZONS NOUVEAUX: Some journalists entered the field of journalism before a good number of our politicians entered the field of politics. A good number of these journalists are with small newspapers. But these newspapers do not benefit from advertising paid for by the capitalists. Do you plan to grant subsidies to small newspapers?

Mr Jugnauth: I cannot make any commitments in regard to that question. It has not been discussed. I don't know exactly what you mean by small newspapers. Tomorrow you may have 50 small newspapers which have been established in order to receive subsidies. And recently we have had newspapers like THE HINDU. No one can tell me that subsidies must be given to such a newspaper!

HORIZONS NOUVEAUX: Can you tell us when your government's ministers will publicly declare their financial holdings?

Mr Jugnauth: Actually, every minister will have to do so, in accordance with the law. We will also ask our Legislative Assembly members to do so when we meet to discuss the matter as soon as possible. We will make everything public; we have nothing to hide.

HORIZONS NOUVEAUX: Since there has been a great deal of corruption and waste, will there be investigative commissions and sanctions regarding the use made of public funds?

Mr Jugnauth: Our policy, as we have already said, will not consist of conducting a witch-hunt. We will examine each case and if it proves necessary, we will conduct an investigation.

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CSO: 4719/1155

MAURITIUS

MMM/PSM OFFICIALS REVIEW PLANS TO REFORM CIVIL SERVICE

Port Louis LE NOUVEAU MILITANT in French 24 May 82 p 2

[Article: "Reform of the Civil Service: Next Government Will Develop Master Plan"]

[Text] The forthcoming government headed by the MMM/PSM will establish a commission to develop a "master plan" on the in-depth reforms to be applied to the civil service. The need for such reform was emphasized Thursday [20 May] at the Plaza by Paul Berenger and Armoogum Parsuramen at a forum organized by the Federation of Civil Service Trade Unions (FSSC) on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Paul Berenger began his remarks by welcoming the initiative taken by the FSSC to organize the forum a few days before the elections. "You are already contributing in your own way to ensuring that the elections will be held in a civilized way," he said. He added that unanimity of view is clear between the FSSC and the MMM/PSM Alliance on the need for a profound change in the civil service. Structural reform of the civil service, which will become even more efficient, will allow it to participate in the economic recovery and development of the country.

Paul Berenger asked, however, what kind of change should be made in the structure of the civil service. He declared that the MMM/PSM Alliance was in complete agreement on establishing a commission to review the entire structure. He recalled having raised this question in the Legislative Assembly and in the Public Accounts Committee.

He said that reforms were absolutely necessary, particularly in view of the wish and desire of the civil service to participate in the development of the country. However, this wish is blocked by the existing structure. No reform in the civil service will be imposed on it by the government. In terms of industrial relations, the MMM/PSM Alliance will repeal the IRA [Industrial Relations Act]. Everything will also be done to encourage the participation of civil servants in the administration.

Colonial "rules and regulations" should be brought up to date. Civil servants should be able to attend training courses at the University of

Mauritius. Paul Berenger made a commitment to ensure that "certainly before the end of June a dialogue between an MMM/PSM government and the FSSC will be undertaken in a serious and sincere fashion." The MMM/PSM Alliance, Berenger said, will extend all its support to the FSCC to arrange for publication and application of the PRB [expansion unknown] report.

After having spoken of the role of the civil service in the changes proposed by the MMM/PSM Alliance, A. Parsuramen declared that civil servants will be able to express themselves freely and without constraints. So that the civil service may plan its role suitably, the existing organizational structure cannot remain unchanged. A. Parsuramen proposed that the functions of secretary to the cabinet and chief of the civil service be separated. Regarding recruitment and promotion, competence, the merit system and existing procedures will be respected. He also repeated the support of the MMM/PSM Alliance for publication and application of the PRM report.

The forum was presided over by K. Venkatasawmy, president of the FSSC. At the meeting, G. Duval represented the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party].

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CSO: 4719/1060

MAURITIUS

1.7-BILLION-RUPEE TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED FOR 1981

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 25 May 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mauritian imports for calendar year 1981 rose to 4,976,800,000 rupees, of which 1,197,000,000 rupees were for imported foodstuffs, thereby leaving a deficit in the trade balance of about 1,699,000,000 rupees for 1981 compared with a deficit of 1,105,000,000 rupees in 1980.

In reviewing the most recent trade statistics published for 1981, it is noted that South Africa, which was the foremost trading partner of Mauritius in terms of imports, lost its leading position to socialist France.

First of all, informed sources in the Mauritian foreign trade sector explain that this decline in Mauritian imports from South Africa was about 24 percent, or from 634.5 million rupees in 1980 to 480.5 million rupees in 1981. This decline was in no way due to a change in trade policy by the Mauritian Government regarding South Africa. The explanation for the decline may be found in the depression the Mauritian construction industry is presently experiencing.

The country imports construction steel from South Africa, and in the course of the past year the value of these imports declined by 40 percent, from 158,844,000 rupees in 1980 to 95,639,000 rupees in 1981. With the deterioration of the rate of exchange of the rupee in the foreign exchange market, these same sources consider that imports showed a considerable reduction in volume.

In 1981, Mauritius imported merchandise valued at 535,200,000 rupees from France (505,300,000 rupees in 1980) and 480,500,000 rupees from South Africa compared with 634,500,000 rupees in 1980. For our energy needs in terms of gasoline, fuel oil and kerosene, the import bill rose to 771,800,000 rupees compared with 513 million rupees in 1980, despite the fact that there has been a tendency toward a decline in the consumption of gasoline and other petroleum products.

The other principal Mauritian trading partners in 1981, in terms of imports, were Great Britain, from which imports totaled 423,500,000 rupees; Japan, 282,400,000 rupees; Australia, 275,800,000 rupees; the United States,

265,900,000 rupees; India, 232,900,000 rupees; and New Zealand, 161,100,000 rupees.

The total Mauritian import bill for 1981 rose by five percent, from 4,721,400,000 rupees in 1980 to 4,976,800,000 rupees. Asked to comment on this increase of five percent in the value of our imports, informed sources stated without hesitation that imports had declined in 1980. "You have to take into consideration the fact that the Mauritian rupee suffered from a number of adverse developments on the foreign exchange market in 1981, not to mention the devaluation of 27 September 1981, and it is normal for the volume of our imports to decline," they declared, to support their views.

On the other side of our trade balance, exports declined by 10 percent in 1981 compared with 1980, from 2,999,000,000 rupees in 1981 to 3,341,000,000 in 1980. This decline is explained by a drop in receipts from the export of sugar. The decline in sugar export income was in the order of 543,314 rupees for exports of 432,764 tons of sugar in the course of 1981. Receipts from tea exports approached 49 million rupees for 696 metric tons exported.

Despite these disappointments, principally in terms of our sugar industry, there was enormous satisfaction in the performance of the free trade zone, which handled more than 1 billion rupees, or more precisely, 1,087,127,000 rupees in exports for 1981. Receipts from the free trade zone come just after those of the sugar industry which, with exports of 1,735,332,000 rupees (sale of molasses included), still holds first place in terms of our exports.

The principal countries to which our exports were sent were Great Britain, 1,651,000,000 rupees; France, 587,300,000 rupees; West Germany, 161,100,000 rupees; the United States, 150,100,000 rupees; and Italy, 129,800,000 rupees. South Africa imported Mauritian goods valued at 48.6 million rupees last year compared with 25.3 million rupees in 1980. Despite this increase in Mauritian exports to South Africa, the trade balance favorable to South Africa rose to 431.9 million rupees. Great Britain continues to run an unfavorable trading balance in its transactions with Mauritius, on the order of 1,227,000,000 rupees in 1981. It should be noted that Bahrain, from which we purchased petroleum products valued at 771,800,000 rupees in 1981, made a 100-percent profit in its trade with us. Mauritius did not export anything to that country in 1981.

The latest indications regarding the trade balance for the first 9 months of the present fiscal year show a new improvement compared to fiscal year 1980-1981. The deficit in the trade balance recorded for the period from July 1981 to March 1982 totaled 514,700,000 million rupees compared with 1,175,000,000 rupees for the period from July 1980 to March 1981. Receipts from Mauritian exports increased by 497.5 million rupees during the period concerned, and the value of Mauritian imports declined by 161.7 million rupees. The restrictive policy followed by the government regarding luxury imports is the principal cause for the decline.

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PTR'S FUTURE ANALYZED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 17 Jun 82 p 4

[Article by Lindsay Riviere]

[Text] Having recovered their emotions from last weekend, the officials of the outgoing government are this week trying to analyze the causes of the humiliating defeat of 11 June, with one question as their main concern: After that election rout, does the Labor Party [PTR] still have a future?

An initial trend already seems to be emerging: the necessity of starting from scratch. The Labor Party and its new allies, the RPL[Rally for Progress and Liberty] and the Francois Group, now represent only one in four Mauritians. And even that may appear debatable today. For after the recent smooth transition, which has probably swept away the fears which the PAN [Party of National Alliance] was trying to exploit, and the normal reflux of some of the defeated toward the victors, it is not certain that if the general elections were to be held again next Sunday, the PAN would again receive the same number of votes! Losing control of the executive branch and absent from the legislative branch, its municipal and village representatives soon to be removed, the Labor Party no longer has any means of control. Its long period in the wilderness is starting.

Two factors will accentuate its difficulties:

(a) The Boodhoo Phenomenon. The leader of the PSM [Mauritian Socialist Party], reelected with 77 percent of the votes and a driving force of the MMM/PSM alliance in rural areas, has now fully secured, on one hand, the traditional Labor Party electorate and, on the other, the middleclass electorate of the cities. By quickly occupying ground, the PSM could therefore absorb what remains of the Labor Party electorate. And the likelihood is that it will do so in order to put itself in a better position in relation to the MMM in anticipation of the 1987 general elections.

(b) The new government's social program. The MMM and PSM have overtaken the PTR on its left and got themselves elected precisely because they managed to embody the hope for a more aggressive social policy. By the positions which it defended during the campaign, the PTR has itself come across as an obstacle to change. Thus it appears to be able to constitute only a rightist opposition. And the country's current mood hardly seems willing to put up with rightist views.

The PTR will also have to deal with many other circumstances which will be unfavorable: the opportunism of its supporters of yesterday, who will quickly be revealed as more regimentally minded than the new government's officials, the erosion of its agents' morale, already apparent last Friday and which was complete by Saturday, the undoubtedly gradual abandonment of its overseas support if the MMM/PSM continue to play the game.

Under such conditions, what future does the PTR have?

It will undoubtedly be based on the analysis and self-criticism which its leaders will make of that defeat.

But the PTR is already looking for scapegoats. At PTR headquarters on Tuesday, some people regretted that an agreement was not made with the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party] (even though an analysis of the figures clearly shows that even combined, PTR/PMSD forces could not have stemmed the tide of change), others blamed the RPL and still others were annoyed with the electorate's "ingratitude."

However, the truth is to be found elsewhere:

The Labor Party has constantly lost ground since the 1959 general elections. This is a verifiable historical fact. The opposition of the IFB [Independent Forward Bloc] in the early 1960's, which was timid at first, and then the massive opposition of the PMSD around the middle 1960's, gradually eroded its popular support. In 1967, it was only with the help of the IFB and CAM [Moslem Action Committee] that the PTR passed the 50-percent mark. In 1976, this dropped to 38 percent and to even less in the 1977 municipal elections. No one in the PTR ever wanted to acknowledge this and learn its lessons. Thanks to its parliamentary majority (often obtained under what conditions!), the PTR always had the illusion of constitutional power even though it no longer had the support of the people.

The major cause of this erosion of its electorate was: Since independence, the PTR has constantly been cutting itself off from the people and everyday realities. Satisfied with its record, it is still amazed today that others are not. Having provided the people with decent living conditions, it is amazed that they ask for more. Involved, through prize award ceremonies, in a long monologue with the nation, it thought it had been involved in a dialogue. Surrounded by parasites and sycophants, it allowed itself to be flattered. Perpetually traveling overseas, its perception of local reality became distorted.

It finally became obvious that neither the outgoing prime minister nor the minister of finance nor their associates understood the country any longer. The Labor Party's failure, besides that of its management, is above all a failure of communication.

This failure itself has a basic reason: the lack of replacing men and ideas, which would have brought the leaders close to new realities.

The PTR has systematically refused to dismiss its chiefs, to rethink its ideology and to adapt to modern times. Lost in nostalgia for the past, a

victim of constant ideological impoverishment, bent on preserving achievements rather than developing the initiative, deaf to the indignation aroused by its methods, arrogant to the point of being unconscious, to the point of defying the electorate by offering them Badrys and Moorbas, the PTR dug its own grave.

Hiding behind the figure of its old leader ("chacha power" in 1976, "Ramgoolam or Berenger" in 1982) in order to better hide its shortcomings, it thought that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam [SSR] was immortal and made him the shield for all its weaknesses and cowardice. If today it is possible to feel a certain sadness for SSR as an individual, booted out of power--as he himself acknowledges-- it is impossible to keep from pointing out that SSR himself allowed his personal respect and prestige to be exploited until the end by a clique of incompetents who were glad to be able to conceal their incompetence in his shadow.

In the PTR's own interest, it is finally good that it has been routed from power. Its recovery as part of the opposition will now oblige it to reconsider itself and to finally begin to listen to the country.

Will it do so? This is already doubtful, judging from the atmosphere of the PTR meeting on Tuesday and the party's invitation to SSR to ... remain.

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RAMGOOLAM THANKS PARTY WORKERS

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 23 Jun 82 p 4

[Text] Port Louis, 22 June 1982

My dear fellow countrymen,

On my personal behalf and on behalf of the Labor Party, I wish to thank all those who had confidence in us and who voted for the Party of National Alliance, as we asked them to do. I also thank those who worked at my side, my colleagues in the cabinet and final assembly, the new candidates, all those who contributed in one way or another. I am thinking particularly of those who worked anonymously and whose assistance was valuable to us.

My thanks also to the press, even if it sometimes did not treat me with consideration, and to the police, who managed to maintain order during one of the most difficult election campaigns, and also to our political adversaries, who watched to see that the campaign was proper and civilized.

I thank the public for their tokens of sympathy which they continue to show me and which touch me greatly.

To the supporters of the Labor Party, which I have had the honor of directing for more than 30 years, I would say that the defeat which we suffered on 11 June has not killed in me or in the party the desire to continue to serve the Mauritian people. A meeting of the party's Executive Committee will soon determine the course to be followed after a critical analysis of the situation facing us today. We will then decide what must be done. It is the duty of the Labor Party's supporters not to be discouraged, since for the Labor Party, as it has already been said, "the fight goes on."

The party's general headquarters are still open to our supporters, who can bring their problems to us. As in the past, we will continue to help them to find solutions to them.

I take advantage of the opportunity offered to me to again thank my successor for the good wishes which he and his associates conveyed to me and whose fairness I appreciate.

Sincerely, S. Ramgoolam

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NEW EDUCATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 6 Jul 82 p 5

[Interview of Ramduth Jadoo minister of education, conducted by Judex Acking: "We Shall Advance Slowly But Surely"]

[Text] Holding a ministerial portfolio in a shadow cabinet is one thing and the realities of power another. In the case of Ramduth Jadoo, minister of education, the transition "was a real shock. I had to face the bureaucracy." This was his answer to us during an initial interview which took place less than some 15 days after his appointment. Since then however, he has become used to it, and the dialogue with his closest associates and the other personnel has begun, he is pleased to point out. He has divided the administration of this cumbersome service into six sections, with a heavy emphasis on coordination, something virtually nonexistent until then: "I now ask the heads of services to meet, whereas in the past they engaged in endless correspondence in the performance of their functions."

We came out of this interview aware of the direction which the MMM/PSM/OPR government intends to pursue in the field of education and the work of the ministry. The general lines of this policy according to which, R. Jadoo said, "One cannot go fast, as this area is different from the others," are the following. Teachers, parents, principals, unions, educators, university professors and all others involved in this field know that change will strike here as well, particularly when the National Educational Authority and the National Educational commission will begin to function.

The ministry's intention is to extend to the national level the preschool service which receives UNICEF aid. To this effect, the contract of the two French cooperative workers attached to this unit were recently renewed (let us note in this connection that in the long run the kindergartens will be placed under the jurisdiction of the municipalities, under the supervision of Mrs S. Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, minister of Women's and Family Rights). The government is also planning to organize an educational service for the very young and for grammar-school students.

As regards the physical facilities for primary education, the problem of buildings will become the target of a coordinated activity which will be undertaken at the earliest possible moment. The minister has already met with Msgr Margeot, bishop of Port Louis, regarding the requests of the Roman

Catholic Educational Authority in this area. Thus, it has already been decided that the rebuilding of some Catholic schools will be financed with World Bank funds (Rs 50 million). As to the problem of repairing some 50 buildings, which the ministry has been leasing to private persons for a number of years, it was decided not to proceed with repairs but to include them in the lease-purchase project.

Still on the level of primary education, the ministry intends to extend educational and guidance activities to areas other than languages and mathematics. The practice of manual work, gardening, etc. will be introduced if not generalized. The cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture will be sought in a variety of projects, along with that of the Ministry of Fine Arts, Culture and Recreation (the portfolio of Rama Poonoosamy, who has taken over all that was previously under "cultural affairs"), so that the children may be exposed to this educational facet from his earliest age. Let us point out that the competent ministry will help in the area of school sports.

Let us now see what will be accomplished on a medium- and long-term basis in the secondary education sector. According to the ministry, it will not be possible to go back to the use of the JSS by the fourth and fifth grades. The World Bank will be contacted with a view to financing the building of other establishments, including vocational technical schools, similar to the ITTC and the Lycee Polytechnique in Flacq. However, the ministry has an entirely different concept of the use of the buildings. "I say: Open," R. Jadoo specified, in reference to the immediate intention of placing the facilities and services (libraries, sportsgrounds, laboratories, etc.) of these buildings at the disposal of students attending other high schools and young people in town and country.

The minister had the following to say on the subject of grade three examinations: "Since we have just taken over, we have preferred to have this examination taken on the national level for the third consecutive time in order to be able to review its purpose. This should not be a competitive test but a test for the orientation of the students who show an inclination for areas which are more specific and better adapted to their performance. We can say that such was not the case under the previous government, which considered this examination mainly a means to reduce the number of students reaching the fifth grade."

The University Open to Working People

The minister dwelled more extensively on the examinations policy. He would like to see the Mauritius Institute of Education in charge of grade three examinations, the organization of grades fourth and fifth examinations and the use of acquired experience. The eventual institution of a Mauritius School Certificate is also being contemplated. The problem will be discussed within the framework of a centralization of the institutions involved in this area (MIE, Mauritius University, etc.). A union examination will be given as well at Mauritius University. R. Jadoo recently discussed the matter with the vice-chancellor and the principal of the MIE. The minister intends to ask that the Education Institute cadres go to Cambridge during the period of drafting the questions and checking the answers, in order to familiarize

themselves with the modern organization of examinations. In his view, in the long range, joint ventures may be organized with Cambridge for periods of 5 to 10 years with a view to holding examinations and joint certification until Mauritius will be able to go it alone in this area.

What about textbooks? The ministry intends to help mainly poor children, on the basis of parental possibilities and textbook costs. This will be part of a Book Scheme, similar to the Book Loan Scheme and the Book Sales Scheme. Domestic production of booklets and other educational tools will be considered. Contacts to this effect have already been established with Longmans and Macmillan. In R. Jaddoo's view, in addition to governmental and international financial aid, a medium-term centralization of available means must be achieved in printing and publication. Discussions have already taken place or will be held on this subject with the MIE, Mauritius University, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Governmental Printing Press. Mauritian authors will be largely represented without any decline in quality.

Another important problem is that of the language to be used in primary and secondary schools. According to R. Jaddoo there should be no evasiveness in this area. "We firmly favor the use of the environmental language in school, particularly Creole and Bhojpuri." Although no clearly defined policy has existed so far, the minister specified, it is important to note that "no rigidity will be displayed by the government. Let it be clearly understood that the French language will not be excluded." As we know, the Speech from the Throne made a mention of the establishment of a department of languages. Creole will be studied scientifically in order to determine its grammar, lexicon and vocabulary, the creation of a dictionary for school use, etc.

Adult Education will be reviewed. According to R. Raddoo, this study must be conducted within the overall framework of the reorientation of education on the level of a national commission to be established soon. He includes in this context the establishment of a modern university, which would offer greater access to secondary school students and working people. He disclaims any right to interfere in the operations of Mauritius University and the MIE. "I favor total autonomy. However, I believe that it is important for such institutions to be headed by competent people rather than boards of trustees, as is the case of the MGI, where politicians acting as private citizens formulate the guidelines." R. Jaddoo is of the opinion that the university could teach courses which do not necessarily lead to diplomas and ensure the participation of officials from his and other ministries in university activities either as students or lecturers. This will also resolve the problem of the time wasted by the current faculty.

The dialogue with the trade unions and other associations will be continued in the area of industrial relations. The minister shares the opinion of the teachers concerning their low salaries in terms of their work: "Together we must agree on a formula which, after a while, could result in the rehabilitation of this category of citizens and working people." The employment of people without degrees in secondary education and the status of people with graduation certificates and diplomas in the various educational sectors will be the topic of meetings aimed at a "total reshuffling." The ideal is to employ everyone according to his potential. A solution may be found before

the beginning of the next school year. The government will keep its word on the nondismissal of redundant secondary school teachers.

The National Educational Authority will be an advisory board which will include the present socioreligious "authorities."

The minister does not wish to see his ministry's budget reduced, "for the obligations are real." However, he insists, every penny of this large budget will have to be used efficiently. "This has not been the case so far as confirmed by the allocation of Rs 15 million to a single institution, while others are short of absolutely everything." As we already mentioned, in the same perspective the facilities of the JSS and other establishments will be maximally utilized.

On the other hand, the minister told this newspaper that a representative of the World Food Program will be visiting Mauritius soon in order to review the distribution of the program's aid in food among school children.

He stated that the government will pay close attention to Rodrigues, acting in conjunction with the competent ministry. Rodrigues will be visited by an inspector at the end of each term instead of only once as is the case now. An education commission will be organized within the framework of the Rodrigues Island Council.

Finally, R. Jadoo informed us, the plan already adopted by the previous government for the creation of a Mauritius Educational Broadcasting Authority will be made law.

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NEW FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 2 Jul 82 pp 5,7

[Interview with J.D. De L'Estrac, minister of foreign affairs: "New Ministers For New Policies. What Diplomacy Tomorrow?"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Mr J.D. De L'Estrac: "Independence is the keyword of our foreign policy."

[Question] Mr De L'Estrac, in foreign policy, the first public act of the new regime has been the official recognition by Mauritius of the African National Congress in South Africa, of SWAPO, of the PLO, and of the SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic]. How should this be interpreted?

[Answer] First, as fidelity to commitments which are as old as the MMM itself. Now that it is in power, the MMM cannot forget that, initially, its struggle took place in an international context of liberation, along the lines of a resolutely Third-World and progressist philosophy.

It should also be interpreted as a sign of political independence, since we made this decision of our own free will, without pressure of any kind; and this is also how, during the weeks and months to come, in the international organizations where we will be called to contribute in solving world problems, we intend to play our part, however modest it may be.

Therefore, independence is the keyword in this new approach of our diplomacy.

"Our Nonalignment Is Both a Political Concept and a Security Imperative"

[Question] From now on, what will be the general tone of Mauritian diplomacy, and how will the new government express its nonalignment?

[Answer] From our first few days in office, I had the opportunity to tell the countries represented in Mauritius--and all other countries as well--that Mauritius intends to be first and foremost a nonaligned country. I am well aware that such a concept may still give rise to suspicions of ulterior motives; however, when we, in the government, talk about nonalignment, we refer mainly to the charter which was that of the founders of the nonaligned movement.

Our role, and that of an increasing number of countries is to use all means available to us to restore the credibility of the nonaligned movement which, in the past, may have been weakened by certain actions.

"Today, Mauritius Has Recovered All Its International Prestige"

[Question] The prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, has recently made his the formula "Friends of all, enemies of none." In the complex world in which we live, is this realistic?

[Answer] Definitely! Our nonalignment is not only a political concept, it is also a security imperative. We are living in an extremely troubled area of the world, and the first role of diplomacy is to make sure that it exerts itself in such a manner as to guarantee and safeguard the security of the nation.

What are the facts concerning our area? The truth is that all military strategists in the world agree that, if there ever is a direct conflict between the great powers who fight to control the oceans (the sources of raw materials, the ports, the bases), it would start in the Indian Ocean! Therefore, our first duty is to practice a policy that will keep away from our shores the threats which this power struggle hangs over our region.

This is essentially the reason why we want, why we are determined to remain nonaligned. We know that if, tomorrow, directly or indirectly, Mauritius were to align itself on one or the other of the powers who fight for this region, the island and its population would inevitably become a target for one or the other superpower. I am personally very much concerned. I know that the lack of imagination of the previous government's diplomacy has caused threats to hang over us. If our former leaders had had a little imagination, they would never have allowed Diego Garcia to become what it is now! You can manipulate facts as much as you want, but the truth is that the creation of the Diego Garcia base has resulted in an accelerated militarization of the Indian Ocean. Because of their lack of imagination, a new situation has been created and has rapidly become a threat, first for us, but also for all the nations in this region. Therefore, we must avoid making the same mistake today. We intend to use all the means at our disposal to accomplish just that.

[Question] What are these means? Do you have a concrete approach to the definite problem of the Indian Ocean demilitarization?

[Answer] Obviously, Mauritius alone does not have the means of a policy which, in time, would obtain the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. But we note that international opinion, and especially public opinion in the countries of this region, has become aware of this problem. In New York, where the Conference on Disarmament has just taken place, there was a lot of talk about the Indian Ocean. By taking measures in this direction, all of us can make contributions, the sum total of which could result in a situation different from the present one. Let us not forget that, only a few years ago, the political configuration of this Ocean, with the 36 countries that border it, was entirely different.

It is also obvious that, to achieve this objective, we are dependent on the political will of the great powers, on a real desire on their part to understand the concern of the countries in this region. This is why the other side of our diplomacy will consist in maintaining a dialogue with these great powers. In the past few days, we have also demonstrated our desire for a dialogue and I think that, in spite of objective realities and in spite of the desire we have expressed on repeated occasions to fight for the removal of all bases from this region, we must preserve all possibilities of a dialogue with the countries which are at the root of its militarization.

This is why, bilaterally but also internationally, Mauritius will continue its dialogue with the great powers, without this dialogue ever in any way becoming a door open to compromises on what we feel is a vital necessity for the Mauritian people and for all the people of this region.

"Mauritian Diplomacy Is Coming Out of a Long Period of Hibernation"

[Question] One of the first intentions published in this respect concerns the possible closing down of Port-Louis to foreign warships. Are we to expect during the coming weeks a formal announcement of the new government to the effect that warships are no longer welcome in Mauritius?

[Answer] I have already touched on this question with diplomats of the countries involved and, in the name of the government, I have promised that this decision would not be made suddenly. In this respect, we have indicated that we cannot claim to be nonaligned and to work for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean and, at the same time, allow military activity to take place in our own port. To us, this is merely a question of being consistent and faithful to our principles!

But this problem, too, may be solved through dialogue. I have told the ambassadors of the countries involved that our government wished to give them a moral delay before the measure is applied. We do understand that, under the conditions which prevailed until now, the military activities of the countries involved were programmed a long time ahead and that any sudden decision on our part could cause problems, and we do not wish this to happen since some of these countries are friends of Mauritius.

Therefore, the closing down of Port-Louis to warships will take place in due time but, certainly, this decision will not be applied in the very near future. We wish to leave the countries involved enough time to redeploy their activities as they see fit, but we also do not wish this gesture to be interpreted as unfriendly or hostile. This is why we attach as much importance to how we do things as to what we do.

[Question] In this respect, will you, like Seychelles, adopt a policy of quotas concerning the number of ships, or will you ask for an end to warship calls?

[Answer] Our primary objective is to reduce the number of warship calls in Port-Louis and, in due time, to discontinue these calls altogether. For reasons of their own, the Seychellois have adopted a policy of quotas, and it

is possible that our policies will differ in this respect. I am now having discussions on this whole question, and I must say that our position has been understood by the foreign countries involved. I believe that they understand our concern about the situation in the Indian Ocean, and I have very much appreciated the manner in which the ambassadors of the countries involved have accepted the position of our government.

[Question] Concerning Diego Garcia more precisely, in your opinion, what can we hope, should the question be some day referred to the International Court of Justice in order to establish Mauritian sovereignty on the Chagos archipelago?

[Answer] No decision has yet really been made as to whether the question of Diego Garcia should be submitted to the International Court of Justice. We have already indicated that we might consider this possibility, but it may be premature to say that the government will definitely submit the question to the International Court. The Court cannot make a decision on a question unless there is a preliminary agreement between the parties to the dispute. We are not yet there. For the moment, our action is political and diplomatic.

The first thing to do in this respect is to dissipate the confusion which existed under the previous government on the actual position of Mauritius on the Diego Garcia question. We must now restate unequivocally where we actually stand on this question. We are doing just that now, first with the countries involved themselves, and also in international forums (OAU, UN, etc.). We must sort out the facts, and this is what we are doing now. When this is done, we will have to restate solemnly in all international forums the position of our government on this question. We will then proceed with all possible offensives: political, diplomatic, legal.

"Nothing Has Changed in Our Relations With the West. On the Contrary, Our Traditional Relations Will Be Revitalized"

[Question] In view of the new orientations which may affect Mauritian diplomacy, are there any reasons to fear a lack of cooperation from the West?

[Answer] I see no reason to fear any such thing. You see, we must now leave behind us the empty slogans which were poured out by some of our opponents during the election campaign. As far as Mauritius' international relations were concerned, they tried to associate us with an apocalyptic future. What do we have now? Today, we are receiving a visit from Mr Penne, a special advisor to President Mitterrand. Our opponents will note that Mr Penne is a Westerner, that until now he had come to all countries of our region and, in my opinion, must have used a lot of imagination to plan his trips so as not to land in Mauritius! We shall receive him this week. This is a gesture of a Western country toward the new Mauritian government, and we know that France has played, and is playing a fundamental part with respect to Mauritius' relations with the EEC. France is a faithful friend of Mauritius. It has been and still is. In spite of our opponents' declarations, I note that we are moving toward a strengthening of our relations with France. Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, the French minister of Cooperation, has already announced his visit for August.

As for Great-Britain, in August I shall be received in London by the British minister of Foreign Affairs. I have already received a very warm message from the British and our relations with London are extremely cordial.

With respect to the United States, I do not believe that disagreements which must exist between countries belonging to different regions and following different policies can constitute a handicap to traditional normal diplomatic relations.

Based on the assurances we have been given by Western countries represented in Mauritius, we have therefore no reason to fear a deterioration of our relations with the West. On the contrary, I have the feeling that, during the last months of the previous government, these relations had become more formal than real. Some unblocking has been taking place since 11 June and, as a result, cooperation projects which had been abandoned are now being re-examined. In the past few days, I have received the U.S. ambassador. He confirmed that there would be no change in the projects that had already been approved by the United States, that their goodwill toward Mauritius would continue, as would all the agreements which must be renewed by our two countries. In fact, new projects might be considered by Washington at the request of the Mauritian government.

The climate of the dialogue which is now beginning between the new government and foreign countries, therefore, indicates that, far from deteriorating, Mauritius' relations with the West will, on the contrary, be revitalized.

"Privileged Relations With India and France, For Sentimental Reasons and Because We Understand Each Other"

[Question] The prime minister, Mr Jugnauth, recently stated that India and France would play a 'privileged' part in Mauritian diplomacy. What do you understand by 'privileged' part?

[Answer] I believe that historical and cultural traditions that, quite obviously, are--and will remain--strong with countries like India or France will have the effect that our relations are on a different plane than with countries who are just as much our friends but whose traditions and cultures differ from ours. There again, facts verify these affinities. In spite of her very busy schedule, Mrs Indira Gandhi will come to Mauritius on 23-26 August. This is the sign of a relation which, certainly, is a political relation but also a sentimental relation.

Historical, cultural, geographic realities are such that, indeed, in the case of India, we can talk of "privileged" relations. This is of course a fundamental fact. There remains to be seen if this de facto privileged relation will result in a privileged political relation; this is another side of the question.

I told you before how much we value France's friendship. It is also quite obvious that new links will be created between socialist France and socialist Mauritius.

Of course, in spite of these privileged relations with India and France, we shall preserve our full independence and there might be situations where

differences of opinion would arise, but this in no way alters the fact that a given country and another can understand each other well.

"Our Ambassadors Will Be Competent, Honest, Worthy Men Who Will Do Honor To Our Country Overseas"

[Question] What place can we expect neighbor islands to take in the heart and the diplomacy of the new regime?

[Answer] A very large place! Both for sentimental reasons and for our own best interest. There again, unfounded accusations have been made against us because of our position with respect to regional cooperation.

Diplomacy cannot claim to be efficient if it cannot achieve at least neighborly relations. Our first concern is to establish neighborly relations with the countries of the region. Second, we have seen how, in the past few years, world problems have become regional problems. We have witnessed the rise in the world of groups of countries formed on the basis of geographic realities, who want their views to be heard by the international community as a whole. This is a natural and logical phenomenon. Is not Europe itself the expression of such a regionalization? The same phenomenon is taking place in Latin America, in the Arab countries as a whole, in Africa; in spite of failures, are we not witnessing attempts by African countries at regrouping themselves in Western, Eastern, Southern Africa?

I believe, therefore, that the islands of the Indian Ocean have a number of realities in common, because of our isolation from the large international centers, because of a certain Indian Ocean culture. It is obvious that all of these countries are concerned by the political problems of the Indian Ocean (such as militarization or supplies). The same base causes the same threats to hang over several countries. We can also say that, for simple reasons of economy of scale, it would obviously be logical to attempt to regroup these countries, so as to achieve a better coordination of our industrial and trade policies, which would benefit all of us. Considering the stage of industrial development reached by Mauritius, we could even say that such cooperation would benefit Mauritius more than other countries. This is why one of the main lines of our policy will be to work toward a coordination of efforts in this region. In doing so, of course, we must in no way get involved in questions which are a matter for the foreign policies of the various states. Each state chooses the way best adapted to its needs and circumstances. We, in Mauritius, have chosen a way that does us honor and that we intend to maintain, although this is not a reflection on the way chosen by the other islands.

Therefore, we can see that such cooperation would offer many advantages and, during my term in office, I plan to work actively during the years to come to create the Mascarene Common Market which has been so much talked about and now has a chance of succeeding.

[Question] Could such a cooperation and coordination also be extended to matters of defense?

[Answer] The defense of the national territory falls more within the province of the Cabinet as a whole; but, certainly, this question will have to be discussed soon, when we take the measures that any state must take to ensure the defense of its territory. Our primary concern will be to ensure the full independence of Mauritius from any other country.

[Question] Let us talk about foreign assistance. How do you conceive assistance to Mauritius as a whole? What are your reasons to hope for increased assistance from the outside world, as you gave to understand during the campaign?

[Answer] The visits we are expecting during the next few days will already make it possible to clear the ground and to know in more details what possibilities are open to us.

We are considering a philosophy, a practice of foreign assistance different from those practiced or advocated by the previous government. We know that prospects for assistance from the EEC and from a number of organizations exist; they are available and should be taken advantage of, but we must have a development philosophy that can be integrated to what is already available. Our government's program, the Queen's speech mention a number of development projects for which financing might be easier to obtain than for some of the prestige projects for which the previous government used to solicit foreign aid. We also know that Mrs Gandhi's visit in August will make it possible to revive the joint Indian-Mauritian commission and resume the financing of interesting industrial projects, joint ventures, projects for small village industries, expert studies, etc. In this respect, some revival can be expected soon. The visits of Messrs Penne and Cot will have the same effect. Already tomorrow, I intend to discuss with Mr Penne a number of specific projects. We have every reason to believe that, after a period which the Mauritians may think a bit long, but which is necessary, financing will be found for a number of projects.

With respect to other regions of the world, especially the Arab world, possibilities exist that the previous government did not know how to use. I have discussed this question with the Libyan minister of Foreign Affairs and he mentioned the projects suggested by Libya to the previous government, especially the exportation of Mauritian tea to Libya, the exportation of sugar, the financing of certain industrial projects, possible importations of Libyan oil. These are projects which remained pending for stupidly partisan reasons, and which will be revived soon. This week, I shall receive a visit from the Algerian ambassador to Madagascar.

In addition, in view of the South African situation, Australia will represent an important alternative and will be called to play an important part to alleviate Mauritian dependency from South Africa. I am expecting an envoy from the Australian government next week, for in-depth conversations.

We do think that relations between Mauritius and Australia could be much more extensive than what they have been until now. South Africa is a country which has known how to use for its own ends the fact that relations with the West were not established on a basis that would make an extension possible. For reasons both political and of self-interest, we are going to work actively to establish more extensive political relations with Australia. That country, too, has shown a desire for an opening toward its immediate neighbors and, beyond them, toward the Indian Ocean and Africa. The Mauritian government has proved unable to use the Australian potentialities and it may also be true that, for a long time, Australia remained self-centered. But all this is changing now. Because of its industrial development, because of its position as a medium-size power in the region, Australia is decided to achieve an opening. It is for us now to take advantage of this desire. We shall certainly do so and we will see Australia play an important part in our diplomacy in order to reduce Mauritius' dependency from South Africa.

There is a whole range of prospects! At this stage, I cannot of course say how much assistance we can expect; it is for the ministries of Finances and Planning to do so. My job as foreign minister is to create a climate favorable to the satisfactory progress and realization of assistance projects. Already, the Mauritians are witnessing the end of the island's diplomatic hibernation. Within a few days, the country has started living again and arousing interest overseas. Mauritius is finding again its international prestige.

[Question] What is your approach to the question of Mauritian embassies overseas?

[Answer] One of the first measures we took in this respect was to recall our ambassadors abroad, ambassadors who had been appointed for political considerations. In any self-respecting democratic country, when a new government comes into office to apply a new policy, it must be given a free hand to do so with new men. In the case of Mauritius, the labor government could think of nothing better than renewing the contracts of foreign-service diplomats for periods which, in some cases, extend to 1987. As a result, we find ourselves in an absurd and unacceptable situation: a government whose mandate was not renewed took the liberty of renewing the mandates of those it had appointed. This is an abuse of power which is characteristic of the former regime.

This is why we are taking the necessary steps to change the law so that no government will be authorized to appoint anybody for periods extending beyond the government's own mandate. This will be a new demonstration of our respect for democracy. After receiving a mandate for a given period, we should not abuse this mandate to give those whom we have appointed a term in office much longer than ours.

But the labor government did worse: the contracts of the appointed diplomats provide that, should a new government wish to terminate their contracts, it would have to pay them the full amount of what they would have received for the full contract period (salaries plus indemnities). This, of course, is unacceptable and the government intends to change the law quickly so as to disengage ourselves from the commitments made by the previous government and to install the new diplomats we wish to appoint to apply our new policies.

I have already received the ambassadors and have informed them of the decision of the government. In the coming days, the government will probably announce a few appointments to our embassies. The Mauritians have already seen what criteria we apply in appointing men to important positions. They have seen the town councils. Everywhere, we want the men most suitable for the job we have in mind. To our embassies, we shall appoint men who can explain and apply our new policies, who understand what we want to do, men with a firm hand, worthy and perfectly honest (for our embassies have too often been nests of ill-used privileges and abuses). Also, we want working and functional embassies with competent men who know their field. We are going to rely to a very large extent on our embassies in our efforts of industrial, commercial and touristic promotion. We have no use for the proponents of continuous cocktail parties (although these are sometimes part of an ambassador's obligations). We are going to appoint men who will do honor to their country and who will worthily and intelligently represent Mauritius in the countries to which they will be appointed. This will soon be seen in the days and weeks to come.

9294

CSO: 4719/1180

MINISTERIAL MISSIONS SUPERVISING SETTING UP OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 7 Jun 82 p 4

[Text] The ministerial missions supervising the setting up of village development councils are continuing their work in the country's hinterland. Mr Mamane Oumarou, minister for youth, sports and culture, is criss-crossing the Niamey region, while Mr Amadou Fifi Maiga, state secretary for the interior, deals with the Tahoua region. Mr Brah Mahamane, the planning minister, finished his tour of the Agadez region yesterday.

For ten days, the planning minister met with the people of this region, to find out what has been achieved and what remains to be done in the context of setting up village development councils.

In the same vein, it should be noted that El Hadj Mai Lawan made a five day tour of the Aguié canton. This tour, which was also within the framework of setting up village councils, took him to 30 villages. He was accompanied on his trip by various technical heads and representatives of Samariya [expansion unknown] and the Development Company.

For his part, the sub-prefect of Guidan-Roundji, Mr Ango Maikassoua, also made a tour of his district. The subprefect and his aides criss-crossed the canton's 67 villages, according to sources in Guidan-oumdji and Chadakori.

Independently of its mission of supervising the work involved in setting up village development councils, the subprefectorial delegation consulted the people it visited in order to ascertain together those mistakes liable to hinder the preliminary efforts to make the public aware of the program.

In light of already completed works, the very methodical proceedings made at the village level should be noted. Thus, in each of the identical village meetings, the members and president of the delegation were first introduced, as were the essential goals and objectives targeted by the mission. The presence of members of different rural organizations had to be carefully managed. Discussions regarding the new course of Nigerien development were begun, and the honest selection of representatives to the village development councils was witnessed. Finally, all the different questions concerning the development actions which will take place on the sites were dealt with and of course put into perspective.

9939

CSO: 4719/1108

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLED

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 15 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] By Decree No 82-85 PCMS, dated 14 June 1982, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Niger is reorganized as follows:

- President of the Supreme Military Council, Chief of State, Minister of National Defense, Minister of Interior: Col Seyni Kountche;
- Minister of Finance: Quartermaster Moussa Rondi;
- Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs: Maj Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou;
- Minister of National Education: Capt Mamane Ousseini;
- Minister of Plan: Annou Mahamane;
- Minister of Posts and Telecommunications: Brah Mamane;
- Minister of Information: Garba Sidikou;
- Minister of Hydrology and Environment: Yahaya Tounkara;
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: Daouda Diallo;
- Minister of Justice: Mahamadou Halilou;
- Minister of Civil Service and Labor: Issoufou Mayaki;
- Minister of Mines and Industries: Oumar Diallo;
- Minister of Commerce and Transportation: Hamid Algabid;
- Minister of Rural Development: Dr Ari Toubou Ibrahim;
- Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture: Oumarou Mamane;
- Minister of Higher Education and Research: Illa Maikassoua;

--Minister of Public Works and Urbanism: Moumouni Yacouba;

--Secretary of State for National Education: Modieli Amadou;

--Secretary of State for Interior: Amadou Fiti Maiga;

--Secretary of State for Plan: Al-Housseini Mouloul.

This decree, which repeals Decree No 81-138 PCMS, dated 31 August 1981, supplemented by Decree No 81-196 PCMS, dated 9 November 1981, will be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Niger.

By Decree No 10 PCMS/MDN/SAG dated 14 June 1982, Maj Youssoufa Amadou Maiga is appointed commander of the National Gendarmerie, with the rank and privileges of Commander, in replacement of Maj Ausseil Pierre.

All previous orders to the contrary are rescinded, particularly those contained in Decree No 27 CMS/MDN/SGJM dated 3 September 1981.

This decree, which is effective on the date of its signature, will be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Niger.

8143

CSO: 4719/1129

BRIEFS

FRENCH MISSILE PATROL VESSELS--Three missile-launching patrol boats, P 101 Siri, P 102 Ayam and P 103 Ekun, departed Cherbourg on 9 May 1982 and arrived in Lagos on 28 May 1982. They were not equipped with their missiles. [Excerpt] [Paris LA NOUVELLE REVUE MARITIME in French Jun-Jul 82 p 122]

LOAN FOR SOKKOTO STATE--Yesterday the government of Sokkoto got a 96 million naira loan from the World Bank. Sokkoto state governor Dr. Garba Nadama signed the loan agreement on behalf of the government. [Excerpt] [Kaduna GASKIYA TA FI KWABO in Hausa 15 Jul 82 p 2]

FULANI URGED TO REGISTER--Last week, Alhaji Shehu Abubakar, secretary-general for public relations of the Nigerian nomads' "Miyatti Allah" organization, called on all Fulani, men and women, in Nigeria, to go register at a polling place. [Excerpt] [Kaduna GASKIYA TA FI KWABO in Hausa 15 Jul 82 p 7]

CSO: 4797/22

CANADIAN WHEAT DONATION

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 4 Jun 82 p 4

[Excerpt] Yesterday morning at Pier 8, Mr Souleymane Ndiaye, Senegal's commissioner for food assistance, accepted a donation of 3,083 tons of wheat from Canada.

This donation, presented by Mr Marc Perron, Canada's ambassador to Senegal, is worth nearly 250 million CFA francs, and brings the total amount of Canadian donations to our country for fiscal year 1981-1982 to 8,728 tons of wheat, worth 750 million CFA francs. The wheat will be sold on the local market and the proceeds will help finance development projects.

Marc Perron stressed this judicious use of food assistance, expressing the complete support of his country and its pleasure in "sharing its national production with a friendly country." Canada's ambassador then expressed the wish to see such ceremonies increase in the future, before he revealed that Canadian and Senegalese experts will soon begin talks in order to negotiate the food assistance protocol for 1982-1983.

For his part, Souleymane Ndiaye, commissioner for food assistance, emphasized his pleasure in receiving this gift from Canada, "whose assistance is always geared to our needs."

Ndiaye noted that Senegal, which produces no wheat, but instead imports 100 to 110 tons of it each year, is currently striving toward self-sufficiency in food, with the production of rice, corn and millet.

9939

CSO: 4719/1108

EDITORIAL PRAISES ECOWAS AS VEHICLE FOR FUTURE OF AFRICA

Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 1 Jun 82 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Assiongbor Folivi: "ECOWAS: The Beginning of Reality"]

[Text] As we approach the 21st century, Africa is trying by every means possible to assert its emancipation.

But quite a few of the colloquia and seminars taking place in African capitals pass the critical economic needs by and go down the primrose path of political arcana, becoming lost in disunity, suspiciousness and byzantine disputes.

Fortunately, the conference just held under the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] banner at Cotonou escaped that sterile mold. For by its endorsement of ECOWAS's continued advance, that fifth regular conference has laid a cornerstone in the building of the Africa of tomorrow.

Actually, ever since 1975, ECOWAS--with its 150 million inhabitants and 6.2 million square km of land--has played a key role in that effort, fashioning and promulgating the machinery appropriate to the economic, commercial, social and cultural interdependence of the peoples of our subregion and to their independence of the outside world.

Given the persistence of the broad features of the old international economic order, as evidenced by the decline in the prices of our raw materials and deterioration of the terms of trade between the industrialized and developing countries, and given the linguistic, administrative, geographic and economic barriers imposed by colonialism with contempt for the natural affinities of the African peoples, regional economic groupings (of which ECOWAS is for the time being the only viable example in Africa) are vindicating the determination of our heads of state to create a united front to confront the economic problems we face on this continent.

In the very near future, people and goods will circulate freely among all [member] states; every citizen of ECOWAS will be able to live and work wherever he wants; the states will be linked by modern telecommunications; livestock breeding centers and joint exploitation of energy resources will make it possible to achieve both food and energy self-sufficiency.

The Africa of tomorrow, thanks to its own potentialities, will thus be able to raise the standard of living of its people.

Although all previous attempted groupings in the 1960's failed, ECOWAS is betting that Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema's Togo and Nigeria did the right thing by bowing to their peers.

The many concrete and credible results of the fifth conference, achieved by hard work in a spirit of reason and calm, are so many dynamic factors for pooling the great potential of the 16 states of the subregion.

The important decisions taken by the heads of state at Cotonou must be seen in that light, especially the decision to proceed with immediate construction of the headquarters of the cooperation fund for equalization and development, the linchpin institution of the community.

The political will shown by the heads of state to build up ECOWAS institutions, like that manifested at all their summits, may well be dismissed as "dreaming" by Africa's enemies, but for us this is a dream bearing the seeds of the future.

It is often said that if one dreams alone it is only a dream. But when people dream together it is the beginning of a reality. ECOWAS is the beginning of a reality, the debut of the Africa of tomorrow.

9516

CSO: 4719/1065

AGBESSI BUAGBE ARTICLE ON PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 8 Jun 82 p 3

[Article by Agbessi Buagbe: "We Are Firmly Committed to the Construction of a New Togo"]

[Text] Social justice--the foundation of an egalitarian society and an agent of national concord and unity--is a living reality of General Eyadema's policy. The principle of social equality and basic human rights is recognized by the Part as an indispensable condition for peace, this cherished peace to which the Togolese of the New Market attach enormous value after having been deprived of it by preceding regimes.

As a guarantee of a people's happiness and of a country's development, peace is a primary objective of the Rally of the Togolese People which is sparing no effort to persevere it for the benefit of all Togolese. The scope of the measures which were taken on Wednesday 2 June by the Council of Ministers expanded to include Central Committee members, once again confirms the determination of the Party and of General Eyadema's government to make Togo a haven of peace, to improve the population's living conditions, and to consolidate national concord and solidarity. These measures deal with the marketing of food products and the reform of the pague trade.

The objective being pursued by the Party and the government is to enable all Togolese to have indispensable articles at reasonable prices, in particular food and clothing products. According to the measures taken last week in the Council of Ministers, the sales price of food products throughout the entire national territory has been set as follows:

--corn or millet: Fr 7,000 per 10-kg sack;

--beans--Fr 16,000 per 100-kg sack.

These prices, which henceforth put cereals within the reach of all purses, have only been possible thanks to the large-scale action conducted by the Togolese government and people within the framework of the policy of self-sufficiency in food advocated by the Eyadema regime. Thanks to this policy, our storehouses are overflowing; TOGOGRAIN, the national office of purchasing, conservation and marketing has been improved; a National Solidarity Fund intended to support TOGOGRAIN's action has been created. The spontaneity of

voluntary contributions to this fund proves how conscious the Togolese are of the problems affecting its improved situation.

Pagnes: Posting Prices

The wording of these measures taken in the Council of Ministers on the marketing of cereals and on the reform of the pague trade is clear and precise and cannot lend itself to any error of interpretation whatsoever. Thus, any failure to respect these measures can only be done in bad faith.

In this connection, on the subject of pagnes it will be noted with particular interest that the importer or wholesaler must henceforth sell retail in his shop. The opposite practice which was current and which gave a certain category of individuals the right of monopoly over the goods was responsible for the rises in price which characterized the pague market.

It will also be noted with interest that all dealers in the markets are required to post sales prices clearly and visibly on the fabrics. The strict application of this measure intended to prevent fraud will undoubtedly guarantee the success of all these decisions. Scrupulous and regular auditing at these levels by the competent departments is thus of prime importance.

But we, the militants of the Rally of the Togolese people, must not wait for audits to conform to the decisions made by our Party.

The true RPT militant proves himself by the respect he fosters for Party ideals, the faith he puts in the New Market policy, his effective contribution to national construction, his behavior in view of the decisions made by the Party or the government on the people's behalf. It is not enough to say that one is a militant: it must be proved by acts consistent with the Party's political line. This political line essentially has the objective of peace, national development and the people's happiness. If we are true militants, our acts and ideas should always tend in the direction of harmonious construction of the nation. Cheating and dishonest practices are flagrantly inconsistent with the Party's teachings and do not promote national development. We must become acutely aware of the necessity of preserving our dignity and our pride in belonging to the great Party of Public Safety which is the Rally of the Togolese People.

Thanks to this Party and its founding president, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, we are firmly committed to the construction of a new Togo with a new way of approaching Togolese problems which has well defined dynamics: instilling in all sons of this country confidence in place of mistrust, esteem in place of hatred and solidarity in place of divisions.

With respect to the pagnes, the Council decided:

--to recognize three operators: the importer or wholesaler, the wholesaler dealing in small quantities, and the retail dealer;

--the importer or wholesaler is henceforth required to sell retail in his shop;

--with respect to monopolies, the quantities reserved for approved wholesalers dealing in small quantities cannot exceed 50 percent of the order;

--the accrued authorized margin of expenses and profits granted at the level of retail prices on the fabrics will not exceed 45 percent of their import value;

--all dealers are required to post sales prices clearly and visibly on the fabrics;

--wholesalers dealing in small quantities in a prefecture will have to be from this prefecture.

9380

CSO: 4719/1106

BRIEFS

COCOA PRICES--By a signed decree by the president of the republic, the closing date for the season for purchasing cocoa from the main 1981/82 crop has been set for 22 May 1982. In another connection, by a decree signed by the president of the republic, the opening date of the season for purchasing cocoa from the intermediate 1982 crop has been set for 7 June 1982. In conformity with the packaging specifications purchase prices for cocoa bean producers have been set as follows for the different grades at all trading points: high grade and regular cocoa: Fr 225 per kilogram; borderline cocoa: Fr 50 per kilogram. Through application of the marketing costs schedule, the values to be billed to the Togo Agricultural Products Office [OPAT] have been set at CFA 248,197 per ton for superior and regular cocoa and CRA 64,403 per ton for borderline cocoa. Total supplementary transportation costs that OPAT will reimburse to approved purchasers have been set as follows: Litime Region: Fr 2,000 per ton; Akposso-Nord Region: Fr 1,300 per ton; Akposso-Plateau Region: Fr 1,300 per ton; Akebou District: Fr 1,300 per ton; Pagala Region: Fr 1,300 per ton; Dayes Region: Fr 1,300 per ton. The reimbursement of the costs depends on the presentation of packing tickets relating to this transportation. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 10 Jun 82 pp 1, 4] 9380

SHEA PRICES--By a signed decree by the president of the republic, the opening date of the season for purchasing shea from the 1982/83 crop has been set for 22 June 1982. The purchase prices for shea nuts from the indicated crop has been set at Fr 45 per kilogram at all trading points. Through application of the marketing costs schedule, the values to be billed to the Togo Agricultural Products Office (OPAT) has been set at Fr 60,659 per ton. The total supplementary transportation costs that OPAT will reimburse to approved purchasers have been set as follows: Tone Prefecture: Fr 5,880 per ton; Oti Prefecture: Fr 4,440 per ton; Bassar Prefecture: Fr 1,180 per ton; Keran prefecture: Fr 2,660 per ton; Doufelgou: Fr 2,120 per ton; Koza Prefecture: Fr 1,560 per ton; Binahh Prefecture: Fr 2,280 per ton; Assoli Prefecture: Fr 1,040 per ton; Nyala Prefecture: Fr 800 per ton. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 10 Jun 82 p 4] 9380

at 141 Avenue de la Liberation in Lome. He also said that other outlets have also been established in the community centers of Adjangbakome, Tokoin and Tokoin-Casablanca, not to mention the Togblekope outlet. In the interior of the country, Major Walla said, commodities will be available for purchase at all the regional and prefectural capitals, including Vogan, Notse, Atakpame, Kpalime, Sokode, Kara, Bassar, Mango and Dapaong. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 4 Jun 82 p 1] 9516

SAUDI PRINCE'S VISIT--A Saudi prince, His Highness Muhammad al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, president of the oversight council of "Dar al-Mal al-Islami Trust, has been in our country since yesterday afternoon. He was met at Lome-Tokoin International Airport by Mr Tete Tevi-Benissan, member of the Political Bureau and minister of finance and economy. Asked the purpose of his visit to our country, his highness told the press that it was a part of the continuing dialogue with Togolese authorities on economic matters and said he would hold talks that might lead to the creation of banking and trust companies to support the country's development effort. "My trip," he stressed, "will help me understand your country better." As president of the oversight council of Dar-al-Mal al-Islami Trust, his highness talked about that institution, which came out of the work of the Taif Islamic Conference and which operates on Islamic principles. It organizes companies along the lines of the Islamic economic system and invests its funds in developing countries, to the profit of the latter as well as the shareholders of the newly established companies. It is a multinational institution and has shareholders in all Muslim countries. With respect to areas in which our country and Dar al-Mal al-Islami Trust will work together, his highness Al-Faysal Al Sa'ud said that these will be determined after studies in the field and will take into account the potential our country offers. The Saudi prince also stressed that our country has much potential, and it was to study this potential in depth that he made his visit to Togo. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 4 Jun 82 p 1] 9516

PROHIBITION ON GRAIN WHOLESALING--For the entire population to benefit from the collective effort, wholesale distribution of foodstuffs is prohibited. These products will be sold retail, in other words by the kilogram. No buyer will be allowed to have more than one bag. These instructions were released yesterday to the press by Major Walla, head of TOGOGRAIN, the national agency responsible for the purchase, storage and marketing of food products, following some important decisions taken Wednesday by the Council of Ministers (expanded to include the Central Committee) on the subject of grain marketing. Major Walla said speculators will never be permitted to buy up supplies at TOGOGRAIN's outlets and redistribute them at a profit. He called on one and all to scrupulously follow regulations governing purchases out of a sense of civic duty. The head of TOGOGRAIN also reminded the people that outlets for the sale of foodstuffs (corn, millet and kidney beans) are now located at the former TOGOGRAIN headquarters on Boulevard Circulaire and at the new national office

CSO: 4719/1065

SEVERE ECONOMIC MEASURES GAIN APPROVAL OF IMF

Paris LE MONDE in French 23-24 May 82 p 8

[Article by Jean-Pierre Langelier]

[Text] The consultative group on Uganda (which comprises the representatives of 10 countries, most of the European, including France, Great Britain, the FRG, Denmark and Italy, as well as the United States, Japan and several European and international assistance organizations), meeting in Paris under the auspices of the World Bank, completed its work this week, emphasizing the participants' resolve to contribute to recovery efforts for this country, whose financial needs have been estimated at \$1.4 billion over a 3-year period.

The communique said that certain donors stressed that the success of the recovery program depends on the ability of the Ugandan Government to preserve law and order and improve the internal security situation. The text says that the Ugandan delegation, headed by Mr Abraham Waligo, minister of housing and urban development, reaffirmed his government's commitment to democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

The figure of \$1.4 billion covers all of Uganda's financial needs, including balance of payments support and the financing of projects called for in the 1982-1984 recovery plan totaling \$736 million, 80 percent of which (\$556 million) is needed in hard currency. Emphasis was put on rapid-disbursing aid, as well as on technical expertise.

IDA [International Development Association], a subsidiary of the World Bank, has just provided a \$35-million assistance package for industrial reconstruction.

The consultative group will meet again in 18 months to review progress in implementation of the Ugandan recovery plan.

Kampala--"Kwisa" in Swahili means "It's all gone...there is nothing left." For years, in the stores and markets of Kampala, it was a byword for scarcity. For several months now it has been heard much less frequently, for the markets are once again well provisioned, and the shelves in some small stores are overflowing with consumer products...more or less current ones: sugar, salt and soap, but also cassettes from Hong Kong and champagne from France. There are no more gasoline lines, and the public transport system is functioning almost normally. This renewal of the urban economy, while fragile and largely artificial, has not passed unnoticed in this capital city that has long been anemic.

The resurgence of trade is a result of the shock treatment administered last June. At the urging of the International Monetary Fund [IMF], President Obote adopted a series of severe financial and budgetary measures: floating the currency exchange rate, eliminating price controls, reducing public outlays, heavy emphasis on investment and fiscal reform. This reform policy got quick results. The Ugandan shilling, which until then was excessively "swollen," lost 90 percent of its nominal value.¹ The gap between the official rate and the parallel market rate has become considerably smaller. The price of basic necessities shot up quickly and then began a gradual decline. The black market disappeared, except for some spare parts. The butchers' stalls and shop windows filled up.

Most importantly, the IMF was satisfied and came to the rescue. It promised \$197 million in balance of payments assistance stretched out over a 13-month period. The first two installments were disbursed in June and November 1981 and the third at the end of April. This money made it possible to settle the bills owing to the oil companies operating in Uganda, whose purchases had declined by 50 percent in a single year. IMF experts assigned to the Ministry of Finance and the central bank are keeping watch to make sure the aid money is well spent.²

Uganda is also benefiting from other assistance programs. The World Bank and its subsidiaries will be loaning \$135 million for the purchase of capital goods. The European Economic Community [EEC], which has "suspended" its aid under the Amin Dada dictatorship, will provide some \$220 million, primarily for the benefit of the agricultural sector and mostly in the form of grant aid, between now and 1984. The primary sources of financing are India, Great Britain and above all the FRG. The Bonn government, which under pressure from the Bundestag is exercising increased vigilance with regard to human rights violations, might still reduce its assistance if repression continued unchecked. Several Western countries have either cancelled Uganda's indebtedness to them or--as in the case of France--rescheduled it. Nevertheless, Uganda's public debt remains huge--more than

1. \$1.00 U.S. = 86 shillings

2. The clandestine opposition claims in its monthly bulletin, with statistics to back it up, that \$31 million were given to Zambia to pay back a debt contracted by Mr Obote's party to finance the December 1980 legislative elections.

\$700 million--and the debt service alone absorbs nearly two-thirds of the country's hard currency earnings.

Ridiculously Low Purchasing Power

Having shown its good faith by carrying out the wishes of the IMF, the Ugandan Government believes it now deserves sympathetic consideration from the money lenders and investors. With the help of the Commonwealth Secretariat, it has put together a short-term economic recovery program (July 1982-1984) that contains 80 projects and gives unflinching priority to the productive sector. According to the experts, this recovery plan is realistic, for it aims first of all at rapidly obtaining hard currency by expansion of export crops. Almost one-third of the financing is earmarked for the agricultural sector.

For the moment, exports do not even cover even 60 percent of the import bill. The tax advantages the government has offered have not sufficed to draw in investors. Despite the symbolic value of the return of the two great Indian families--Mehta and Madhvani--which have started on rehabilitation of their old sugar plantations, only an infinitesimally small minority of the 40,000 Asians thrown out of Uganda 10 years ago have returned to the country. Some came back "just to look" and quickly departed again. The rest just drew a veil over the past. Local entrepreneurs, most of them hostile to the regime, are still standoffish. The industrial sector consists of only a few factories, which in many cases are "running" at a crawl. Fuel consumption, a good indicator of economic activity, is lower than it was in 1979.

Most of the commercial crops--tea, cotton and tobacco--show few signs of recovery, despite a significant increase in the price paid to the peasant grower. Cotton production has reached the lowest level in 10 years. However, the government can take a measure of satisfaction in two respects. First, Uganda has once again become self-sufficient in corn (according to information provided by the EEC, the surplus should approach 20,000 tons this year). The Ugandan soil is so fertile that it is not a question of [crop] performance but simply of a return to normal. Second--and this is more important, coffee production, which provides the country with 95 percent of its exchange earnings, is increasing rapidly. The increase has been so great that for the 1981-1982 season it has achieved a 40-percent increase in its world market quota. This boom would be even more profitable for the state if the latter were able to reduce the portion of the crop--estimated at 20 percent--lost to contraband trade, most often via military vehicles. Of course, Gen Oyite Ojok, the army chief of staff, is also the president of the Coffee Marketing Office...

It will be many long months before the average Ugandan benefits from an eventual recovery of production. His purchasing power is ridiculously low. The minimum wage is equivalent to the price of three bottles of local beer... It is difficult even for a high-ranking official to "make do" for more than a week on his salary alone. So, one gets by as one can. One takes several jobs, one skips dinner--a handful of peanuts takes its place--and one makes

sure, when the weekend comes, to go back to one's family village to stock up on clusters of banana plantains, the main dietary staple in its pureed form, "matoke." Certainly, the shelves of Kampala stores are filled with luxury products bought by local businessmen in Bahrain or elsewhere with dollars in overseas accounts. But should one be surprised that customers are so few and far between?

9516

CSO: 4719/1028

BRAZILIAN TECHNICIANS STUDY FEASIBILITY OF ETHANOL PRODUCTION

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 4-6 Jun 82 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] The minister of rural development, Squadron Chief Andre Roch Compaore, returned from Bobo-Dioulasso on Sunday, 30 May, after a working visit to the Hauts-Bassins Department where he observed on-site the activities of some of the services attached to his ministry.

During his on-site visit, the minister of rural development also chaired a joint meeting of Brazilian businessmen and Voltan technicians at the facilities of the West Volta Livestock Raising Project in Bobo.

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain a status report on the sugar sorghum growing project, which is designed to permit production of ethanol on the one hand and grain for human consumption on the other.

The meeting produced several conclusions. Thus the Voltan group committed itself within the framework of the project to designate an authorized spokesman as yet unnamed, while the Brazilian companies involved will set up a group which will deal with the Voltan party.

The project proper will be implemented in three phases: the first phase relates to general studies; the second phase concerns the feasibility study, and a study of agricultural and industrial facilities; and the third phase will involve mainly technical assistance operations to be supplied to the project.

Between now and then, the Voltan government is to start negotiations with the Brazilian government to produce an overall draft cooperation agreement.

8143
CSO: 4719/1132

CNES TO PRESENT SEMINAR ON REMOTE SENSING

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 7 Jun 82 p 10

[Text] The National Space Studies Center (CNES) will hold a regional seminar at the facilities of the Ouagadougou Advanced Polytechnical Institute from 7 to 10 June 1982 for the purpose of showing earth images of the kind to be transmitted by the French SPOT [earth observation] satellite in 1984. These images will be simulated from a specially equipped airplane and will be taken over different regions of Upper Volta, Mali, Niger and Senegal.

This seminar will bring together representatives of most of the 24 countries in the recovery zone of the receiving station.

A large French representation, made up of personnel from the GDTA [Group for Development of Aerospace Remote Sensing], CNES and the Ministry of Cooperation and Development, will also be present.

After the official opening of the seminar by the representative of the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Urbanism and the Minister in charge of Remote Sensing, and the greeting of participants by Jean-Pierre Ouedraogo, director general of the CRTP [Ouagadougou Regional Center for Remote Sensing], the activities will focus on the following topics: rural and agricultural development, geology, cartography and hydrology.

These four major topics for study will be taken up on the one hand during plenary sessions for discussion of the results of the simulations by the appropriate African and French researchers, and on the other hand during discussion workshops.

The French SPOT satellite represents in fact a decisive stage in the application of space technologies to economic development. Thanks to the sharpness of this satellite's images, which are well suited to the cartographic characteristics and needs of the African countries, it should make a significant contribution to appreciable improvement in the inventory of natural resources.

Among the principal applications already envisaged are the complete renovation and improvement of topographic maps, inventory and forecast of crops, as well as their health surveillance (drought, diseases...), cartography and

surveillance of natural pasture lands and forestry resources, etc. As regards water resources, detailed information about the hydrographic network is also expected with an acceleration of research on the sites of dams. With respect to geology, SPOT is expected to help refine cartography and to discover new deposits of raw materials or precious minerals.

Organized 2 years before the launching of the satellite, this regional seminar on SPOT data should permit indoctrination of the future user organizations and prepare advance training of the African engineers and technicians who will daily use the images from space beginning in 1984.

As the end of the seminar, a number of conclusions and recommendations will be issued by the participants, particularly as regards the need for the West African region to be equipped with a station to directly receive the SPOT images at the CRTO.

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END