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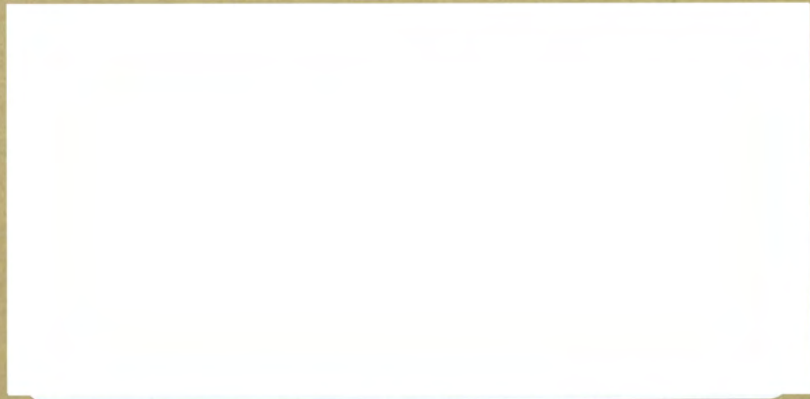


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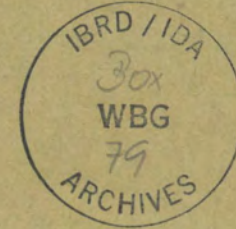
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Danquah, Paul - ARTICLES and Speeches (1969-1972)



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DANQUAH

VOICE OF AMERICA
(African Service)



(F) Chron.

D R A F T
J. Martin/bb
Administration
December 29, 1969

New Year's Discussion Programme

SPEAKER:

Good evening and welcome to a new year and the new decade of the 1970's. Seated around the table with me are three gentlemen with a good deal of interest and knowledge in African affairs. For the next twenty minutes or so we will be exploring some of the major needs and concerns of the continent for the coming year. Now to meet our panel. First the Ambassador to the United States from Sierra Leone, "John AKAR "; and from Ghana, "PAUL DANQUAH of the World Bank"; and from the United States, "Walter Gordon, of the Baltimore Sun".

Gentlemen, before beginning our panel discussion, during the past few months we have taken the Voice of America microphone to obtain comments from some of Africa's distinguished leaders to see what they feel is Africa's greatest need for this coming year. This is what Prime Minister K. A. Busia had to say:

and
"Our greatest single need I think, what binds the various states in the OAU together most strongly, is a two-fold interest which we share in common. The first is a common desire for economic development for improving our standards of living. We are aware, if you like, of a common poverty, and the greatest need is for us to combine and to see in our own situation what we can do to help one another in breaking down our barriers. In West Africa, where we are trying to develop a greater economic cooperation to see how we can rationalize the industry and how we can exchange and trade amongst ourselves more effectively and better than we have done. The second interest of course is the interest of race relations. All Africa, I think, is concerned in getting

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the world to recognize that there is no inequality in our common humanity and therefore the injustices and the discrimination practiced in various parts of the world on the basis of color and race is again something of common interest. Our greatest need is improvement in human relations."

(Busia)

SPEAKER: Well, Gentlemen, I think that gives us a pretty good opportunity to get this panel discussion started and I'd like to take Prime Minister Busia's first comments about economic cooperation to start with as one of the needs of Africa for the coming year and starting with Ambassador ~~Carr~~^{AKAR} what do you think about this area of economic cooperation?

Well, I think that the distinguished Prime Minister from Ghana in characteristic lucidity delineated a very essential and important aspect of the need of Africa -- economic development and economic cooperation, but I think that economic cooperation presupposes the willingness of the parties to the cooperation to cooperate and this raises the problem of the mobility of people, the problem of what happens to the natural resources that are there. Take, for example, the situation of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Here are three countries that are geographically contiguous. All three of them have iron ore; all three of them have diamonds but each is developing its own independently. And the question of cooperation creates the problem of how to go over this aspect of having each country developing it. And I think that the restrictions that are placed for example on visas and passports for people to ~~move~~^{move} from one country to another which is tied up with another factor I shall bring up later on, makes the whole question of economic cooperation perhaps a dream rather than the reality. And what

I would like to see is the establishment of ^a the climate that would make this possible because the things that held East Africa together were destroyed by the Prime Minister's predecessor, President Nkruma. When Ghana was independent we had a common West African currency. We had a common West African air force. We had a common West African examinations council. Everything was in common. We had a common West African army, ^(Royal West Africa Frontier Forces) RWFF. But as soon as Nkruma became the president, Ghana had its own currency, Ghana had its own air force and so on. Nigeria became independent and did this. ^{Sierra Leone} Syria became independent -- even though we can't afford it we had to do so and so on. And all the things that held us together were destroyed. I think that the economic cooperation should be more than a pipe dream. All the various things that would make it a practical reality should be considered.

SPEAKER: Mr. ^{Dunquah} you're with the World Bank and what do you have to say on this matter of economic cooperation and the regional attitude perhaps that has been mentioned by Ambassador ^{Okar} as well as Prime Minister ^{Busia} ?

Well, I agree largely with what the Ambassador is saying. The only thing . . . I would take exception to what he says at the end, because of course the reason for the separation of things like military power and the separation of the courts of justice in West Africa was a historical colonial one. That is to say, it was a natural reaction of new nations to want to shake off what one might call the shackles of the former imperial colonial rulers. And therefore, concepts like a West African court of appeals for covering more than one West Africa country seemed unreal.

Going back to the main point that the Prime Minister of Ghana made, I think ~~the~~ the Ambassador on my left has mentioned the word "pipe - dream", I don't think it is a pipe - dream. ~~the~~ ~~is~~ a feasible concept but I ~~think~~ ^{feel} I seem to be contradicting... I think what the Prime Minister of Ghana was saying in one word is that what we want in Africa is unity. This is one of my personal feelings about the whole of Africa; that we should be looking towards the possibility of unity. And if I were asked my own personal idea about what we need for this new year, I would say two things -- unity, and a new movement towards getting us back to the land. One of the tragic things that's happening in Africa is that everybody's moving away from the land; everybody wants to get to the city.

SPEAKER: Before we go any further on this, do you have any points to raise on this, Mr. Gordon, and questions or responses or attitudes?

Yes, it seems to me that perhaps here we're dealing with a supreme irony. I agree largely with all the comments that have preceded me. Economic cooperation certainly would be highly desirable. The question is the possibility of it. The Corey Report put out by the former American Ambassador to Ethiopia about two years ago strongly stressed the desirability of American aid encouraging economic cooperation in Africa. Yet, just as it is becoming more and more necessary for Africa to have economic cooperation, it is becoming less and less difficult . . . less and less possible, excuse me, and for precisely the same reason, I think, and that is the rise in nationalism, that it is nationalism that makes it very difficult because this makes the countries

want to strengthen their own institutions, to be then closer to self-sufficient, while at the same time it is this very nationalism that is that has gone along with colonialism that has removed the European institutions to common institutions in both East and West Africa in British as well as French colonies and I see no way out of this irony in the coming year.

SPEAKER: Well that's quite a subject. Is nationalism preventing regional cooperation, Mr. *Dangreth?*

Well, I think we have to admit that what has just been said is a fact, and this is something that Doctor *Besia* mentioned when he was in America recently -- the whole question of tribalism, I think we have to accept the fact that we are in Africa, and we have this feeling of tribalistic association or this tribalistic condition. It's to do with historical origins or historical beginnings, I think. In my own Ghana, for example, we have still a feeling in some parts of Ghana that not enough is being done for various cities which are outside the center. For example, people say more should be done for decentralization, more should be done in the northern territories and away from *Accra*. And people complain that this is because of a feeling of tribalism, a feeling that the party which is in, or may get in, will give favor to people from the region which they come from. I think to a certain extent this is a fact. It's something that we are slowly moving away from, but it's an undeniable fact.

SPEAKER: Could I just break in for a moment? We are more or less getting ourselves talking about West Africa and Ambassador *Akar* raised the point about all the countries taking a different currency and various other problems which have caused a breakdown of regional cooperation and they sort of set up local currencies and various other things like that. Can we learn perhaps an example from East Africa, the East African community, where they under the old colonialism existed with a common currency, common services and this broke up for a period of time yet back in Arusha two years ago in December 1967 they set up a new agreement and it seems to be working out quite well to the point that other countries are coming along. Do you think this is for West Africa, perhaps?

Amb. Akar I think, Mr. Chairman, that the problem of West Africa is unlike that of East Africa because East Africa -- these territories that are contiguous are English speaking territories. West Africa we inherited a fragmented continent which Africa still is. We inherited it exactly as it was handed over to us. You find Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria but in between are French speaking territories and you find that the African doesn't understand himself because he is English speaking, he doesn't care to speak French; if he's French speaking he doesn't care to speak English, unless the European becomes the interpreter and it's the very European you are trying to as it were dislodge in his imperial setting. But I think that the lesson of East Africa is a very good one. I don't think there's anything wrong for us to consider it. What I would like to see not only in West Africa but all of Africa -- the heads of these countries coming together and then say well look, every

country wants really to improve. Now, our needs are as follows. Instead of having little, little industries here, there and yonder, why don't we have this particular industry in Country "A" supplying all of this region?; this industry in Country "B" supplying all of these regions, so that there is an interdependency of little, little ones catering to all of it, avoid the barriers, the barriers that restrict you to go over to the other country, the same countries, which are manufactured to other countries. I think that what has been the Number 1 problem of Africa -- again I must come to Nkruma, because whether we like it or not, Ghana's independence in 1967 opened the way for all independence movement if you forget Ethiopia and Liberia. When Nkruma, because independent, he enunciated a doctrine in the first meeting in Addis which as it were, was the nucleus of the OAU. In fact that was when I first met Nkrumah and he said "seek ye first the political kingdom and the rest will be given unto you". And ever since the African has stressed the political and not the economic (end Tape #1) . . . and has parallels with the negro movement here. I mean they are worried about the political. The political is nonsense. It's the economic that matters; we are independent but the rest does not come to us. We need . . . this is what we need . . . we need more economic self-sufficiency, we need more economic cooperation, more economic development and less stress. The point I made earlier was a willingness for cooperation. This is what the gentleman from the Baltimore Sun was talking about. There's nationalism on one hand, but he's forgotten another thing. Compounded . . . which has compounded the situation and that is in addition to nationalism is this wretched thing of military coups and people became extremely sensitive about their national sovereignty and so on.

And barriers had to be set up, set up to prevent other Africans from coming in because at the time we were becoming independent a whole spate of coups swept through Africa. I sincerely hope that this is a passing phase.

SPEAKER: Just one small statement I think perhaps might bear a little discussion. I hate to take issue with somebody as distinguished as the Ambassador . . . (oh, please do.) But I'm afraid I cannot agree more or less what you said that the political aspect is nonsense, that what Africa must concentrate on entirely is the economic. I must disagree with this because it seems to me that the problem is that nations and government in much of Africa are not real things. They're not real things in the sense that they have very little to do with really what happens in Africa. And economic development is something that on the whole must be undertaken by nations and government, and if nations and governments do not succeed in making themselves into real things in Africa, economic development will not be possible. That there must be some way of making the peasant in the village realize that he is part of a nation. The Government must extend its sway to these villages. It must have a presence there. The tax collectors must get out to the villages, there must be a sense of being involved in a modern life and without this, this . . . of course you could have this without economic development. This is a danger. This is a danger of what is happening in Tanzania. It doesn't automatically produce economic development, but you must have this also or else you will not have economic development I am afraid.

With respect, I think you misconstrued my point. My point is not that political independence is meaningless or unnecessary. My point is that political independence is not an end in itself, but is a means to an end. Now we've had our independence, we have had all our symbol to successes, the flags and coats of arms and air conditioned cars and ministerial buildings and so on. That phase is over. The next phase is what is the point of calling yourself a minister flying a flag, riding an air conditioned car if at the end of the month you seek a private interview with a European bank manager to give you an overdraft?

this is what I'm saying.

SPEAKER: . . . Mr. D *arguiah* and then I want to introduce another guest.

Yes, I think, I think its not exactly true what our friend from Baltimore is saying. . . *(the* Baltimore Sun *)* was saying about how to make African nations. -- I think you *A* phrase was -- "a real thing". I think it a fact that the new nations even though some of them are smaller than the state of Tennessee in this country, They are nations. The size I think doesn't make them less so, or their lack of importance politically, I think, ~~that~~ *does not* make them less so. I think what is happening *in* that nearly all of Africa now, most nations or potential nations, have arrived at the stage where they have a Prime Minister and have some form of Government. It's true to say it's not always an ideal form or a democratic form, that we perhaps look for, but the nations of Africa have arrived, I think and they are in a position as the Ambassador suggested, to get together now and say let's look in broad outlines at what this great continent can do.

SPEAKER: I'd like to bring in another gentleman that our roving Voice of America microphone spoke to recently and that is the Foreign Minister of Uganda, Mr. Sam Odaka:

"We need peace and with the peace we need stability. We need development. If we can attain both, we . . . I think we shall attain our goal -- unity and self-determination".

SPEAKER: In order to have stability, peace is needed and economic development. Would you like to comment on these comments?

Well, I'm going to be bold enough to make ^a comment on peace. It's such a big word, which is mis-used and abused and has been for the last . . . well, since I was a boy at school. [(quite long ago, is it?)] No, indeed. Thank you. If that's a compliment, I accept it. If it isn't I reject it. Yes, the idea of peace in Africa, I think, not only relates to the tragic continuing wars or small tribal differences but it relates again to going back to what I was trying to say earlier, something bigger than just the African continental nations individually but the unity of Africa which is what the Ambassador here was referring to and what Doctor **BUSIA** was referring to, I think, in his statements we heard earlier. The possibility, and I think it is a possibility, of a continental or a united states of Africa -- it may take, of course, something like 100 years, but it's not just a romantic dream. The remarks we've just heard about peace I think can be applied to the continent of Africa as a proper ideal for us all.

John AKAR

Mr. Chairman, I think that the greatest paradox of the African continent is that here we have perhaps the world's largest reservoir of natural resources. But the African is one of the poorest persons in the world. I think that the question of stability and the question of peace are tied up with the degree to which the masses of the people -- what I have always referred to as the broad base of the pyramid -- the degree to which they can have something to eat, something to wear and a roof ^{over} under their heads and the security of tenure of work or whatever it is, and an increase of productivity, agricultural productivity, that some countries continue to import food and obtain food -- what you Americans call canned food -- when they can increase their acreage that they've tilled. There's another problem. I think that there must be a deeper study by the African leaders themselves of the degree to which the Africans benefit from their own natural resources rather than the European or American investors who put their money there and get all this fantastic margin or profit out of the shares that they have in it. This is an essential issue in Africa.

Yes, I think I agree with what you're saying but it does, I feel -- as a member of the World Bank, I must come in here and say something in defense of the people I work with. (In defense of the Bank? We've not said anything about the Bank) No, you were talking about big business coming into Africa and Africa having to buy tinned food from, for example, America. (Yes, but what relevance is this . . .) Well, I'm coming, as we say in Ghana when we're leaving, I'm coming. What I mean is this -- the concept of development in the World Bank under our President, Mr. McNamara, relate to the very ideas you are discussing. For example, the

ideal concepts of aid and development are to improve and enlarge and increase the infrastructure of a country and then, individually different projects like agriculture, education, and so on, to . . . and in theory, to encourage the nation, the country, the state, to produce for itself its own commodities -- food, minerals and other resources, which as you say . . . abound in the continent of Africa richly. That's the only reason I was apparently taking exception to what you say.

SPEAKER: Mr. Gordon had a comment.

I think perhaps this relates somewhat to a discussion we were having a little earlier -- the problem of peace in Africa is, I think, perhaps twofold. You do have the international aspect of it and more crucial at least for the moment and for this coming year probably will be the internal aspect of peace in Africa. We have of course the very bloody war in Nigeria, but we also have wars, civil wars, civil conflicts in a number of African countries, Sudan, the Chad and Ethiopia to name three others. These wars are closely related to the fact, I think of the question of how much these countries are nations in the sense I was using this before. This problem is not one really whether the nations are small nations or large nations. The problem is whether they have been able to establish the fact that they are nations that have the loyalty of their people. This isn't even a chronological problem because in the United States we had existed for nearly 100 years when we had to fight a very, very bloody war to prove the fact that we were one nation. It certainly is an exceedingly complex problem, but I do not see how you can ever have peace in Africa unless first the African countries first

solve the political problems of how to establish themselves as true nations with the loyalties of their people.

I think with respect to this question of the degree to which Africa, the countries of Africa, succeed in maintaining national cohesion isn't a peculiarly African phenomenon. Even the United States of America with its what 200 plus years, I think, isn't it? (Just a little less than 200) Yes, a little under 200 years independence -- it's highly debatable if they are a nationally cohesive country. I mean, all the problems that you have and so on show. Does this mean that we've got to wait another 200 years before we can achieve this? I think that once a broad spectrum has been established, this becomes the basis to build on. The very fact of the nation, they respect a national anthem, a flag and so on, means that are admittedly paraphernalia but nevertheless they are paraphernalia that help the people within this territory to identify themselves with a particular independence movement or nationality.

SPEAKER: If I could raise an issue here. Mr. Odaka when he was answering this question which I asked him about a month or two ago, brought up the problem as Uganda is probably the country in Africa which has the greatest amount of refugees of any other place and he was referring to peace to try to solve this refugee problem so that people could go back to their own areas. Victims of tribal wars or victims of, say, Portuguese colonialism as the Congo has a great deal of refugees from Angola and there are a great number of South African and Rhodesian refugees in Tanzania and Zambia and of course within Uganda there are

the Sudanese refugees and within Ethiopia there are the Sudanese refugees and this is a problem . . . there are more refugees in Africa than in Africa than in any other place, the Middle East or any other place.

But I don't think that the whole question of refugees can be divorced from the international ramifications of the question of refugees. I mean, there are the Palestinian refugees pose a problem because you have the problems of logistics, of resettling them, the enormous amount of capital necessary. And there's nation from which they emerged thinking that these people constitute threats to their sovereignty. It's a very complex problem. I don't think the refugee problem in considered

totality of Africa is an impediment in the sense of economic development or cooperation. In certain areas it does create problems, perhaps through OAU they might settle them on borders and provide something for them, but as I . . . it's very difficult. But somebody raised the question of aid (end Tape #2)

I'd like to say that aid to me is a very important issue vis-a-vis economic cooperation and economic development and here I am afraid I'm critical of our American friend. It has been said after considerable and profound study that the continent of Africa requires between \$4 and \$6 billion a year. Admittedly, we don't expect America to pay all of this. It has to be done in concert with the other ^{have} half nations of the world. But American's share is something like \$186 million and is going to be less because Congress has a less generous attitude towards aid as everybody knows and this is not only a piquant; its almost an insult. It's like having an enormous slice of bread and just a wee sniff of butter and saying "boy, isn't that lovely buttered bread".

SPEAKER: Mr. Gordon first and then Mr. D *angual*.

This problem of foreign aid is a major problem. On the whole I agree with . . . precisely with what you said. Let me add that it seems obvious that its going to get far worse before it gets better and this applies not only to United States but with two other major aid givers. I'm thinking particularly of France which now that Mr. Pompidou has replaced Mr. DeGualle that it appears very likely that French aid if not this year then in the following year will probably be dropping off. In United States there seems to be among the people and among the Congress and general disillusionment with the effect that foreign aid has had. And I cannot give any hope, I cannot see any hope, that this is likely to improve so it looks like Africa will be thrown more and more on its own resources to develop itself.

(Mr. *Dangual*) Yes, well I am not sure I agree with what the Ambassador was saying just now about the American aspect of aid. I work in the World Bank and one of our problems in the Department, I am in in the Information Department, is to anticipate or try to anticipate and consider what proportion of aid America will give in the form, for example, of what is called IDA money. It's true to say America being the greatest giver is the greatest leader. If America doesn't give largely the other nations probably won't give as well. The French, as you're suggesting will give less. I think this is a thing which changes from month to month. Last month it looked very bad. It looked as though the American concern about developing nations was becoming synical, but last year I found that this changed even within the same

administration. It's quite likely to change again. I feel that we can be hopeful that America and Britain and other, what's called donor nations, will become aware and especially if we listen ^{to} the remarks of the Ambassador will be made to become aware of what their 'duties' are in relation to the developing nations.

Well, this is just an expression of hope. I don't think . . . it ~~matters~~ ^{is not}, as far as I'm considered as I'm concerned it ~~is not~~ ^{is not} the central issue. The central issue is that Africa gets extremely small amount in the way of aid and also there is this lamentable division of Africa into this favored group where a few countries of Africa get aid and others are neglected. Like my country for example and the smaller countries into the bottom rung of the economic ladder. And this is monstrous . . .

SPEAKER: Excuse me. We are almost out of time and the result -- I'd like to just go down the panel for a moment starting with the Ambassador, then Mr. Danquah and Mr. Gordon. What you personally, in a few words, think is Africa's greatest single need for the coming year or if you wish for the coming decade. Mr. Ambassador.

I think, economic self-sufficiency.

(Mr. Danquah) A movement to get people back to the land; to get people away from the idea that the end of ~~the~~ life or the be all and end all is to arrive at a desk and have a motorcar and a dark suit and a white shirt. [At a time when Europe is industrializing]

(John Akcar)

....
Yes, because we in Africa... We're an agricultural nation and all the riches of Africa are not in the new towns.

- Danquah,

(Both) simultaneously, both industrialization and agricultural development.

(Mr. Gordon?) To develop institutions, national institutions -- and this is the problem of the decade -- that will draw the people into a modern national life, create the conditions of growth and this means superimposing upon all of the traditional loyalties to village and to tribe and to religion, superimposing on them a loyalty to a modern nation state.

That presupposes political sophistication, though.

- (John Ahear)

Yes, and I think growing political sophistication over the next decade will be a necessity.

SPEAKER: Mr. Ambassador, Mr. Danquah and Mr. Gordon, I want to thank you very much indeed. This is David Williams in Washington wishing everybody a happy new year.



The African Club

by Paul Danquah

We are now well into the first month of the first year of the "70s"; we have not yet left the silly season of making comparative lists; lists of the best ten, the worst dressed, the best dressed, the most unusual, most banal and so on. There is no good reason therefore why I should not set down at this time a few thoughts about the African Club of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund.

Although I am its public relations secretary, the most superlative claim I can make for the African Club is that it is perhaps the least exactly defined social club in Washington, if not in Africa. It is a Club where the rules are based on what we are, rather than what we might wish to do or to be. Let me explain. Since I became a member of the Executive Committee, whenever I am asked what the Club is and what it does, I am reminded of my favorite Club in the new port-town of Tema on the coast of Ghana. It bears the following legend on its door: "Exclusive Club—all welcome!" This is all that distinguishes its entrance from the eight night clubs in one corner of this rapidly developing sea-port town. Tema is the site of a concept in development where planificators and architects with their customary indifference and insensitivity to local requirements have planned "ideal living-units." They are identified only by names like "unit 1" or "site 14." The units are designed for 2-1/2 persons, or 3.75 persons! My "exclusive club" was once part of the functional section of a neat row of units, all exactly the same size, shape, color, built around a formal rectangle with a church at one end and a "recreation center" at the other.

If you go to Site 14 today, you will find all the living-units have been turned into "niteries" and the formal rectangle has been delightfully transformed into a combination of market, taxi stand and general meeting place, lightheartedly demonstrating that "club" has a special connotation in Africa. A Club is not an

excluding thing, it is an including thing.

Seriously, the African Club is simply an informal association of members of the staff of the World Bank Group and Fund who happen to be Africans.

It began in April 1968 when about twenty African staff members met at the "Black Saddle House of Beef" to discuss the prospects of forming an African Club in Washington. At this meeting, a committee of five was appointed to consider what the scope and objectives of such an association should be. I will avoid going too much into the history and the foundations of the Club, but say in a word that since nobody was able to find any legal impediment within the Bank Group or Fund rules to the formation of an African Club, and since no U. S. domestic laws imposed any restrictions on the formation of such an association, the Club came into being forthwith.

The general objectives can be described briefly as "a forum for exchanging views on matters of concern to Africa, and a medium for organizing social and cultural activities and for establishing contacts between African colleagues." The only restriction on membership is that the member be African or from any part of Africa and be a member of the staff of the World Bank Group or International Monetary Fund.

When I joined the Bank in March '69 I found myself ipso facto a member and within the same month was being entertained at a luncheon. Since then I have attended seminars, symposia and farewell luncheons, the most recent of which was for one of the leading lights of the Club, Mr. K. B. Asante of the Legal Department of the Bank. Asante, until his recent appointment as Solicitor General in the new Government of Ghana, was our distinguished and active chairman.

A Club of this nature within an organization like the World Bank Group needs a person with qualities of leadership and the ability to inspire and maintain interest and enthusiasm in objectives. Although we lost a very active chairman in Mr. Asante, we have found those qualities of leadership in the present Secretary, Mr. Godwin Okurume, of the

Eastern Africa Department of the Bank. The Club is representative of many countries in Africa and has a membership of about fifty persons—Executive Directors and Alternates and members of the Bank Group Staff and I.M.F. staff who are African. It is invidious perhaps to single out names like our recent chairman and our now acting-chairman, but I am allowed to boast that we have distinguished patronage and membership from the higher echelons of the World Bank Group and Fund.

At our most recent function—the farewell luncheon and presentation to Sam Asante—the company was distinguished in the quantity and the quality of the persons who came to bid him farewell—there were two or three short addresses of warmth and significance.

In the next few weeks we plan to elect a new Chairman and appoint additional members of a working committee.

Now, like any worthwhile executive member of any club or association should not miss this opportunity of reminding members of their obligations. One similarity between our African Club and other clubs and associations I have known is that, somewhere along the line, somebody is obliged to stand up, speak up, demand members' fees, sit down. This I do now, but also I take this good opportunity to wish all members a very happy New Year, and a very prosperous new decade, knowing that my fellow members in the African Club would also take this opportunity of wishing the same to all our friends in the World Bank Group and Fund, through the friendly columns of "Bank Notes".

files D



February 27, 1970

Mr. Dinesh Bahl

Paul Danquah

Questionnaire

Herewith a draft questionnaire on the subject of taped features about the World Bank Group and economic development in the African member countries. I have written an introductory note for the recipients. This is designed to stimulate an interest and attract some responses; I understand that the last time this department mounted such an exercise there was no meaningful response.

May I suggest that our list of recipients - once our ten questions are agreed upon - should include officers in the information ministries. I have found that in most African countries broadcasting is invariably in the hands of the government, especially as regards matters of policy, operations and direction.

Attachment

PD:sj

cc Clark, Ltd

- Doc. 28 Partnership in Private Foreign Investment
- Doc. 29 Unemployment - Dr. Erick Thorbecke
- Doc. 30 Unemployment - Document on Financing, the World Bank and the Development
- Doc. 31 Unemployment - Dr. Erick Thorbecke
- Doc. 32 Unemployment - Dr. Erick Thorbecke
- Doc. 33 Unemployment - Dr. Erick Thorbecke

First Draft:

Questionnaire to precede or accompany taped features from and about the World Bank Group. (For Broadcasting services in African member-countries)

Introductory notes for recipients of questionnaire:

1) The Information and Public Affairs Department of the World Bank Group is planning features for broadcasting which will be produced for tape, and which it is anticipated will be of use, and of interest to broadcasting systems of member countries of the World Bank Group. Initial productions will be in English, but this does not preclude other languages used in Africa such as French, Portuguese, Hausa or Swahili. The subject matter of the tapes will be economic development in general and the role of the World Bank in assisting economic development, and the activities of other international agencies working in the field of economic growth. With this project in mind the department has prepared a questionnaire to try and ascertain the needs and the capacity and local preferences of broadcasting systems in the field. We shall be grateful to have your answers in due course, together with any relevant suggestions which are the result of your experiences in this field.

2) Among various functions of the Department of Information, there is a general responsibility for planning and executing information activities in support of the World Bank Group's operations in the developing world. Part of this work is to foster knowledge and stimulate interest in economic development, on the part of the general public, and also on the part of special interest groups, opinion makers, and other international organizations.

3) Radio is now belatedly becoming recognized as the only effective means of mass communication in the developing world, particularly in Africa where educators have been active in the field. Various organizations, including UNESCO and other education foundations, have produced schemes which have illustrated the power and effectiveness of radio in the field of education. The BBC and ORTF (operating in the French speaking nations), have successfully produced 'canned' magazine programs and 'Schools of the Air', utilizing, as well as English and French, the indigenous vernacular and lingua franca, such as Swahili in Eastern Africa, and Hausa in the North and West. The effectiveness of radio is unquestionable in Africa where the spoken word is the traditional, and sometimes the only form of communication. Radio has a universal appeal; receivers are comparatively cheap and since the advent of transistors, many African countries are now producing receivers locally. Most important, radio is not dependent on the existence of electric power, which is still the exception rather than the rule outside the main capitals and towns of Africa.

For these reasons and because of the, now undoubted, value of broadcasting as a means of communication the Information and Public Affairs Department of the World Bank anticipates your interest and your response to this questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. Can you utilize occasional regular feature talks on the World Bank Group and its activities in the developing World? If so, what is the ideal duration of such programs?
2. Have you any preference for the use of professional voices or are the voices of 'real' persons more acceptable? (e.g. experts, economists, and other persons working in the field).
3. Have you any preference for local or regional accents (i.e. local ("African")-English, or standard English)?
4. Would you expect any audience reaction against stories or features on countries outside the continent of Africa, or outside your region?
5. Have you any facilities for measuring audience listening figures and/or audience reaction to programs? If so what are the figures for peak-listening times?
6. Would you object to information programs which are based on model questions and answers which have been specially 'loaded' with facts, figures and other basic information about the World Bank Group?
7. Would your audiences be interested to hear tape-recordings of loan-signing ceremonies in Washington? (These would carry the voice of the ambassador or the representative of the borrowing country and be accompanied by details of the loan or credit and the development project to be financed by the World Bank Group.)
8. Would you use 'in depth' feature programs on specific projects, in actual progress or in actual operation, e.g., a dam in operation; a feature about an agricultural program; a highways development story? (These could feature sounds and other effects.)

9. Is your service beamed to (a) a National audience
(b) a Regional audience
(c) a Local audience?

10. What are the main languages of communication besides English and/or French?

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Mrs. Bomstein

TO: Mr. William Clark

DATE: March 30, 1972

FROM: Paul Danquah *PD.*

SUBJECT: African Mission Report

I attach my report on the mission in Africa and FAO in Rome.

On Mr. Lind's suggestion I am submitting a separate report on our informational needs for the Annual Meeting in Nairobi and I propose treating this in some detail. I will also offer some suggestions and recommendations.

cc: Messrs. Lind, Bahl, Fall, Nafie, Sankaran, Macdonald, Lightowler
Ebstein, Pryor, Grenfell

Mrs. Scott and Mrs. ~~Bomstein~~ ✓

PD:cap

*Monique -
a few speeches*



PUBLIC AFFAIRS MISSION

KENYA - MAURITIUS - NIGERIA - ROME - LONDON

The main thrust of the mission was in Nairobi, location of OAU First All Africa Trade Fair, the purpose being to see what lessons could be learned for the Bank on the facilities, services and informational needs for the World Bank/Fund Annual Meeting scheduled to take place there in September 1973. My conclusions, and recommendations on the specifics and on the Kenyans as hosts to 39 African countries and their potential for '73 will be submitted in a separate report. The present notes are concerned with general public affairs activities in the countries visited.

LONDON

I accelerated my departure from Washington by two days at Norman Macdonald's suggestion so as to be in Nairobi in time for the scheduled IFC signing for the investment in Kenya and Uganda's Tourism industry. The signing ceremony and the Press Release were set for Monday the 21st of February. In London on the Friday before, I was able to place copies of the release which I was carrying to Nairobi. I made a number of press contacts on arrival including Bridget Bloom of the Financial Times, Hella Pick of the Guardian, Michael Wolfers of the Times and David Williams of West African Magazine. I was able to meet the journalists again during the weekend in the company of West Africans and Africanists attending the official reception to mark the opening of the super new London offices of Nigerian Airways. I was also able to make some useful Nigerian contacts; journalists, some academic and business people. This was particularly useful since my visit to Lagos later was unscheduled and would be the first informational mission (apart from Mr. McNamara's visit) for some five years. I arranged to give a radio interview based on the text of the IFC release for the Eastern Africa edition of "Good Morning Africa", embargoed for broadcasting on or after the following Monday. The IFC signing ceremony was scheduled for 3 p.m. local (Kenya) time. The "Good Morning Africa" team said they were always pleased to have our tapes of loan-signings, and other features. These were useful, though not always usable by them because of the light-hearted "tone" of their programs. They assured me that our tapes are often used in other parts of Bush House (which houses much of the Foreign services as well as the African service of the BBC). Before I left for Nairobi on the Saturday I had a chance to renew a number of other African acquaintances; friends from the Commonwealth Secretariat, young staff writers on West Africa magazine and writers for the newly established "AFRICA" which is produced under the "Jeune Afrique" umbrella in London. I was also able to make some useful Kenya connections.

London was at crisis point with the highly organised and crippling national coal strike; there were serious but regular electricity cuts, elevators were 'out-of service' at some unscheduled times affecting for example the Bank's office high up in New Zealand House. Some telephones lines into the city were powerless but in spite of talk of "Anarchy and a fight to the finish" it was largely a case of "business as usual".

KENYA

1. IFC

I arrived in Nairobi on Sunday morning and contacted Mr. L. von Hoffmann and Mr. Winterton of IFC to discuss the arrangements for the following day. I contacted representatives of the media including Voice of Kenya and journalists known from earlier missions. At the new offices of PMEA (over-looking the half completed construction which will house the Bank and Fund in 1973), they welcomed a representative of the Information Department and could not have been more helpful. Although much of their time and energy is lately taken up with the increasing task of finding accommodation for visiting missions. (cf. Lagos resident mission below). Barclay's Overseas Development Corporation -- also participating -- had made arrangements with a local P.R. Company for the media facilities including radio coverage. (I was later to discover that this seems to be a necessary and unavoidable part of the information syndrome in Kenya).

The signing ceremony was elaborate by Bank loan-signing standards; there were several speakers including the Prince Amin speaking on behalf of his brother for the Aga Khan Group. Mr. von Hoffmann responded on behalf of IFC. Kenya Tourist Development Corporation (KTDC) in whose premises the signing took place had also made arrangements for a champagne reception immediately after the signing.

During the two or three days before the official opening of the Trade Fair I was able to discuss the IFC project with the press and radio. Also through the week I set up some contacts for the official opening day of the fair, obtained formal invitations and rover-tickets. I also organised official visits to the fair for von Hoffmann and Winterton, and a member of the Bank's Permanent Mission. I made contacts with journalists, Fair organisers, politicians and informational persons in both the public and private sectors. At the IFC signing I had met Norbert Okare, a useful contact and a well-known figure in radio and television in Nairobi who besides being the leading daily news caster and co-ordinator of a T.V. talk program, runs a small public relations outfit. Okare is a Kenyan with an exceptional amount of experience and know-how and he invited me to come and discuss the IFC projects on one of his T.V. programs. This I did on the Wednesday 23 February.

2. Trade Fair

The OAU First All Africa Trade Fair was organised with the combined collaboration of the OAU itself, the Government of Kenya and with participation from ECA, particularly for the concurrent symposium on inter-African trade.

The Fair was organised on an ambitious scale, there was a magnificent and well organised opening day at Jahmuri Park (seven miles outside the city). Participating countries had patently invested time, energy and money in the creation of stands, and the display of products. The organisers had likewise taken some trouble to anticipate the internationality of the Fair, and the Kenyan authorities clearly took pride in ensuring that organisation was complete and disciplined. Rightly, they had drawn on the experience and know-how associated with the Annual Nairobi Show - easily the most important and best organised agricultural show in Africa. In the event there were of course problems and headaches, and some things went wrong, tempers were frayed and occasionally patience lost. Two countries did not show up at all after having registered sites. But the Kenyans demonstrably proved that they are well able to cope with such an influx of visitors, in spite of accommodation problems and some troubles with the press corps.

It is not certain how much real inter-African trade was drummed up at the Fair, but there is no doubt that we were witnessing the beginning of an important annual tradition. Plans were already being considered for the location, and hosts, next year. There was a feeling of an integration of the continent with unusually strong support from the Arab countries of Africa, notoriously Egypt. Her team of Jugglers, acrobats, traders, exquisitely-clad dancers created a sensation as they progressed round the stadium and came to a spectacular stop before the rostrum. They were the hit of the opening day, and I understand, of several nights thereafter.

President Ould Daddah of Mauritania (current Chairman of the OAU) also reflected the good-will in his excellent opening speech, and stressed that there was no spirit of belligerence against non-African partners or countries, but rather a hearty commercial rivalry within Africa, and between the continent and the world. He shared the strenuous opening-day duties with President Kenyatta (great strength of voice, and supple in movement) a shrinking Emperor of Ethiopia, the President of Tanzania (every body was disappointed that Julius Nyerere did not appear himself, and take the opportunity to share a public function) with President Idi Amin of Uganda who surprisingly was most vociferously welcomed as he shared Kenyatta's drive round Jamhuri field in the "Ceremonial Land Rover".

The message from Kurt Waldheim also caught the spirit of the opening and succeeding days, though more by the form of its delivery than by its text. This "Special Message from the UN" was brought by a familiar and popular local figure, Bruce Stedman, the long-time UNDP man. Bruce

emerged grinning, from a huge police helicopter plonked in the middle of the stadium, clutching his pipe and the speech (written and cleared within the preceding twenty-four hours), he strode across the field towards the rostrum, handed the speech to Kenya's Vice-President who was to read it, lit his pipe, and disappeared into the stands to watch the rest of the days festivities.

3. Trade Symposium

The symposium on "Intra-African Trade" was sponsored jointly by ECA/OAU and held at Nairobi City Hall concurrently with the Fair. It was described by the Kenya Daily Nation as "five days of hectic sessions and prolonged debates". The Nation said the report and recommendations aimed at increasing the dwindling flow of inter-African trade. Although the symposium opened with big guns; addresses from Diallo Telli (current Secretary-General of the OAU) and Robert Gardiner of ECA, in truth it was not a great success, nor did it have much local impact. The organiser's own press release weakly stated, "follow-up action was strongly urged" and catalogued "various obstacles inhibiting the expansion of intra-African trade..."

MAURITIUS

Because of "letters of credence" from Mr. Kochman and Mr. Clark I was (willy-nilly) mistaken for a VIP, offered a car with policeman/driver for the tour and within 24 hours of arrival, accepting the car but not the elevation, I was embarked on a strenuous program (attached) only part of which I had planned or requested.

Mauritians, who accept with pride the unexaggerated epithet "Star of the Indian Ocean" seem to be a happy conglomeration of races with their origins in India, China, Africa, England and France. Religious differences are more pronounced (and more significant) than racial differences in spite of some turbulent history and even in spite of -- incredibly -- a small remaining enclave of Franglophone Mauritians, who have the effrontery to describe other Mauritians as the "general population".

It is the general population in a different sense which is the country's second biggest headache (population rapidly approaching one million). But the main problem jobs -- lack of work is what has driven planners to establish an "export processing zone", and driven the country further into the arms of South Africa (with whom there is a considerable amount of trade and a growing tourist input). Lack of jobs also drives (and feeds) the extreme leftist group -- the MMM ("Movement Militant Mauricien"). The MMM is a tough and dynamic group of young intellectuals who only recently practically held the country to ransom by their effective stimulation of strikes all over the Island. The need to create jobs and hence the need to put everything else aside is the excuse the Establishment give

for having driven the MMM underground. Lack of jobs is also a recurring theme for the 11 or so newspapers which are produced variously in English, French and Creole (French Patois) or sometimes a combination of all three. One gets the feeling of involvement (total and universal) in politics; they seem naturally equipped for this occupation.

They seemed aware of the Bank and well informed about the UN family generally and it was a pleasure ~~to talk in schools~~ and get such response, and interest. At the Royal College, Port Louis (the capital) I was surprised to find the whole school assembled for what I had modestly announced as a talk and discussions on the World Bank in Africa. I found similar enthusiasm at the tiny jewel of a University not far outside the capital.

I stayed in a recently completed (Dinarobin) Hotel project in which IFC is participating. A tourist hotel on the beach, made up of individual chalets which, with their thatched roofs blending naturally into the landscape, are expertly built and well-equipped.

I visited the Bank's tea project high up over the center of the Island where I saw Hugh Lloyd whom I had met on my first mission in Nairobi in 1969. Lloyd had and was still having, a difficult struggle against many odds to keep his project on the move. He was only now beginning to feel that things were going his way and for the better. Apart from the usual problems of local politics, training problems, building and transportation problems, I suspect he could do with more encouragement and understanding from the Bank in the face of the difficulties which are extremely subtle and which cannot (perforce) be committed to paper, least of all by the officer with responsibility for making the project a success. I contacted the local wire services man -- a typical Mauritian, intelligent, fluent in three languages, running both Reuter and AFP and also editing one of the local newspapers.

I encountered the same high level of intelligence and interest at the T.V. station where I was interviewed on a program which was directed, and produced bi-lingually. I completed the tour program thanks largely to the car ~~an~~ being driven. Although the island is small, distances are comparatively great. The drive from the airport to the capital (Port Louis) is over 30 miles clear across the island from southeast to northwest, through interminable sugar plantations and the most breathtaking coastal scenery.

NIGERIA

The overwhelming impact of first impressions on arrival in Lagos makes it difficult not to jump to the conclusion that it is an utterly insoluble situation. Upon disembarkation at the airport and thence as the days progress, first impressions increase in intensity; confusion and chaos, apparently open corruption and inefficient corruption at that, indifference and apparent unfriendliness towards visitors to the point of seeming arrogance, signs of extreme poverty and acute overpopulation, classic urban problems, insufficient and unhygienic housing, apparently continuing and extreme tribalism, senior and trained persons unemployed, general unemployment and unbearable transportation problems for the few who are working in the teeming disorder of the city of Lagos...

My efforts not to condemn it all out of hand as hopeless, presented me with a curious parallel and a lesson. Namely the eagerness and ease with which some of us in the Bank were pronouncing upon the "failure" of our resident mission.

The judgement parallel continues if one considers what is described above reflects the difficulties which our resident mission has faced, and also how intensely this must have been the case at the particular time when the office was being established.

Near the end of my stay in Lagos in spite of small and tiresome frustrations to do with currency, accommodation, and communication I nevertheless found myself consciously trying to resist the effect of the first impressions. I began to see more evidence of the conscious efforts towards reconciliation (official and private), and the restoration of goodwill. In fact this evidence illustrates painfully the traumatic effect on the country and upon all Nigerians of the civil war.

One gradually begins to notice the growing local concern, and signs of a new spirit. I had the opportunity to meet some students from the University of Lagos and in the calmer academic atmosphere one sees more hope, and direction.

Perhaps the reason and to some extent the explanation of the attitude of Nigerians at home is the very enormity of the problems which face the Federal Government and the States. The devastation, the loss of life from actual fighting, the natural ravages in a huge country with the largest population in Africa and intensified problems of hunger and other insufficiencies, have all added to the problem of government.

There is an impatience with the current influx from agencies, other countries, and governments which had displayed little sympathy and no support for (the now victorious) Federal Government which won the terrible and bitter war. The experts, the oil men, the aid representatives and business people now seem, unreasonably, to want a piece of the action. This background perhaps also explains the intensity and (recently increasing) passion of the call for Nigerianisation and "Indigenisation". In the week I was in Lagos that sentiment was being given teeth by government decree, and by a press clearly taking a lead delineated by the Government.

Like PMEA in Nairobi among our Mission's other headaches is the difficult and time-consuming problem of accommodation and other needs of visiting missions. Two McKinsey experts arrived on the same plane as myself and the office was able to make an arrangement for them only because of the happy accident of the departure of the secretary (Pauline Figuera who has just married). Christopher Wilkinson kindly put me up for the first night.

Because I had come in to Lagos at short notice I was unable to get to Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria as scheduled. Planes are very over-booked and I suffered from general communication and transportation problems. At the University of Lagos I talked with Dr. A. Kuyvenhoven, and gave him the current publications kit. He was enthusiastic about ideas of greater information input into the Universities in West Africa. Under an arrangement with the Tinbergen Economic Institute of Rotterdam he is on loan to the University's Department of Economics (which he is helping to form) as visiting lecturer in Economic Theory and Development Planning.

Among other contacts made or renewed in Lagos were Sam Epelle, still Federal Minister (or Director) of Information and currently spending his energy and talents on the campaign to inform the nation that it is about to drive on the right instead of the left!, Michael Alumide, Director of NBCTV who organised my interview on the Bank, the UNIC and UNDP representatives, Mr. P. Malafa, and Mr. John Birt.

ROME

FAO and DSC (Development Support Communications Unit)

As a result of the visit to this Department of Mohamed Benaissa and his talks with LL and WDC I was asked to participate in a full program of talks with Colin Fraser's unit. (my programme is attached).

The discussions were intense and extremely stimulating. I found many areas where we are ad idem; the history of the development of the departments is very similar, for example, and I outlined for them the areas of our own activity. Fraser indicated that some of them would be useful in their main department and could complement the work of the DSC. But the main interest for us is the dynamism of approach, and potential of the theory that informational activity should be more operational. Information officers, they feel should be by definition capable of carrying out operational information tasks. This is the main thrust of the theory and the basis of the experiments they have carried out in agricultural projects. Fraser will be sending material on this and a report of an experiment in Dahomey. The outcome of the talks is that they would very much hope to solicit our support, interest and collaboration on a specific project. They will be asking us officially to consider some form of participation in a model project at what they call the formulation stage.

WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS: (Revised) : 2nd March, 1972
MAURITIUS

TUESDAY 29th February:

- 10.00 am : Hon. Guy Marchand, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Mr. W. Adolphe of Supplies Dept.
11.15 am : Mr. V. Sooben, Acting Financial Secretary
LUNCH Mr. W. Adolphe
2.30 pm : Mr. D. Soopramanien, Assistant Financial Secretary
3.30 pm : Ministry of Education

WEDNESDAY 1st March:

- 9.30 am : Visit L'Express Newspaper
Meet Mr. P. McGaw of REUTER's
11.30 am : Mr. Sir H. R. Vaghjee, Chancellor of University & Speaker of House
12.30 pm : United Nations
LUNCH Mr. John Birt, UNDP
2.30 pm : Discussions with Librarian: Mr. G. Chee Kim Ling
8 pm or 9 pm : M.B.C. "Actualités" T.V. Programme
Interview on the World Bank by Mr. N. Akaloo

THURSDAY 2nd March*

- 10 am to 12 noon : Visit Distillery - Mr. Guy Raffray of Harel-Mallac
LUNCH Mr. Robert P. Lagesse & visit Sugar Estate (St. Antoine S.E.)
2.45 pm : Visit Royal College, Port Louis - Talk on the World Bank
3.30zpm : Visit Industrial Estate Area

FRIDAY 3rd March:

- 9.30 am : Talk on World Bank at University (Admins. Building)
Talks on I.F.C. Project
LUNCH- Messrs. Marchand, H. Duval, A. Maingard and W. Adolphe
2.45 pm : Mr. V. Sooben - to take leave

SATURDAY 4th March:

- 9.00 am : Mr. H. T. Lloyd (I.B.R.D), Wooton, Tea Research Centre, Curepipe
LUNCH : open

APPOINTMENTS FOR MR. DANQUAH
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, WORLD BANK

THURSDAY, 16 March 1972

FAO, ROME

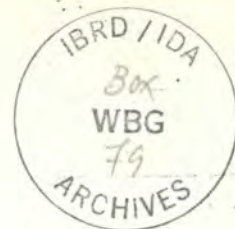
9.00 a.m.	Colin Fraser, Chief, Development Support Communications Unit, GII	Room B-130
9.30 a.m.	Meeting with Mr. C. Fraser, Chief, DSC Unit; Mr. J. Olsen, Chief, Film & Television Section; Mrs S. Balit, DSC Unit; Miss F. Botts, DSC Unit.	Room B-130
10.30 a.m.	Visit Film & Television Unit Mr. J. Olsen, Chief.	Room C-184
11.00 a.m.	Audio Visual Aids (Miss Botts) and Photo Library (Mrs M. Lafrance)	Room B-123 Room C-172
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH, Indonesia Room Mr. Kaghan, Director GII Mr. Fraser, DSC; Mr. Biro, Chief Editor, GIIM; Mrs Balit, DSC; Mr. M. Benaissa, DSC; Mr. J.S. Spears (FAO/IBRD Investment Centre (DDC).	
14.45 p.m.	Dr C.W. Broicher, Director, GI	Room B-257
15.00 p.m.	Filmstrip show - Discussion on inclusion of DSC in development project.	Austria Room Room C-234
16.00 p.m.	Round-up discussions with DSC	Room B-130

BK 1/1

Distribution:

Dr C.W. Broicher, GI	Mr. Benaissa, GII
Mr. Kaghan, GII	Miss Botts, GII
Mr. Fraser, GII (DSC)	Mrs Balit, GII
Mr. Olsen, GIIA	Mrs Lafrance, GIIA
Mr. Biro, GIIM	in reg 2
Mr. Spears, DDC	float dsc
	chron

filed Danquet



D R A F T

Model for a radio interview (in English)
subsequent to a World Bank Loan (or IDA Credit)
to an African Country

It is considered that the protagonists would probably be:

- (1) A Minister or Permanent Secretary (or equivalent) of the donee country, or an Ambassador or other representative in Washington, London, or other capital.
- (2) The Presenter of the program, who would introduce the subject, the 'Minister' and the Questioner.
- (3) The Questioner, who might be a journalist - local or otherwise, but an African, with knowledge of the country, or some specialist knowledge of aid and development generally, or subject matter of the discussion.

The subject of this interview in the recent Bank/IDA Highways loan of \$19 million to Cameroon. Cameroon is a country where both English and French are used as official languages.

PRESENTER:

On February 11 this year, the World Bank and the International Development Association announced a joint loan of \$19 million to the Republic of Cameroon for a Highway project which it is anticipated will help to give this country a complete transnational railroad link. Such a link is considered vital to the economic growth of Cameroon particularly because of the need to increase the country's agricultural development, and also to enlarge the productive potential of the inland regions of this country. The project will give a boost to Cameroon's

development plans. The Government recognises the dominant position of transportation in Cameroon's economic development plan, and we have with us today the Honorable Minister _____ who will tell us something about what the project will achieve, and how it will benefit the country's economy. Putting the questions we have Mr. _____ of the Cameroon Daily News.....

QUESTIONER:

Mr. Minister, can you tell us something about how this loan will help the country's economy?

MINISTER:

As you know, we are an agricultural country, and like most other countries in Africa our economic growth will largely depend over the next 20 years upon increased agricultural output; agricultural produce for export, and for feeding the nation itself.

We all know there is great potential for agricultural produce in our inland regions, but their development has been delayed by the limitations of our transport system. This country is bounded by the borders of five other Western African countries, including Nigeria to the north-west, and Chad due north. The possibilities of export of agricultural produce are therefore almost limitless. The sophisticated system of roads and railways which this project will make possible can bring the agricultural regions closer to the centres, and closer to outlets for our agricultural produce, both for home consumption and neighbouring countries.

The project is expected to improve about 180 miles of road and will expedite transportation of produce at lower costs. The project also provides for studies and detailed engineering of another 269 miles of our roads. These studies are an important contribution towards the national plan for^a trans-Cameroon road and rail link. This road/rail link will extend from the Chad border near the southern tip of Lake Chad to the coast and Douala port. Two other parts of the road system will link up with the important commercial centre of Victoria, and with Bamileke, the densely populated agricultural centre. Other important features of the improved highways for the country as a whole, are that the system will greatly assist the task of economic and social integration of East and West Cameroon; it will improve the links with our important population centres and strengthen the East-West dialogue which began with Federation in 1961. It is true that my Government has recognised the importance of transportation to the economic growth of this country. Improvement of the trans-Cameroon road will give us a 1,240 mile link which is both interregional and international. International because of the new proximity of our neighbours as I have said, especially land-locked Chad, and interregional because of East-West integration, the connection with the sea, the expanding port of Douala, and its connection to Yaounde, the capital, and the increased proximity of the national railway network to the main centres.

QUESTIONER:

-- Thank you, Sir. -- What contribution -- financial or otherwise -- is the Government of Cameroon itself making towards the success of this project?

MINISTER:

The total cost of construction and the consultants' services is estimated to be the equivalent of \$23 million; the World Bank Group financing is providing three quarters of this total, about \$19 million,

which is made up of an IDA credit of \$7 million and the Bank loan of \$12 million. This financing is being made available to the Federal Government. The Ministry of Planning and Development, with the technical assistance of both East and West Cameroon Public Works Departments, will be responsible for the execution of the project. The Federal Government will itself be making available the equivalent of \$6.1 million.

QUESTIONER:

Is this World Bank loan and IDA credit the only assistance the country has received from the World Bank Group?

MINISTER:

No, the present loan is part of a history of Bank Group development aid to Cameroon which began in 1967 with a joint Bank loan and IDA credit, which provided financing amounting to the equivalent of \$18 million for the Cameroon Development Corporation, CADEV, to assist a large scale plantation program. Last year, there was another World Bank loan of approximately \$7 million for the development of an Oil Palm project, also in 1969 there was a loan of \$5 million for Water Supply. The first IDA credit to Cameroon for road development amounted to \$600,000, also last year. I would mention that recently a road between Douala and Tiko was built with French financing, this was to improve links with West Cameroon.

As regards the present project, in addition to the Bank and IDA bring the agricultural regions closer to the assistance, and my government's own contribution, we are receiving funds outlets for our agricultural produce. Both from the United States, France, The Federal Republic of Germany, the European Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.

QUESTIONER:

What about the terms of Bank Group lending, Mr. Minister, are they suitable to the economy of the Federal Republic of Cameroon?

MINISTER:

This is a difficult question, but generally speaking, the answer is yes, the terms are suitable, partly because our debt service burden is moderate compared with some other African countries; it amounts to about three and a half per cent of our export earnings, and also because the country's future economic prospects are good. We have a long term development strategy and according to our second 5-year development plan, we should double the gross domestic product by 1980. During the period of the five year plan, we expect to be able to finance nearly two thirds of gross domestic investment from our own resources. Financing of the present project because of the help of the Bank and IDA funds is not expected to put any undue strain on our economy; both the Bank loan and the IDA credit have ten-year periods of grace. Interest on the Bank loan is at 7 percent, and the IDA credit is interest free.

An efficient and comprehensive transportation system is essential for this country's economic growth and development; the present project when it is completed will go a long way towards helping us achieve the longer term goals of our second five-year plan.

PRESENTER:

Thank you, gentlemen.