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ELECTRICITY MONOPOLY ENDED

12 NEW POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED

35 TAKE APPLICATION FORMS

Within four days of the passage into law of the legislation governing Tanzania's new Multi-party system on July 1 1992, some 36 sets of application forms to be registered as political parties had been applied for.

On July 28th the first six parties were registered:

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (NLD) Interim leader - Emmanuel Makaidi

CHAMA CHA DEMOKRASIA NA MAENDELEO (CHADEMA) former Finance Minister Edwin Mtei and former Junior Minister Edward Barongo.

UNION FOR MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY (UMD) Chief Abdullah Fundikira and Christopher Kasanga Tumbo

PRAGMATIC DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (PDA) Nicholas Munuo Ng'uni

NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR CONSTRUCTION AND REFORM (NCCR-Mageuzi) Dar es Salaam lawyer Mabere Marando and Prince Bagenda.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) Hillary Mapunda

Radio Tanzania announced the names of six more registered parties as we were going to press; details are not available:

SEPT - Leader said to be Mahenda

TDP - Magesa

CHAMATA - Semiono

CCD - Kaoneka

TPP - Dr Chemponda

UPDP - Dadi (Headquarters in Zanzibar)

In introducing before Parliament the Bill for the Eighth Constitutional Amendment in Dodoma on April 30 1992, Prime Minister and First Vice-President John Malecela, stated that the Government would be presenting a series of Bills in the future to implement several of the recommendations of the Nyalali Presidential Commission (Bulletin No 42) but it did not accept all of them. The Commission had proposed, for example, a new form of federation with separate governments

for the Federation, the mainland and Zanzibar. The Government did not accept this proposal because, although there were problems between the present Union Government and Zanzibar (in the areas of citizenship, exchange control, division of customs revenue, and the financing of the Union) the solution did not lie in setting up a Federation which would weaken the solidarity of the nation. The present constitutional set up would continue for the time being.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS - LEGAL AND ILLEGAL

Addressing thousands of people who turned up at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds on August 7th the Chairman of CHADEMA, Mr Edwin Mtei, promised to promote local industry and cut down the importation of raw materials which should be obtained from within the country.

The Interim Chairman of UMD, Chief Fundikira, speaking at his party's first rally, called for multi-party elections within the next twelve months. The Government has announced that the elections will be in 1995.

PDA Interim Chairman Nicholas Munuo blamed Socialism and Self Reliance for Tanzania's present woes at his first rally.

Meanwhile the Chairman of the Dodoma branch of the unregistered Democratic Party, Rev. Christopher Mtikila and nine others, have been arrested for holding an illegal meeting.

The constitutional debate has already brought to the fore a number of other significant issues (in addition to the perennial debate about the position of Zanzibar in the Union):

INDIGENISATION OR 'ECONOMIC MAGEUZI'

"Who is handling the Bureau de Change" asked Member of Parliament for Makete during an interview in the Dar es Salaam Express. "The black people of Tanzania are not handling them because they don't have the money to establish such activities." But, as an Asian businessman, quoted in the same paper said "I may be of Asian origin, but as far as I'm concerned I am a Tanzanian." So has begun what is being called the debate on Indigenisation or 'Economic Mageuzi'. Some political parties are beginning to raise the issue.

THE RELIGIOUS TIMEBOMB

The Business Times, in an article under this heading, quoted Professor Jumanne Wagao, the Economic Advisor to Mwalimu Nyerere, as stating that the fall of the Ujamaa ideology was the main cause of the recent growth of religious militancy in Tanzania. People were searching for alternative ideologies. Sheikh Kassim bin Juma bin Khamis was quoted as calling upon the government to create special seats in the legislature for representatives of religious communities as the checks and balances under a one-party state might not be there within a multi-party system. Christian militants were said to be accusing President Mwinyi of failing to take stern measures against fellow Muslims who were preaching against and insulting the Bible.

THE NEW CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT

In each of the last four decades, a new Law has been passed to govern Co-operatives in Tanzania. In 1968, in response to problems caused primarily by too rapid growth, the 1932 legislation was replaced by an Act which greatly strengthened the power of the government to intervene in Co-operative affairs. In 1975, the mould-breaking Villages and Ujamaa Villages Act made each village into a single corporation responsible both for the administrative functions of local government and the commercial functions hitherto carried out by Co-operatives. Everybody in the village was automatically a member. The rural Primary Co-operatives ceased to exist and, shortly afterwards, the District and Regional Co-operative Unions were also abolished. The 1982 Act, which was discussed in the January 1986 Bulletin of Tanzanian Affairs, brought Tanzania more than half-way back to Co-operative orthodoxy. Now the 1991 Co-operative Societies Act has completed the process.

Whether the 1991 Act represents final recantation of valuable Socialist principles or the welcome return of the Prodigal Son to the Co-operative father, it is an outstandingly well-written piece of legislation. In its way, it is as radical as the 1975 Act. Many third world countries talk about the need for legislation which gives proper autonomy to Co-operatives. Tanzania has led the way by producing such a Law. Many of the good features of the 1982 Act are retained in the 1991 Act. However, it is the changes which are of great interest.

At the root of it all is one word in the 1991 definition, "A Co-operative Society is an association of persons who have VOLUNTARILY joined together...". The omission of the underlined word in the 1982 definition was meant to preserve the 1975 idea that everyone in the village was automatically a member. The 1991 Act not only restates the time-honoured Co-operative Principle of voluntary membership. Its details are also consistent with all the Six Principles supported by the International Co-operative Alliance.

The 1982 statement that Co-operatives act in accordance with a 'Socialist outlook' is gone. So is the rule that all Co-operative activity in a village should be under the umbrella of one multi-purpose Co-operative and of a Co-operative Development Committee. There is practical support for small group enterprise since groups with specialized skills are allowed to register with as few as four members.

Whereas the 1982 Act required the Registrar to "exercise control" over Co-operative Societies, the new requirement is to "promote, inspect and advise", and there is a new emphasis on the duty of providing educational support. Although the Audit Commission is preserved, Societies now have the option of choosing "any competent and registered auditor appointed by the general meeting and approved by the Registrar".

No longer can the Registrar order Societies to amalgamate or to divide or to join a federal body. In all such matters, the Registrar has a duty to advise and, in one case, there is the sanction that members can become personally liable for debts caused by not following the Registrar's

advice.

Only Societies which are receiving financial assistance from the Government can be forced to accept government nominees on their board and the power to direct Co-operatives to sack an incompetent or dishonest manager is shifted from the Registrar to an Apex Co-operative.

The word "Apex Co-operative" has a different meaning from before. No longer does the Act DICTATE a three-tier federal structure with one Apex. Now a four-tier structure is suggested subject to the consent of the members. The proposal is for a single national federation with sectoral apexes in membership. All reflections of the National Apex as a party organ parallel with youth wing and the women's organisation (UWT) are gone.

The 1982 Act ALLOWED the Registrar gradually to delegate certain duties to the APEX ORGANISATION as soon as the Apex was judged to be competent. The 1991 Act DIRECTS the Registrar to delegate to "THE COOPERATIVES ON MUTUAL AGREEMENT". The direction would have more force if it was accompanied by a time limit but the dropping of the judgement of competence seems important. It may represent the abandonment of a recipe for perpetual paternalism. Few paternalists abandon power if they have been directed to wait till their proteges are competent.

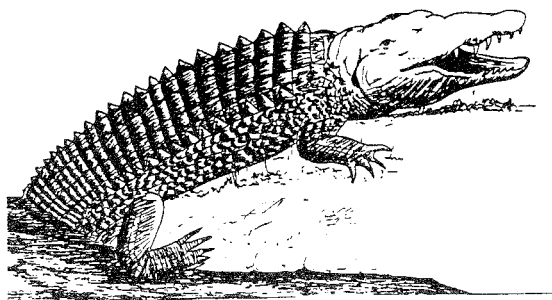
It is a pity that all pronouns in the new Act are still masculine. A change, especially in references to qualifications of membership, would have given a small push in the right direction. Too many Co-operatives are hampered by the fact that the women who do most of the farming are not members unless they are "heads of households".

Finally, let us hope that the full potential of this liberating legislation will be realised. The "Registered Villages and Ujamaa Villages" failed so far as they did not bring prosperity to the people. Meanwhile in the African countries, Co-operatives closer to the orthodox Western pattern were failing equally badly. The poorest third of the population need other structures if they are ever to pull themselves out of poverty. The problems have not gone away and the search for solutions as radical as those associated with Ujamaa should still be on.

The new Act permits members to shape their own Co-operatives and it also calls for additional Co-operative education. Let us hope that the educators put before the members ideas associated with Socialism and Ujamaa as well as those associated with Free Market and Competition. Unless people are encouraged to look at ideas from both sources, the chances that they will create Co-operatives that meet their needs will be unnecessarily reduced.

A pessimistic interpreter can see the new Act as a jump backwards from Socialistic modes of Co-operation which did not help the poorest to older styles which did not help them either. Alternatively, it can be seen as a commitment to trust the people to choose their own modes of Co-operation, anywhere on the spectrum between Marx and Adam Smith. Let us hope the second will prove closer to the truth.

Peter Yeo



A DAY ON LAKE VICTORIA

Rubondo Island National Park is a unique place, situated in the South-West waters of Lake Victoria; it is exceptionally beautiful, far flung from the madding crowd and last, but definitely not least, cheap, since this is a park where hiring a four-wheel drive vehicle is not an obligation. Therefore, between the 19th and 24th September 1991, five of us (all volunteers with VSO) took a break here on this island. I am quite certain none of us will ever forget this trip and that none of the five will ever deny that much of the memorabilia we have stored in our minds are the events of one single day.

We begin in the early morning at the Rangers Headquarters camp where we were staying. We hired a park boat and bought fifty litres of petrol because, today we were going to the southern end of the island to look for Rhino and Elephant. We set off, slightly late, and headed south, past the Island of Birds, the Island of Crocodiles, over the deepest blackest waters of Lake Victoria, and skirted a series of formidable rock cliffs that fell straight into the deep water. We reached our first port of call, a smaller Rangers outpost that we were already familiar with, having spent our first night on the island there. This is where things really began to happen. To begin with, we foolishly let the Rangers take our boat (and our petrol) to the opposite side of the island to buy some cigarettes. Meantime, we brewed up some tea and had a simple breakfast. Eventually, the boat came back and we were prepared to leave.

Into the campfire I threw a pinch of the magic powder that I had bought from my local medicine man (he sold 'dawa' in the market place) for drawing the animals to us, imploring whoever was listening, in my best Kiswahili, to "Bring us Elephant and Rhino". We had not quite gone when I was called over to the side for an urgent discussion with one of the Rangers. Reluctantly I disappeared behind a big tree with the man in order to listen to his problem, when, without further ado, and to my immense consternation, he began to silently unbuckle his trousers and undo his fly. My mind began to reel with the possibilities. He silently carried on until his lower midriff was totally naked, and then, wedding tackle in hand, he began to beg me for help. His genitalia had been besieged by insects of a variety I had no inclination to study more closely, and he, having seen me with the magic powder and having heard my Kiswahili, had obviously decided that I was an Mzungu to whom all could be bared. As it was, I was in no position to help and somewhat befuddled by his unique situation. All I could do was to worm my way out from behind the tree by claiming that two of the other VSO'S (who lived at the nearest mainland town) were the

ones to see and that he could feel free to drop in on them any time he saw fit. We pushed off, and thus it was that we came across the poachers in the lake.

The day's plan was that we were to be left at the southern end of a long sweeping bay, and that we would walk north following the line of the shore until we'd reached the end of the bay, where we would be met. We'd just rounded the northern tip of the bay formed by a headland crowned with a large steep hill, when we spotted another boat. Obviously they were poachers and so we set off to arrest them. As we drew nearer it became clear that their vessel was waterlogged; there were two men sitting up to their chests in the lake astride their stricken and totally useless boat. At first I had thought they were using a cunning trick to hide from us - the lower they were in the water, the less we could see of them. In fact they were drowning and had been so since nine pm the previous night when their boat had begun to sink.

Ridiculously, we offered them our greetings and condolences, and finally we rescued them. The thing was that the two fishermen-cum-poachers were so dispassionate about the whole affair. Since nine pm they'd been slowly drowning, not four hundred metres from the shore, yet they'd not attempted to attract our attention nor flung themselves into the sanctity of our boat, nor attempted to reach the shore, nor displayed any emotion whatsoever. This was very disconcerting and occupied our minds for a good part of the rest of the day. Though they could talk and breathe, it was as if we had just pulled two very dead men from the lake. Anyway, we the tourists and the Rangers, were left at our start point while the 'dead men' were taken back to the Secondary Rangers post that we had just left.

We began to rapidly move northwards. Our Ranger, an ex-soldier, must have been in the throes of some sort of Uganda War flashback, because what we were engaged in was not a gentle tourist stroll through the woods, but a tough physical speed march. The woods were magnificent and, as on the previous days, the magic powder seemed to be working for we were surrounded by wildlife: Bushbuck, Sitatunga, fresh spoor of Elephant, and a diversity of birdlife to make an ornithologist weep. Much marching later and we were approaching that part of the bay opposite to where we had made our rescue. Our Ranger stopped and casually informed us that there was a crocodile on the beach in front of us. At first I saw nothing, but then the ubiquitous tree trunk that was protruding from the forest edge suddenly became the neck and head of a crocodile.

In that instant of recognition, I knew why those fishermen had 'died'. Had I been mad enough to wish to run forward and embrace the crocodile in a warm hug about its neck, its tremendous girth was such that my hands would have failed to meet on the far side of the beast. The crocodile was now looking at us with its rear eye (deep orange-yellow in colour and infinite in depth); it rose and began to emerge from the forest's edge to cross the beach not fifteen metres to our front. The beast was extraordinarily large, elemental and awesome, as tall on its feet as a very, very large dog. Needless to say we, the tourists, were rooted to the spot. The crocodile's length (perhaps five metres or so), passed us and entered the water. Its tail waved once and it was gone. So that was it. Can you imagine sitting up to your chest in that creatures' dark kingdom from nine pm last night till this morning? "But that was only a small one"

announced our Ranger, "the bigger ones are in the Island of Crocodiles that we passed this morning". Suckers for punishment that we were, we decided to have a closer look on our return journey. We carried on, but by now some of our party were suffering from the effects of the marching and the heat. It was necessary therefore for three of us to remain behind while the others went to bring the boat back. This we did. We all climbed aboard and began the return to the headquarters via the other Rangers post. The two men from the lake were still in shock, though slightly more lively; we didn't have anything to say to them. What could we say? We had just arrested them for poaching, after all.

The day was not over yet. The unforeseen activities of the day, the cigarette sortie, the rescue, and returning to pick up the retired tourists, had sorely depleted our petrol. In short, we didn't have enough to get back. We were faced with two poor choices: stay here the night (with our insect laden friend), or go on and then row the rest of the way. We chose the latter. At this point, let me tell you that I am terrified of deep water - but deep black water inhibited by large monsters? Well, as it was, we ran out of petrol as we were circling the Isle of Crocodiles. We were going to run out of petrol anyway, and as I said, we were suckers for punishment. The crocodiles put on a great display for us. On sighting us they rushed from their basking points, down their mud-slides, to crash with horrible momentum into the water. We screamed and, for an instant, I nearly began to run, when fortunately I remembered where I was.

Every one of them was a large beast, though, to the great disappointment of our Rangers, none were larger than the one we had seen on the beach. From here, it took us six hours of constant rowing through the inky night to reach our camp. Though I was frightened, I shall never forget how beautiful that night was. The moon was bright and we could clearly see the island to our left, the cliffs falling into the waters. The other four VSO's were singing as they rowed, but I was silent, numb with fear and awe.

When we got back we found that the only other campers there had left us another gift from the lake, Tilapia - good fish for eating. We fried them up and it was delicious, and let me tell you, it was not just the taste I was enjoying.

Michael Ball

CHANGES AT AIR TANZANIA

The Government has retired seven top executives (including the General Manager and the Director of Finance) and has demoted the Director of Operations and the Technical Director of Air Tanzania Corporation. This action followed within a few days of the appointment at the beginning of June of a new Chairman of the Board of Directors - Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Transport, Mr Richard Mariki.

The Government has also taken over Shs 12.4 billion accumulated debt. It is believed that a substantial percentage of the work force will be laid off and private investors will be invited to buy shares in the company.

The Corporation has announced increases in domestic tariffs of between 50 and 100% effective August 10, 1992 - Daily News.

THE 1992-93 BUDGET

The budget speech of the Minister for Finance was delivered in the National Assembly on June 18 1992 by Professor K A Malima who had recently exchanged jobs with Mr Steven Kibona as Minister of Planning. Thus, as Professor Malima generously acknowledged in his speech, a large part of the preparatory work had been supervised by his predecessor.

The underlying purpose was stated to be to continue the reforms towards greater market orientation and institutional financial responsibility set in motion in successive economic recovery programmes. Inevitably, therefore, a considerable part of the speech was devoted to a survey of reforms already begun or accomplished. The object of these changes was to open up the economy to private enterprise, to reorganise parastatal organisations on self-sustaining commercial lines, to expose the banking system to competition, to remove from the banks the severe handicap of non-performing assets and to institute various measures aimed at trade liberalisation and a wider access to foreign exchange. The full effect of these changes was likely to become visible only in the medium term, but already some encouraging results were emerging. In comparison with the previous year, the dollar value of exports was expected to show an increase of 7.4% Agricultural production was showing encouraging signs of expansion.

At the centre of the reforms needed was a progressive reduction of the Government's dependance on external financing to balance not only the domestic budget, but also the country's foreign trading and payments account. Revenue in 1991-92 only financed two thirds of recurrent expenditure, the balance being made up out of foreign loans and grants, while export earnings only paid for about a third of minimal import requirements. The bulk of these deficiencies will eventually be made good as a result of economic growth, but a significant contribution was expected as a result of the institutional reforms now in train, or in prospect, and a generally enhanced regard for efficiency and productivity.

The continuing expansion of Government activities in recent years, beyond the limits of available revenue has led to a deterioration in the quality of Government services, an increase in the number of incomplete projects and neglect of preventive maintenance. It was therefore intended that the role of Government should be redefined with the aim of reducing its scope to a size capable of being financed out of revenue based on a small and highly efficient civil service. Government would withdraw from activities that could effectively be carried out by the private sector. Central to the remaining functions of Government will be law and order and the provision of economic and social services. In the case of the social services an element of consumer contribution is envisaged.

An element in the reform of Government business is the search for simpler procedures. In future the customs tariff will only contain four rates instead of five and excise duty only two in place of eight. But a notable change announced in the speech is a substantial reduction of customs duty, sales tax, income tax and company tax. The objectives here are to reduce costs of production, to alleviate the burden on consumers and bring about a reduction in tax avoidance. The effect on consumers is of special significance in view of the adverse effect of inflation on personal incomes. The abolition of customs duty and sales tax on all industrial raw

materials will not only reduce costs, but also help industries to compete effectively in home and overseas markets. Other taxes have been abolished either because they are obsolete or because they are at odds with present policies. Examples are the 20% levy on the value of air tickets for foreign travel and a 1% tax on share capital.

SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Minimum wage for civil servants raised from Shs 3,500 to Shs 5,000 (approximately £9 or US \$17!) per month;
 - Abolishing excise duty on locally produced sugar, textiles, garments and cement;
 - Reducing corporate tax for local firms from 45% to 35%; foreign firms from 50% to 40%;
 - Increasing licence fees for birth, death and marriage
 - 10% income tax (15% for foreigners) on bank deposit interest; 20% (once and for all) income tax on dividends;
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A number of reasons were given in the budget speech for the decision to reduce taxes. It has been observed that, in view of the narrow tax base and the constant increase in Government services, it had become necessary to raise taxes by substantial amounts in order to balance the books. The result had been a marked reduction of the take-home income of the workers and a decline in revenue collection through tax avoidance. The tax burden was also adversely affecting industrial productivity.

The widespread reduction of customs duties and sales taxes and their abolition on certain items has prompted the Government to discontinue all exemptions hitherto enjoyed by Central Government, Local Government, political parties, religious institutions (except for items used in worship), Non-Governmental Organisations and charities. Local NGO's and charities will not, however, have to pay tax on materials and commodities given them as donations to be passed on as free gifts to the needy and the poor.

The budget included the customary civil service salary increases to compensate for inflation. It was admitted that salaries were inadequate in view of the high cost of living and that efficiency had been impaired by a lack of appropriate working tools and poor remuneration. While little specific provision appears to have been made in this budget to ameliorate these underlying problems, it may be assumed that planned reduction in the scope of Government services will provide the necessary opportunity.

The budget is a courageous sequel to previous budgets and, in its fiscal provisions, a daring attempt to grapple with deep underlying problems. As a forecast of budgetary performance much reliance is placed on expected psychological reactions, which may or may not eventuate in whole or in part, but the attempt was certainly worth making. Will the new tax structure enhance production, increase efficiency, reduce absenteeism and raise expectations as a result of improvement in morale? Will the more moderate level of taxes reduce tax avoidance? Will simplification of Government procedures result in greater efficiency? All of these outcomes are justifiable hopes and it will be profoundly interesting to read in next year's budget speech how far hope has been transformed into fact.

J Roger Carter



STAYING TRUE TO PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED A CONTINENT

Writing in a 'Tanzanian Special Report' in THE GUARDIAN (May 21 1992) Brian Cooksey pointed out that Tanzania is one of the last four countries in the world to retain socialism as its official creed. Although the National Assembly had recently passed legislation for multi-party government, proposals to remove all reference to socialism from the constitution had been roundly defeated. A decade of pressure from the World Bank and Western donor nations had so far failed to persuade Tanzania to ditch former President Nyerere's collectivist ideology. For years his distinctive brand of African socialism had inspired millions of the continent's poor and oppressed. One of the ironies had been that, until the early 1980's, Western donor policy advice - the World Bank included - had been almost entirely supportive of the statist policies of the Nyerere years. With capitulation to the Bank and the IMF, Tanzania's radical international reputation had declined and interest in Tanzania's development model had waned.

AN OVERSEAS BRANCH OF THE CCM?

AFRICA EVENTS (July 1992) quoted CCM Party Secretary General Horace Kolimba during a speech given on June 11th at the Tanzanian High Commission in London as saying: "The work place must remain a place of work, including this mission". In the past, he said, the High Commission had been considered as an overseas branch of the (CCM) Party. "Not any more, from July 1st" he went on. "No party will be allowed to have any branches in any place of work".

TWO FREE PORTS

Zanzibar President Dr Salmin Amour was reported in the August issue of AFRICAN BUSINESS to have announced that the islands are to establish two free ports - one on the West coast of the main island and the other at Micheweni in Pemba, two sites where virtually no economic activity is going on at present.

IN THE BEST SENSE UNIQUE

'This novel (whose Swahili title is 'Bwana Myombekere na Bibi Bugonoka na Mtulanalwo na Bulihwali') is in the best sense unique. Never before was a novel of its kind been written in Africa and never again can such a book be written.' With these words the WESTDEUTSCHER RUNDfunk (West German Radio) revealed that a novel about early life in Ukerewe written by the

late Aniceti Kitereza and already published in Swahili and English (the latter by the Tanzania Publishing House) has now been published in part (the first of two volumes) in German. *The remarkable story of how the book came to be written and the large number of persons and agencies involved was given in Bulletin No 14 in 1982 - Editor).*

THE ONES THEY LEFT BEHIND

In introducing to its readers a new African-Russian Society designed to help the children of African fathers and Soviet mothers who are still in Russia (the oldest are 26 because the Soviet Union began a large scale scholarship programme in the early 60's) the BBC magazine FOCUS ON AFRICA recently featured 13 year-old Maria Ferdinandova Balige. Her Tanzanian father had eventually been deported from the Soviet Union to Tanzania for having overstayed on a vacation in Sweden. He had spent a clandestine year in Leningrad with his Soviet wife and baby. Maria, a promising athlete, had had to be withdrawn from her gymnastics school complaining that her fellow Russian pupils had begun to hate her when she started coming top in most of the exercises. "They called me names" she said. "Obeziana (monkey), black paint, chocolate, black sea....".

TANZANIA AND SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION

Pointing to recent visits to Tanzania by Indonesian President Soeharto and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, AFRICA ANALYSIS in its June 12 issue reported on Tanzania's 'dynamic policy to reactivate Afro-Asian solidarity... The new South South focus is expected to result in joint ventures....already Malaysia is helping with a palm tree project in Kigoma and discussions are under way with Indonesia on gas exploration'. President Mwinyi was said to be taking a keen interest also in regional conflict resolution. Because of its relative political stability and geography ...Mwinyi had been able to successfully mediate between Burundi and Ruanda and between Kenya and Uganda and had played a pivotal role in efforts to revive East African economic cooperation.

NOT GEARED TO TOURISM

"I travelled around Pemba in the local covered, but open sided 'buses'" wrote Frank Nowikowski in a full page article on Zanzibar in the BUENOS AIRES HERALD (March 1 1992). "I asked for directions to a nice sandy beach...but such a concept did not seem to be understood....In the main town Chake Chake there is one small hotel with five rooms. In the other two settlements on the island there are identical hotels, even down to identical wall clocks in identical positions, behind identical reception desks.....Pemba is not geared to tourism".

BELIEF SYSTEMS OF THE TANZANIAN PEASANTRY

As part of a supplement on Human Development in the June 1992 issue of AFRICA EVENTS Prof Sulayman Nyang, Director of the African Studies Centre of Howard University, Washington DC, gave his views on what he described

as the 'total failure' of Julius Nyerere's Ujamaa policy. 'I am inclined to make a tentative conclusion' he wrote 'that a significant part of the failure was the coerced villagisation....Unwilling to pay adequate attention to the belief systems of the diverse ethnic groups of Tanzania ...President Nyerere's ilks wittingly or unwittingly committed a serious blunder... the separation from their (the peasant's) ancestral lands could not be compensated by creature comforts identified with this illusive stage called development...perhaps the fate of Ujamaa could have been very different...if a programme of effective social psychological mobilisation (had been) mounted by the government'.

COFFEE TO JAPAN

Reporting on a recent visit to Japan by members of the Tanzania Coffee Marketing Board the JAPAN TIMES recently explained that Japan is ranked second to Germany as far as the trade value of coffee imports from Tanzania is concerned. Demand for Kilimanjaro coffee was stable in spite of increasing imports from other countries such as Kenya.

IS KAMBONA TANZANIAN?

'It is ludicrous for anyone inside the Tanzanian ruling elite to suggest that (former Tanzanian cabinet minister) Oscar Kambona should be any other than a Tanzanian by birth' wrote a reader in the June issue of NEW AFRICAN replying to an earlier article in which a Tanzanian had been quoted as saying that he was originally from Malawi. 'Mr Kambona, who was once the number two in the Tanzanian leadership hierarchy and a crown prince to Dr Nyerere, had dedicated his early political life to the fight for Tanzania's independence. How can anyone doubt such a man's patriotism?...The Government should rehabilitate Mr Kambona and incorporate his party into the new political life of the country' the reader concluded.

The LONDON EVENING STANDARD (August 14) published a letter from Mr Kambona in which he stated that he wished to join those paying tribute to the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir Robert Muldoon, who has just died. Kambona wrote that it was Sir Robert, in a humanitarian act, who had used his influence to bring about the release from detention in Tanzania in 1978 of his two brothers, Otini and Mattiya.

MONEY RELATIVELY WELL SPENT

Writing in a recent issue of the IRISH TIMES Peadar Kirby criticised in some detail Ireland's aid programme in Tanzania - a programme which takes a quarter of Ireland's total aid budget. During recent years the Kilosa District Vocational Training Centre at Mikumi had taken 40% of this annual budget which, last year amounted to £2.4 million. 'It is an impressive campus of which any Irish town would be proud' he wrote. 73% of the first output of trainees have been placed in employment which is good by Irish standards....Compared to larger aid programmes Irish taxpayers' money seems relatively well spent...but what isn't disputed is that the Irish Aid Programme is now left with a Centre too costly for Tanzanians to

maintain themselves. A plan to get the Tanzanians to cover 60% of the costs by 1993 has been shelved in favour of 1996....the haphazard nature of the Irsih Aid Programme and the mistakes made with Mikumi point to a major weakness - it is administered by diplomats who are rarely left long enough to build up expertise in development issues....'

DEBTORS TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

An article in MOSCOW NEWS quoted in the July issue of 'New African' described how the Russian Federation, groaning under a huge external debt, is demanding payment of some 14 billion convertible roubles (£804 million) owed to the former Soviet Union by various African countries. A table listing 32 African debtor countries had Tanzania in the sixth position (after Angola, Algeria, Zambia, Libya, and Mozambique) with debts of 295 million roubles for military assistance and 34 million roubles for economic assistance.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IN SHINYANGA

In one of a number articles on the Rio Earth Summit in the May issue of AFRICA EVENTS Belinda Coote quoted a Shinyanga social worker as explaining the role of cotton in degrading the soil. 'When people first started growing cotton it was relatively well paid. They were able to buy cattle with the proceeds but this led to overgrazing. Then they began to use tractors to prepare the land for cotton. This meant that larger areas were cleared and trees uprooted. Now there is less rainfall in the area. Farmers can no longer grow maize so have switched to sorghum. Because there is little wood left for fuel they have to use cow dung and cotton stalks which would otherwise be left to fertilise the land. The result is severe soil erosion and declining soil fertility'. Thus, the author wrote, Shinyanga's farmers were caught in a vicious circle. 'Cotton production is one of the very few ways they have of earning money, yet by growing it they further degrade the area's fragile soils. As a result, yields decline... Shinyanga's cotton industry illustrates the complex link between trade, poverty and environmental degradation.'

THE LAST GREAT UNTESTED NICKEL BELT IN THE WORLD?

In what was described in the July issue of AFRICAN BUSINESS as a milestone in Tanzania's drive to secure foreign investment the magazine revealed that the government had signed an agreement with Kagera Mining Company, a subsidiary of Sutton Resources of Canada which would provide mining exploration and development options to the company for an area of 26,400 sq kms in the Kagera Region. The agreement represents a follow-up to exploration in a corner of the region, Kabanga, where the nickel deposit is estimated to contain 40 million tonnes, grading 1.05% nickel, and also cobalt and copper.

MAANDISHI YA KIAFRIKA (AFRICAN WRITING)

This is what its inventor, Shiyana Saleh Mandevu, a 68-year old

peasant, poet and former truck driver, calls his new Swahili script according to an article in NEW AFRICAN (July). His writing was said to be rather like Pitman's Shorthand with Arabic influences. It was his collection of ancient objects - bows, arrows, clay pots and other handicrafts - which inspired him to devise the new script. Two horizontal bows with their strings facing upwards mean 'baba' (father), two traditional stools read 'mama' and so on.

NYERERE ATTACKED

Anthony Daniels (the author of the book 'Filosofa's Republic' based on his experiences as a doctor in Tanzania and reviewed in Bulletin no 36) launched an unusually vitriolic attack on Mwalimu Nyerere in the DAILY TELEGRAPH on July 3, 1992. He wrote: 'Present-day reality has an autosatirical quality about it. How else is one to account for UNESCO's recent award to ex-President Nyerere of Tanzania of the Simon Bolivar Prize for services to freedom, independence and the dignity of peoples. (The award of US\$25,000 was shared with Burmese Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi; the jury said in its citation that Nyerere had worked tirelessly in the struggle against poverty, disease and ignorance; it took note of 'the ethical ideal of honesty that personifies Julius Nyerere' - Editor). Daniel's article went on: 'Nyerere strutted and fretted his hour (or quarter of a century to be precise) upon his own small stage (Tanzania) and forced millions of people from where they were living, herding them into collectivised villages so that they could come under the control of his Chama Cha Mapinduzi...not only did the Swahili Stalin get away with it but he received the *bien pensant* of Europe even as the huts of the recalcitrant peasants were burnt down...Nyerere was not entirely original in his ideas...he received a Fabian training at Edinburgh University but his road to Damascus was actually the road from Peking airport to Peking. Mao arranged for a couple of million helots of welcome to wave flags at him...it turned his head and all that was needed to complete the catastrophe were a few economic advisers from the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University....

....AND PRAISED

AFRICA EVENTS
Zambian reader Jimmy Mdluli in the July issue compared President's Kaunda and Nyerere. President Kaunda had eliminated all opposition and the only people he had genuinely attempted to groom as his successors had been his own sons. By comparison, when Tanzania's first President (Nyerere) stepped down, he had left a couple of obvious successors whom he had thoroughly schooled in politics and statesmanship.

ACHINGLY BEAUTIFUL

Writer Jim Berry used these words to describe the Selous Game Reserve in the DAILY TELEGRAPH ON July 25th. 'Much about the Selous is unexpected' he wrote. 'Despite being Africa's largest wildlife sanctuary it is also one of the least known and least visited. Its 2000 sq miles make it almost the size of Ireland...within its perimeter there are three separate

ecological entities whereas the - admittedly smaller - Serengeti National Park cannot accurately boast one....this vast area was named after the celebrated Frederick Courtney Selous, a towering figure among early white hunters...he was killed by a German sniper near Beho Beho. One afternoon we walked the few miles to where he fell. Old cartridge cases and other rusted military paraphernalia still litter the overgrown trenches. Selous's grave, marked by a marble plaque set in a simple concrete slab, stands nearby....

LADY CHALKER FIRES BACK

Lady Chalker of Wallasey, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, replied robustly in the SPECTATOR (May 9) to an earlier article attacking foreign aid which had been sceptical about the reality of the southern African drought. The article had spoken about Tanzania earning twice as much through foreign aid as it did through exports and of the lack of incentive for Tanzanians to grow exportable crops in a hot climate - only to be paid a fraction of their worth 'when you can go to Dar es Salaam, sit in an air conditioned office and lay your hands on untold dollars by bureaucratic intrigue'. Lady Chalker wrote to the editor that she really could not decide whether it was his arrogance or ignorance which appalled her the more. She pointed out that the article was out of date and listed the numerous changes that had occurred during recent years in aid policy.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KARUME

In a cover story on Political Assassinations in Africa AFRICA EVENTS (August 1992) went into some detail about the assassination (while he was playing dominos) of the late President Karume of Zanzibar on April 7, 1972. 'By no means' said the article 'was the assassin, Lt Humud Muhammed Humud, a lone player. He had accomplices at the scene who were subsequently either gunned down by the security forces or committed suicide. Humud died on the spot in circumstances that are still not clear....the Government (had) insisted that the assassination was part of a plot to overthrow it. But Humud had had a personal motive....his father had been arrested a few months after the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 and, while Humud was training later in the Soviet Union he had been told that his father had been executed...he had vowed revenge'. But there had been political factors also. By 1972 the revolution had degenerated into a tragic farce - gross abuses of human rights, political killings, a curious system of people's courts, forced inter-marriages, a declaration by Karume that there would be no elections for fifty years.... Karume had become an embarrassment to Nyerere and a danger to the future of the Union...'. The blood of Humud and his colleagues had not been shed in vain, the article concluded, as it had enabled Nyerere to subsequently consolidate the Union through the joining together of the TANU and CCM parties, the neutralisation of those who considered themselves to be Karume's legitimate heirs and the subsequent far-reaching constitutional changes and liberalisation which had followed under Zanzibar Presidents Jumbe and Mwinyi.

AND VERY FREE SPEECH IN TANZANIA'S OWN MEDIA

The Dar es Salaam 'FAMILY MIRROR' has continued to illustrate the remarkable extent of the freedom of the press now evident in Tanzania. In a single issue (May 1992) it headlined:

On page 1 '*Dodoma: A Capital Nobody Wants*' in which it wrote that the Government had backtracked on its decision to move Tanzania's capital from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma because of a lack of political will and the 'hopelessly collapsing national economy.....although no official announcement is expected from State House'.

On page 3 under the heading '*Malecela Must Show Political Maturity*' it accused Prime Minister and First Vice-President John Malecela of suffering from 'leadership fatigue' after what it described as the 'big flop' of Mr Malecela's visit to Namibia. What urked the Family Mirror was what it described as the 'old-fashioned... tired politics' he had been preaching as exemplified by his warning to Africa that it was about to be 're-colonised'. Quoting the example of foreign involvement in Kuwait, the Kurdish country and the Liberian Civil War it wondered why Mr Malecela didn't realise that the old (OAU) concept of non-interference (in the affairs of other countries) had 'almost become irrelevant in the African political context. Mr Malecela still 'embraces mesozoic notions that western nations are exploiters and colonialists trying to impress their models on Africa'.... 'Politicians without originality are finding it tough...as they try to concoct new situations and create new scapegoats to divert the attention of the world from their own internal problems. If Mr Malecela did not have any new agenda to sell to Namibians he could have discussed common problems such as population explosion, foreign debt, drought, food shortages, civil wars, human rights etc. Page 4, '*Dourado Speaks Out His Mind*', contained an interview conducted six years ago (shortly after he had been released from detention) but never published, with the 'fiery, defiant but principled politician', former Zanzibar Attorney General Wolfgang Dourado. "It was Mwalimu who detained me...not the Zanzibar Government" he said. "I was never given any grounds...but I believe that it was because I had been invited to present a paper to the Tanzania Law Society on the Consolidation of the Union... I was interviewed about it in the foreign media including the BBC...but in Africa one does not tread on the toes of venerable and infallible Founding Fathers'.

A COVERT CAMPAIGN

Reacting to increasing criticism in the private press Prime Minister and First Vice-President John Malecela was quoted in the SUNDAY NEWS (July 5) as speaking in Zanzibar of a 'covert campaign' to discredit the CCM and the Government. He said that the country's leadership welcomed criticism intended to rectify mistakes and lapses but strongly rejected reports aimed at arousing people's resentment so as to isolate the Party and the Government from the population. He urged Tanzanians to be vigilant against ill motives and advised them to resist attempts to erode national unity, peace and solidarity.

THE NEW BUREAUX de CHANGE

Until the middle eighties, importers and others requiring foreign exchange had to apply to the Bank of Tanzania and to make out a case for an allocation in competition with other applicants. In practice this procedure had two main disadvantages - in conditions of extreme foreign exchange shortage delays were inevitable and widespread and foreign trade was severely hampered; and, centralised allocation was not always found to be an appropriate mechanism for adjudicating between rival claims. With minor exceptions, all foreign exchange holdings had to be surrendered to the Central Bank, or to the National Bank of Commerce, in exchange for local currency.

In 1985 the central control of foreign exchange allocation was breached by removing the legal bar on the possession of foreign exchange in certain circumstances ('own funds scheme') and allowing exporters to retain a proportion of their foreign exchange earnings ('retention scheme') to meet the cost of importing machinery and raw materials and to import certain consumer items within a specified list deemed to raise public morale and offer an incentive for greater production ('incentive goods'). The combined effect of these measures was to fill the shelves of the shops with goods, albeit generally at a higher retail price in shilling terms, and to raise spirits and expectations.

While these measures bypassed the bureaucratic process for the procurement of some of the imports needed to sustain industrial production, they were not sufficiently wide-ranging to deal with all urgent requirements of foreign exchange. Furthermore, black market dealings, though they provided an informal means of access to foreign exchange, were nevertheless illegal and were depriving the established channels of scarce foreign exchange.

Early in 1992 a new Foreign Exchange Act vested responsibility for management of the country's foreign exchange in the Bank of Tanzania, including the power to make

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regulations. It became legal for any person to hold any amount of foreign exchange and to buy and sell it in the open market. In March 1992 the Foreign Exchange Regulations and the Foreign Exchange Bureau de Change Regulations were published in the Official Gazette. Bureaux de Change were set up in Dar es Salaam thus providing a legal basis for most of the transactions hitherto performed illegally. The device was not new, having been tried in a number of countries including Ghana and Uganda to good effect. It was hoped that this mechanism would go far towards undermining the black market and would draw into the public domain resources hitherto sidetracked into black market obscurity.

The rate of exchange is determined solely on a market basis at weekly auctions. As foreign exchange remains a scarce commodity, it is expensive and figures in excess of Shs 700 to the £1 have been quoted. Such figures reflect not only the scarcity of foreign currencies, but also provide holders of foreign currency with a strong motive for selling it to the Bureaux. At the same time, the official rate of exchange fixed from time to time by the Bank of Tanzania continues to govern applications for normal trade purposes through the banking system. This rate is in the region of Shs 500 to £1, revealing a substantial gap between the two rates. The official rate, which, under present policy, is moving slowly upwards in accordance with the rate of inflation, will tend towards stability as inflation is reduced to a figure comparable with that of Tanzania's main trading partners. The Bureau rate, however, will continue to be the value at which supply is in equilibrium with demand in the Bureau market and in the immediate future is likely to remain well above the official rate.

It would be a mistake to designate either rate as the 'right' one as they are the result of different mechanisms and serve differing purposes. The Bureau rate reflects the extreme scarcity of foreign exchange and depends solely on the interplay of supply and demand. Under the present policy, on the other hand, the official rate is much nearer to the value at which the purchasing power of the shilling is in approximate equilibrium with the purchasing power of the dollar. It is the official rate that governs most commercial transactions, while the Bureau rate provides a useful safety valve in cases that cannot command commercial priority, such as international travel costs and overseas purchases for non-commercial purposes. It is, however, the Bureau rate that has less claim to underlying validity, as it is inflated by the present scarcity of foreign exchange.

With the expansion of Tanzanian exports and the progressive narrowing of the unfavourable balance of overseas payments, the difference between the official and the Bureau rates will diminish. Ultimately, when Tanzania's foreign payments account reaches equilibrium, the exchange rate gap will disappear and present arrangements for the publication of an official rate will be discontinued. As scarcity of foreign exchange will no longer influence dealings, the market rate, as determined by auction, will fall to meet the official rate and thenceforth all dealings, apart from minor adjustments to different transaction costs for different sizes of transaction, will be based on the interaction of supply and demand.

J Roger Carter

(Eight Bureaux de Change now advertise their services in the Dar es Salaam press - Editor)

50 YEARS AGO

The following extracts from the 'Tanganyika Standard' appeared between May and December 1942.

RECRUITING SOLDIERS

Some 5,000 people turned up at the Open Space in Dar es Salaam yesterday (July 23rd) to see a display of military recruiting posters, photographs of recruits in training, a map explaining how Tanzanian troops were serving in Ceylon and Madagascar (in Madagascar they took part in the defeat of Vichy French forces - finally achieved on November 12th 1942), badges and, particularly popular, an exhibition of the Askari's daily rations. Rifles, a Bren gun and a three inch mortar were shown and Field Wireless Sets provided a demonstration of 'White Man's Magic' revealing how messages could be carried over great distances.

To dispel fears amongst Mohammedans that army meat might not be killed in accordance with their customs, guarantees to this effect, written by the African butcher of Messrs Liebig (Meat Cannery), were given out.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE LAKE HOTEL, BUKOBA (June 5)

'Beautiful climate, ideal situation on Lake Victoria, highly popular with visitors from all over East Africa. Bathing, surfing, tennis, golf, billiards, fishing and shooting. Splendid beach for children. Moderate tariff'.

KEEP OFF THE BEACH AT NIGHT

(Things were different in Dar es Salaam!) A 'Defence (Protected Areas) Foreshore Order' has been promulgated by the Officer Commanding Troops in Dar es Salaam to ensure that a stretch of beach 40 yards wide between Kunduchi and Mbwamamaji is kept clear of unauthorised persons at night.

UNIFIED SWAHILI BIBLE (July 31)

Under the aegis of the British and Foreign Bible Society a conference has been held in Arusha by the Bishop of Zanzibar and Mombasa to discuss the production of a unified Swahili Bible.... Many versions of the scriptures have been translated into Swahili from the time of Krapf until the latest by Roehl and there has been profound scholarship in the work done but it is felt that a unified Bible would be the most effective way of presenting the scriptures to Africans.

THE 'BATTLE OF DAR ES SALAAM' (September 11)

The 'State of Emergency' involving army personnel culminating in Sunday's 'Air Raid' and the 'Battle of Dar es Salaam' which followed the landing of 'enemy troops' along the coast from Mwanza Bay to Sea View gave a splendid opportunity for trying out the civilian 'Civil Defence Organisation'....but, while these specialised services were called upon to deal with 98 incidents during the day, ranging from the grand coup involving the destruction of Government House to the scattering of fragments of red glass in a road, it was generally agreed that civil defence workers had found little to do.

The Chief Umpire of the exercise commented, however, that the efforts made to black out the town were very bad indeed. "This is very humiliating" he said. "We must look to our laurels".

PROTECTION FOR LEOPARDS (December 18)

An Amending Bill was passed in the Legislative Council giving increased protection to leopards under the Game Laws. "This is not because leopards are beautiful or rare" the Acting Administrative Secretary said "but because they are the natural enemy of wild pigs and baboons which are responsible for extensive damage to crops".

GROSS FAVOURITISM TO THE MASAI

"Is the Government aware of the discontent in the country because of the gross favouritism it gives to the Masai?" asked Mr F.J. Anderson in the Legislative Council. The Chief Secretary replied "No Sir. Nor can Government accept that gross favouritism is shown towards the Masai.

The next question concerned Government annual administrative, medical and veterinary expenditures in Masailand, and, for comparison, those for Kondo. The answer was £9,300 for Masailand and £4,470 for Kondo for populations of 37,600 and 115,000 respectively.

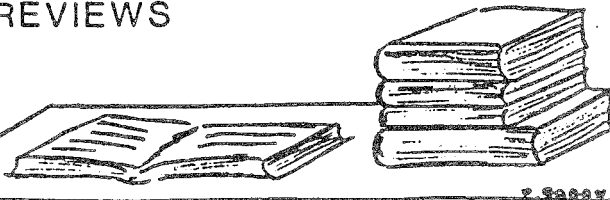
"Do the Masai make full use of the 20,000 odd square miles of land they occupy?". The Government's reply pointed out that only 10,000 sq miles was occupied and that this was strictly conditioned by water supplies. The Masai made "the fullest economic use of the land which their stage of development and tribal way of life permits".

"Can about 1,000 sq miles of agricultural land within Masailand be reserved for settlement of our fighting services personnel when their job of destroying our enemies, who would make slaves of the Masai, is completed?" The Chief Secretary replied "There is no prospect of any portion of Masailand being set aside for this purpose".

TANZANIA TO GET US\$990 MILLION

Aid donors and international organisations meeting in Paris on June 29th and 30th 1992 pledged about US\$ 990 million to help finance Tanzania's development programmes next year. Almost two thirds of the funds will be provided in the form of grants - World Bank News.

BOOK REVIEWS



(We apologise for an error in the Review Section of our last issue. The book by Issa G. Shivji reviewed by James S. Read is entitled 'The Concept of Human Rights in Africa' and not 'The Return of Human Rights in Africa' - Editor).

INNOVATION AND CHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. EXPERIENCES FROM TANZANIA. I. M. Omari. Comparative Education. Vol. 27. No 2. 1991

Professor Omari has written a lucid and interesting account of developments at the University of Dar es Salaam from which he draws some broadly-based conclusions.

He begins by exploring the background to the 1974 CCM decision to change university admission procedures: after 1974 only those with considerable work experience qualified for admission. One result was an older student population, less equipped in some ways to cope with traditional undergraduate courses. Fairly quickly, modifications had to be made to science admissions. The issue of equity of access - especially of women - also had to be addressed. Professor Omari remarks that the early cracks in sciences and for women students provided a hostile staff with ammunition to point out the flaws in the innovations, and that the exemptions again gave critics an opening to point out inconsistencies. He is pessimistic about the multiplier effect for decades to come of admitting poor students into the Faculty of Education.

Professor Omari comments on the powers of heads of state as chancellors of universities. This underlines the importance of getting right the relationship between the state and the university. This is a sensitive issue, as current events in the University of Zimbabwe demonstrate. There, new legislation on tertiary education has run into strongly expressed opposition from the university community and relations between the Ministry and the University are not good.

Tanzania early realised that the university as a sovereignty symbol is both an asset and a liability. Professor Omari quotes President Nyerere (1985) "the effects of ambition clashing with the limitation of resources" and Nahdi (1987) on the University of Dar es Salaam as "a seething cauldron of militancy and radicalism and new ideas. Academics streamed from all over, looking for the revolutionary Mecca of their dream." He draws attention to the incompatibility of 'the wish of the political elite for a subservient university, closely following and obeying party and government policies without overt contradictions' and 'the culture of a university which had accumulated an international reputation for being at the centre of the

developmental debate.'

Professor Omari quotes Côté, who wrote in 1973 that, of the three primary functions of a university (teaching, research and training), it is research which is the essence of scholarship and a necessary condition for the existence of a university. However, since then increasing stress has been placed on the vocational aspects as a fundamental part of university education. Perhaps, therefore, Professor Omari might have acknowledged that it is not only in developing countries that 'the pressures on universities to redefine themselves so as to be more responsive, practical....and the locus of change have been particularly severe.'

Professor Omari charts the course of the 'University as a Workers' Institution'. He criticises the lack of consultation with the university when the Party introduced changes in 1974. He makes the point that it is easier to innovate in a multi-university system. Tanzania - like most of Africa - has lacked the capacity of countries in the North.

The lessons of the Tanzanian experience do not all take the form of cautionary tales. There has been a growth of interest in university-sponsored work experience. Although Professor Omari finds no evidence that such experience if leading to a long delay between secondary and tertiary education, produces persons better equipped to play their role in national social and economic development, he concludes that the policy debate regarding the relationship between work experience and university education should not cease.

I do not wholly go along with professor Omari in his view that 'university first-degree programmes take the form of liberal education designed to give broad analytical skills different from vocation-specific skills' or that 'it is a misconception to conceive the role and objectives of universities in developing countries primarily from the perspective of specific skill training while they have multiple roles and functions to deserve the claim'. He suggests that other post-secondary institutions whilst being flexible enough to filter a few for university should prepare people for specific occupations. He shares with others the view that this would allow universities to concentrate on producing high-level personnel with broad, flexible, imaginative conceptual frameworks and attitudes consistent with management capabilities and tasks that would cut across sectoral confines. However, there are countries in Africa where the demand for people with such skills is beginning to be satisfied. There are limits to the expansion of the public sector, and some of the future emphasis in African universities must be on producing people for self-employment.

For those who wish to follow the debate started by professor Omari a stage further I recommend a study of the recent work on cost effectiveness and efficiency of universities by the Association of African Universities. Next year should see the production of a report by the Higher Education Working Group of the Donors to African Education that will cover in depth issues raised by Professor Omari as well as some of the more recent developments in African higher education than those brought out by the Tanzania case study.

John Theakstone

THE FACADE OF PRECISION IN EDUCATION DATA AND STATISTICS - A TROUBLING EXAMPLE FROM TANZANIA. Joel Samoff. *Journal of modern African Studies*. 29, 4 (1991). pp 669 - 689.

To the educational planner, the first essential on which to base any development or projects, is to have a firm and reliable base from which to start. Two of these, namely a) the number of students in the system by grades; and b) the expenditures involved, are examined by the writer of this article.

Dealing first with educational statistics, the writer found some years back, that in one region in Tanzania (Kilimanjaro), "there were nearly twice as many children in primary schools as the official reports indicated". An error of this magnitude when totalled by all regions, gives a completely false picture and could produce major distortions and misjudged development as a consequence. Unfortunately, the writer does not develop these possibilities but concentrates the bulk of his theme on governmental expenditures on education. He then proceeds to demonstrate how widely differing conclusions can be drawn from identical pieces of data. His arguments and reasons are important and are worth summarising. To evaluate accurately how much is actually spent on education, the planner or developer must check whether :-

- i) official financial figures deal with budgeted or actual expenditure;
- ii) all expenditures by government are covered; some may be covered by local councils in addition;
- iii) other voluntary bodies contribute, eg: churches or community groups;
- iv) local currency values have changed over the periods being compared;
- v) the periods being compared are really comparable; and,
- vi) the periods being used for comparative purposes are long enough to yield valid conclusions.

Having made these points, the second half of the article concentrates on showing exactly what has been happening to recurrent expenditures on education over the two decades in Tanzania as a whole. The overall conclusions reached are that a) official statistics must be treated with great caution; b) apparent changes must be watched over a longish (several year) period before public policy is changed; and, c) pinpoint accuracy is impossible (though often claimed) and only general trends are worth considering.

These are all valid points and are supplemented by the writer stressing that generalisation must be checked by on-the-spot sampling, because officialdom in the country's capital may be ignorant of what is actually happening in the localities. This last point was all too clearly discovered by your reviewer when he spent some days in the Mtwara region and found serious lack of co-ordination in more than one respect between locality and headquarters.

The article performs a valuable function in drawing attention to basic discrepancies and the need for careful qualification before generalisations are made. It concentrates over-heavily on recurrent expenditures to the neglect of other areas such as teacher qualification and supply, which are not mentioned. Greater emphasis could have been placed on the error liable to arise if the numbers and grades of pupils are inaccurate. However, overall, the article makes its points firmly, and alas, with validity.

Bernard Braithwaite

THE CHALLENGE FACED BY THE BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE 1990's: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TANZANIA. A.U Kisanga. Habitat International. Vol.14. No.4. (1990). pp 119 - 132.

This is a technical and academic article. You have to dig for them but the author has the right ideas.

Much of what he says applies also to other industries, but the building materials industry is of special interest since we all use its products.

The reporter's themes are that:

- a) In Tanzania there is excessive dependence on imports, and even locally produced building materials have a high import content.
- b) local building materials industries are inefficient and high cost, so leading to low utilisation which makes matters worse; and,
- c) import substitution alone is not the answer.

Throughout the article the author tends to confuse two separate sectors. They both use building materials but there the resemblance ends. One is the large scale modern construction sector, and the other is the small scale traditional domestic sector.

To use the term "modern" defines the problem. The construction industry is truly traditional. Technology and design for large buildings are now world-wide. City centres everywhere are locked into this technology. Who can tell apart a skyline in America, Africa or Asia ?

Some of this building upwards is a necessity but some is merely fashion. Not all cities have space problems, yet many choose to build high mainly for reason of prestige.

The other sector is domestic and local - essentially low rise as opposed to high, what we describe a 'traditional'. People pay lip service to this but rarely build. The essence of traditional styles the world over is to use local materials. But architects trained in high technology do not accept these limitations and involve their clients in expensive imports. And local people, building for themselves, copy what they see and also use imported products.

It was not always so. The author refers to colonial days and implies that Tanzanians were taught expensive habits. Yet in the 1920's the Tanganyika PWD issued a technical guide which became famous as "Longland's Field Handbook". As late as the 1950's it was issued to all British Colonial Service Cadets, and it was recently reprinted by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG). It had all the right ideas, advocating the use of local materials (because there were no others) and described how to improve their quality. It even encouraged Technological Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), as now advocated by the United Nations, by quoting from Indian and West African equivalents.

As the author argues there is a need for education, training and guidance, and here the government should give a lead. But it may be that government officials will need to be re-educated first to understand that local is best. And the government must show support in its own building work. People copy what they see

It was unfortunate that the decade of African independence was the 1950's and 60's, when Soviet central planning appeared to be highly successful, and Western countries too had faith in the ability of governments to plan prosperity.

Hence the series of problems experienced not only by Tanzania but familiar to Eastern and Western countries alike. Here they are described as:-

- a) Excessive protection which has fostered uncompetitive behaviour;
- b) Inefficient public sector industries;
- c) State controlled monopolies;
- d) Development determined by political rather than economic criteria; and,
- e) Wage regulations raising the cost of unskilled labour, coupled with a lack of training creating skill shortages.

The author's solutions are to:

- Remove barriers to growth and encourage local and small scale enterprise;
- Develop a building materials industry protected from external suppliers but with effective internal competition to encourage productivity and innovation;
- Encourage the selection of appropriate technology;
- Support small companies with technical services, including spare parts and repairs, and training for skills and management;
- Protect the environment.

He becomes a little over-optimistic when he ends by writing about a regional export trade, but if his ideas were applied, the improvement within Tanzania would be reward enough.

Mel Crofton

"THE MPINGO - TREE THAT MAKES MUSIC" Programme on BBC 2 at 8 p.m. on Sunday 3rd May 1992. Presented by David Attenborough.

Mpingo wood is the only possible material from which you can make clarinets. The instrument makers at Buffet Crampon in Paris insist that this is so. Professional clarinetists, jazz and classical, agree.

Mpingo is African Blackwood, *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, a small Leguminous tree of savannah woodland. It is now the traditional tree of Tanzania which is at the centre of its natural range. To a reader familiar with trees in Britain I would describe its stature as resembling a hawthorn, inclined to be shrubby and crooked, and its leaves and flowers somewhat like the introduced Robinia or False Acacia. Its heartwood is at first sight black, though really grained in shades of very dark brown, contrasting with the light fawn outer sapwood.

The timber is described as the finest of all woods for carving fine detail. It can be machined almost like metal on a lathe, and the precise bore and fine screw threads that are worked in it are amazingly stable in the extremes of moisture and temperature to which a wind instrument is exposed. It is so dense that it sinks in water and so hard that the tools and the sculptor's chisel - need constant resharpening.

Selected seasoned billets of the right size for woodwind instruments and keys and fingerboards of other instruments are exported from Tanzania at 10,000 dollars per cubic metre.

You might expect a full forestry system to have developed around this tree - planting, weeding, thinning, pruning and harvesting in rotating compartments - but this is not so. It is more like hunting than forestry. The skill lies in finding the best trees in their native habitat. Poor specimens are quite common, good ones increasingly rare, and the journey to the sawmills can now be as much as 200 kilometres to keep up the rate of felling of 600 per week. The best trees are at least 60 years old and still only as thick as the waste of the woodcutter we saw felling one. Being so small a tree, awkwardly shaped, often cracked internally it is not surprising that the waste from the sawmills greatly exceeds the product in spite of the skill of the operators. "Ninety per cent of the tree" is not good enough for export.

To many in Tanzania the mpingo is known better for the "ebony" carvings which are the speciality of the Makonde people. A good tree would provide enough wood for a family to work with for six months, and make a living. A particularly intricate sculpture, perhaps fetching one hundred dollars in Dar es Salaam, could take one man the whole of six months to complete.

The message of the programme was that mpingo will soon be unobtainable if nothing is done about its proper management, and that the importers should invest money in the necessary research and development.

One man, at least, is trying to do something about it: Sebastian Chuwa, a Tanzanian botanist. He now has 2,000 seedlings growing in pots in various locations by courtesy of his friends around Dar es Salaam. Starting from scratch, he must have a formidable task ahead. It takes a long time to experiment with trees, and the final proof that you have been doing the right thing only comes when they reach commercial dimensions. Sebastian Chuwa's plan is to grow the trees in their natural habitat complete with their usual associated plant communities. The experimental areas would need protection against the increasing encroachment into savannah woodland by the slash-and-burn' agriculture of the increasing human population, in fact it would have to be recognised as a resource by and for the local communities. The loss of mpingo at present is being hastened by excessive burning that destroys the seedlings before they develop the protective bark that makes older savannah trees fireproof against moderate grass fires.

The success of Chuwa's work will depend on many other people. The ultimate production of sound timber with less waste starts right now with seed selection and control of growing conditions. Perhaps biotechnology can help in genetics and vegetative multiplication. It all costs money, but it is a resource that Tanzania must not lose.

John Leonhardt

FLIGHT TO FREEDOM. A TRUE HIJACKERS' STORY. Yassin Membar. Publisher: Tanzania Youth Democratic Movement. 16, Maddock Way, London, SE 17. £4.50.

'A questionable new type of book has appeared: the skyjacker autobiography'. So began an item in the July 23 issue of the DAILY TELEGRAPH which was describing how, ten years after the author had been arrested at Stanstead airport, having hijacked (with four other young men) an internal flight from his native Tanzania, he had now burst into print with an account of the adventure. And adventure it seems to have been. They were armed with two

wooden grenades and half a dozen waxed candles wrapped in wire and brown paper. As the author says: 'It was one of the great ironies of the whole affair that, once in control of the plane, our search of passengers turned up a real handgun brought on board by one of the passengers for his own protection!' This gun subsequently went off, accidentally it was claimed, and slightly injured the co-pilot. The plane landed at Nairobi, Jeddah, Athens and Rome before the crew were eventually arrested and, after receiving much help from former Tanzanian Foreign Minister, Oscar Kambona, were sentenced to relatively light terms of imprisonment in Britain.

The book or booklet - there are only 28 pages of text about the actual hijacking and subsequent time in prison - is disappointing. It tells us little beyond what is in the newspaper cuttings of the time which are included in the book. Nothing about the character and personalities of the hijackers; how their political activities in Tanzania drove them to take such drastic action; little about the precise nature of the Kambona intervention and the Government's reaction to it; even less about an apparent coup d'etat which was being planned; and who was the 'spy' in the British prison? The mystery about the Captain of the plane and his part in the hijacking remains a mystery.

The author does write about his emotions on leaving Wormwood Scrubs: "This was a hateful place. A squalid Victorian hovel. Yet there I was, lump in the throat and tears in my eyes as I read the 'Best Wishes' cards and shook the hands of fellow inmates who I would never see again" - D R B.

WILDE TALES FROM AFRICA. Jack K. H. Wilde. Castle Cary Press, Somerset. £5.95 plus £1.00 postage and packing.

Jack Wilde, described in Professor Brockleby's introduction to this highly entertaining book of reminiscences as an 'extrovert personality with a sense of humour', spent several years in Mpwapwa working as a veterinary officer. Despite the remoteness of his station and the absence of the many comforts and facilities we now take for granted, Jack Wilde does, indeed, emerge from the pages of the book as a likeable, amusing and very life-loving individual.

Thrust, like so many young men of the time, into considerable responsibility - the running of a veterinary laboratory and the overseeing of large numbers of men and their huge cattle herds - he soon seems to have taken to the work and, despite the undoubted difficulties and occasional poor health, he writes of the pleasures and sheer fun of the place and the job, barely mentioning the frustrations and the disappointments.

He was joined for his second tour by his wife. She, poor woman, suspected that her husband was responsible for the vile odours in his bedroom when in fact it was the remarkably flatulent dog under the bed.

Inevitably, wild life features in the book. There are also the usual scary snake stories - a 'dead' cobra suddenly coming to life in the living room - and once Wilde was tossed by a bull. His African staff used to sing of him as 'Bwana Waildi who was banged up the arse by a bull'.

At the end he describes his painful ascent of Kilimanjaro and even more painful meeting with an American religious crank who believed that Hitler had been

sent by God. Fortunately, by a strange coincidence, the two men met years later in the Ngorongoro Crater and the American had modified his views. Perhaps Wilde's arguments and sheer warmth had had a part in the conversion. Certainly one would have liked to work with a man whose enthusiasm and sense of the ridiculous side of life never seemed to flag.

Peter Barratt

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ISSUES IN AFRICAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT 1991. Editors: C R Doss and C Olson. Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. 1991. Four of the 24 articles in this book concern Tanzania and cover such specialised topics as the economics of tractor use, mobile saw milling and village forestry

DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE URBAN POOR. Carole Rakodi. Cities. August 1991. pp 228-243. Sites and services and upgrading projects have been implemented in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia mostly with World Bank assistance. The paper analyses the extent to which the components and institutional mechanisms developed during these projects have been sustainable.

BRITISH OVERSEAS AID. 1991 Annual Review. Overseas Development Administration. This lavishly illustrated book includes comparative figures of aid provided to 140 countries in 1991. In Africa, Kenya was the largest recipient (£44 million) and Malawi came second (£37 million). Tanzania was sixth (£23 million) but it was by far the largest recipient of debt relief (totalling £7 million) amongst African countries.

RETHINKING THE ARUSHA DECLARATION. Edited by Jeanette Hartmann. Centre for Development Research. Copenhagen. 1991. This book is a collection of articles which were first presented at a conference in Dar es Salaam in December 1986 but also contains eight articles commissioned later. (*It is understood that the editor of these papers died in Norway on May 2nd 1992 during leave of absence from her post as Senior Lecturer in the University of Dar es Salaam - Editor*)

FIFTY YEARS OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AT MATI, UKIRIGURU. 1939 -1989. A S Masha, E D M Mlay, A K K Ibrahim, J R K M Mayanja and T B Mnyema. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Cooperatives. 1990. This book is a half-century account of Tanzania's first agricultural training institution - the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI), Ukiriguru, whose origins go back to 1931 when a Mr. W C Clarke, Agricultural Assistant, pitched his tent on the site and established a seed farm there.

POST ABOLISHED. Laetitia Mukurasi. The Women's Press. 1991. £15. 00. This is an autobiographical account of the author's two-year struggle to protect her employment rights after she was the only woman and the only manager to lose her job during a redundancy exercise at Fibreboards Africa Ltd. She was eventually reinstated after being replaced by an expatriate on eight times her salary.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SADCC COUNTRIES. A BIBLIOGRAPHY. VOL 7. TANZANIA. 1990. C T A Netherlands/Sayce Publishing UK. This vast 700-page book contains 6,159 items, each with a summary of the key words. Items vary from a Brazilian paper on Tanzanian coffee dated 1927 to a paper on plant nematode pests of bananas dated 1986.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, OUTPUT AND PRICES IN TANZANIA. A Sepheri. World Development. Vol. 20. No. 2. 1992. This paper examines the relationship between changes in international reserves and in output, prices and monetary balances from 1962 to 1986.

TACKLING OBSTACLES TO HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

A M Ahmed, E Mung'ong'o and E Massawe. World Health Forum. Vol. 12. 1991. pp 483-488. Low staff motivation is the main problem limiting the quality of health care according to this survey undertaken in the urban district of Dodoma and the main problems in the rural areas are poor transport and poor supervision. The survey covered six urban dispensaries and two health centres and three health centres and three dispensaries in the rural areas.

MUST DIABETES BE A FATAL DISEASE IN AFRICA? STUDY OF COSTS OF TREATMENT. S S Chale, A B M Swai, P Myinga, D G Mc Larty. British Medical Journal. Vol. 304. 1992. pp 1215-1218. This concisely written study of over 900 patients at Muhimbili Medical Centre, Dar es Salaam determined that the average annual cost of diabetes care in 1989-90 was \$287 per patient requiring insulin and \$103 for a patient not requiring insulin. Thus around 0.2% of the population aged 15 years and over used the equivalent of 8% of the total government health expenditure, which was \$47,408,382. The paper concludes 'Diabetes places a heavy strain on the limited resources of developing countries. If African patients with diabetes have to pay for their treatment, most will be unable to do so and will die.'

CHOICE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SMALL AND LARGE FIRMS: GRAIN MILLING IN TANZANIA. M S D Bagachwa. World Development. Vol. 20. No 1. pp 97-107. This paper evaluates the performance of small and large grain milling techniques based on data from 49 maize and 16 rice milling units. The author demonstrates the economic viability of the small-scale custom milling sector and is encouraged by the restoration of cooperatives which could operate such machinery and thus reduce the monopoly power of the National Milling Corporation in terms of access to raw grain. He is critical of the marked differences in milling machine characteristics which have evolved in Tanzania over the years.

CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY OF LAKE TANGANYIKA. F C Roest. Bulletin of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. Netherlands. This report is a follow-up to a seminar held in Burundi in March 1991 which listed the dangers - excessive suspended sediment following clearing of 40 - 100% of the surrounding forest land, overfishing and pollution - and makes recommendations on possible improvements.

BIG ATTENDANCE AT LONDON INVESTMENT PROMOTION SEMINAR

A two-page spread in The Guardian called 'Special Report: Tanzania', greeted me on Thursday 21st May 1992. A handful of articles and several advertisements extolling the virtues of doing business in Tanzania, were a real surprise to me since I had never seen anything similar before; Nigeria, Kenya or Uganda perhaps, but never Tanzania. I soon realized that this was part of Tanzania's investment campaign taking place in London with a Confederation of British Industry (CBI)/East African Association Seminar arranged for the following day.

'The Changing Face of Tanzania: Business Prospects' stimulated a huge interest. From Tanzania, the Prime Minister John Malecela, brought four ministers, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, George Kahama, Director of the Investment Promotion Centre (IPC), plus numerous other officials. All the senior diplomats were assembled from the Tanzanian embassies in Europe. More than double the usual number of participants at CBI seminars were enrolled. The Conference Administrator reported that the phone had never stopped ringing with enquiries. When asked to explain the popularity of this conference, she suggested it was due to the friendliness of the Tanzanians.

So, the following morning I joined the 230 men and 5 women to attend the conference at Centre Point. I had discovered a special entry rate of £30 plus VAT was available for members of the Britain-Tanzania Society (BTS) as the regular fee of £282 is certainly beyond my means. Also present from the BTS were Roger Carter and Trevor Jagger. The format of the day was speeches and questions, very ably and smoothly chaired by Tom Brazier, Chairman of the East African Association. Sir David Gilmore started proceedings with a very informative and welcoming speech. This was followed by presentations by the Tanzanian team.

Quite clearly, everything is changing. Tanzania is very keen to welcome business to its shores. Time and again we were reminded of the glorious scenic beauties of Tanzania from Kilimanjaro to the Indian Ocean, from historic Zanzibar to the Serengeti. We were also told of the vast potential for agriculture, fisheries, minerals and natural resources. The businessmen were told several times about the fiscal changes, no tax for five years, freedom to remit profits and dividends, and the assistance available to establish new work in Tanzania.

During the afternoon I attended a Workshop on Industry and Agro-Industry. There was a question posed which for me illustrates in cameo the issues ahead: "I am in the fisheries business based for many years in Mombasa, Kenya. Two years ago, I moved down to Tanzania and am now based in Dar es Salaam. I have orders for ten tons of octopus a month but my current fishing fleet capacity can deliver only one ton a month. I have discovered three fishing vessels in Dar es Salaam that were part of an aid package from Italy some years ago. They are operating at only one tenth of their capability. I need ships, they need more work; how do we create a successful partnership?"

This also illustrates dramatically, the ecological and social issues which were conspicuously absent from the day's deliberations. Only Alistair Boyd from the Commonwealth Development Corporation spoke of the

need to take into account the social and ecological consequences of economic development. This example leaves me asking many questions:

- Will Tanzanians benefit from this change of economic policy?
- Do Tanzanians want all their octopus taken?
- Do Tanzanians want any of their other natural resources exploited?
- Does Tanzania have safeguards in place to protect it from over development? (which means money and people to monitor activity).
- Who benefits and who loses out?

Judith Holland

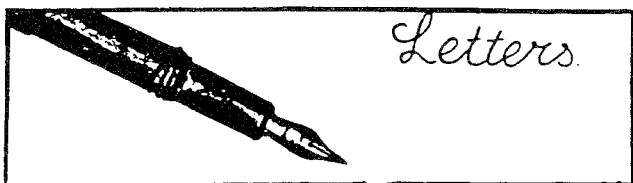
POINTS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS:

- Tanzania produces 1% of the total world output of coffee, cotton and tea. Coffee estates are up for sale. Investment is required for cashew nut and pyrrhtrum processing. Sisal is Tanzania's number four foreign exchange earner; Tanzania is soliciting the private sector to purchase or enter into joint ventures with sisal estates - Investment Promotion Centre

- The UK is still Tanzania's leading trading partner with a 22% share of the market. Our closest competitors are Italy (16%), Japan (13.3%) and Germany (11.7%). In 1991 we exported goods to the value of some £73 million and imported £21 million - mostly tea and coffee. Britain's Area Advisory Group for the Department of Trade and Industry has designated Tanzania as one of its 'markets to watch' and it is possible that it will consider an investigative mission in 1993. Tanzania's remarkable stability gives it advantages over many of the neighbouring states. It is to be congratulated on its marketing and cooperative reforms, political pluralism, independent press, the record in human rights....But it is a competitive world. There have been changes in banking but no foreign banks are yet operating in Tanzania; none of the parastatals have been sold or liquidated yet; there is need for progress on a double taxation agreement and there is the problem of outstanding commercial debts dating back to 1979 - Sir David Gilmore, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

- Many people neighbouring Tanzania have found the country to be a safe haven whenever they felt severely threatened in their own countries...even the wild game have the same feelings. It is no wonder that Tanzania has 25% of her territory reserved for game parks....It is our intention to make the Investment Promotion Centre a 'One-Stop-Centre' to speed up the process of approving investment projects....Between 1990 and April 1992 some 35 projects which are wholly owned by British firms or in partnership with Tanzanian counterparts have been set up....I really hope that you will be able to look into new possibilities - John Malecela.

- The factors which were most influential in our deciding to increase our investment in Tanzania were the stability and remittability of funds butwe have encountered some resistance from minor officials to the implementation of IPC investment approvals and there is continuing uncertainty on who in Government is responsible for privatisation and who we should negotiate with - Tom Brazier, Chairman, Brooke Bond Ltd.



'I WAS ASTONISHED' (So was I - Editor)

In the last number of the *Tanzanian Bulletin*, I was astonished to see on the '50 Years Ago' page, a parody of the 'Ode to Autumn', describing the Monsoon Season of the Tanzanian Coast. Yes! I remembered that I had written it all those years ago.

As I read it again, I had a vivid picture of a very solid, double-storied German Lutheran Mission building. With the outbreak of war and the internment of the Germans, this building had been taken over by the Government, and used as offices for the administration of Kiserawe District. The offices were on the ground floor, and steep wooden steps led from the wide verandah to the floor above, and this was our home for two years. We looked out on a level with the tops of many coconut palms, shining in the moonlight, and rustling eerily in the evening breeze. All water had to be fetched by porters from the wells in the valley below, and then carried up these steep steps.

The sanitation consisted of a large pit latrine, built a little way from the house. This 'convenience' was spacious with a long wooden seat with accommodation for three people simultaneously!

Of the local people, I remember the daily queues sitting on the ground outside the office, bringing their shauris to the 'Boma'. But I also remember, when, once, during the wet season, my husband was confined upstairs for some weeks with sciatica, the many dignified visitors in their long robes, Arab and African, who came to see him, offering compassion and concern with great courtesy.

We did not often go to Dar es Salaam, 20 miles away, petrol rationing being then in force; but we frequently visited the U.M.C.A. mission at Minaki, 2 or 3 miles away, where in school and hospital Canon Gibbons and Dr. Mary Gibbon must have had a lasting influence for good.

They are good memories of a friendly people - 50 years ago!

Helen Griffiths.

MAGEUZI

I feel sure that some readers of the *Bulletin* who possess an Oxford Standard Swahili-English Dictionary, as I do, will have written to you in connection with the first paragraph on page 2 of the May *Bulletin* (No. 42), headed, 'What is Mageuzi', and the translation you gave from the "Teach Yourself" dictionary.

I agree that the word 'fluctuations' hardly fills the bill and I feel sure that the Inter-Territorial Language Committee, East African Dependencies would also agree on the inadequacy of this word.

In the event of your not having been informed of the Standard Swahili-English Dictionary translation, I quote it as given:

'Geuzi' - noun, plural 'mageuzi' - usually in the plural, that which causes change, alteration, shifting, turn, transformation.

This to me would appear to be a more suitable translation for what is happening in Tanzania today.

Ronald W. Munns. Adelaide.

In your May issue you were looking for a suitable English translation for 'Mageuzi'; but surely it is itself a Swahili translation of the well-known English 'U-Turn?' There is no mistaking what that means.

Alan Hall

PUBLICATIONS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

One of the specialist activities of this Library is the collection of publications issued by political parties in Commonwealth countries. I note with some interest the contents of page 8 of the latest Bulletin of Tanzanian Affairs where you list new political parties in Tanzania.

Obtaining documents from such bodies is not easy, particularly as the parties often do not have postal addresses. Our TANU and CCM holdings are exceedingly modest and I am always seeking to improve them and extend the collection.

If any of you readers can help us in obtaining such documents or letting us know where they could be obtained I would be most grateful.

Patricia Larby (Mrs), Librarian,
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28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS

DEVALUING SWAHILI

Like Don Barton (Bulletin No 41) I too was intrigued by Dr Thomas saying Kiswahili was 'still' being devalued at the end of British rule. I shall not enter the Welsh part of the debate but agree with all Mr Barton says about Swahili.

I would add one further comment. I found myself on safari from time to time with one of the Maryknoll Fathers. His Swahili was perhaps adequate but he had one great advantage over me in that he spoke the local tribal languages (of which there were a dozen or so in Musoma District) and he told me it was his mission's policy to use the tribal languages (in the 50's) rather than Swahili as that gave them immediate access to the woman and the home

Paul Marchant

THE TANZAM RAILWAY, THE WORLD BANK AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The abbreviated version of my letter which you published in your May issue did not reflect one of the main points I wished to make. In the penultimate paragraph you used the word "we" without indicating who was represented by the word. (Indeed I was fully aware of the potential of the Port). The point I was trying to demonstrate was that, after consideration

in Abidjan and Washington the two banks were sufficiently interested in the TANZAM project for the ADB to send the No 2 of the Bank for discussions in Nairobi (then headquarters of the railway services in East Africa), Dar es Salaam and Zambia. I was asked to accompany him and help him on the mission.

Sir James Farquharson

PRIVATISATION OF CROP SALES

The Tanzanian Government bowed on July 16th to pressure from Members of Parliament and delayed implementing a decision it had earlier announced to privatise the sale of cash crops. "The Government has, with immediate effect, suspended the new crop purchasing procedure until next year" Prime Minister John Malecela told the National Assembly.

The decision was a setback to economic reforms being pressed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Government had originally decided also to abolish further interest-free loans for cooperatives to help them to buy crops after the State-run National Bank of Commerce had accumulated US\$45 million in bad debts from cooperatives; the reversal of policy meant that this decision was also reversed.

Mr Malecela explained that the Government's earlier decision to end a monopoly enjoyed by the cooperative movement had been designed to encourage competition. But angry legislators said that farmers would turn to smuggling if private businesses were allowed to buy crops. "We cannot let cooperatives compete with the wolves" said the Member of Parliament for a northern wheat growing constituency.

ELECTRICITY MONOPOLY ENDED

Tanzania Electricity Supply Company's (TESCO) 30-year monopoly on the production and supply of electricity has been ended. Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals Jakaya Kikwete told Parliament that it would take years for the whole country to be energised unless private organisations and individuals were free to enter the power market.

TELEVISION COMING

The new Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr Shija has told the National Assembly that plans have been finalised for a three-phase programme (estimated to cost Shs 13 billion) for the introduction of television. Some 18 TV stations would need to be built and the Government had agreed to cooperate with local and foreign investors who had shown interest.

The views expressed by the editor and writers in the Bulletin of Tanzanian Affairs are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Britain-Tanzania Society.

The Bulletin of Tanzanian Affairs is regularly listed in the International Current Awareness Services.

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