

# AFRICA

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## *Notes on Current Events*

**EGYPT.** On the 13th anniversary of Egypt's national revolution, President Nasser declared that the hopes of Egypt's enemies for the overthrow of the present government were certain to fail. 'The enemies have forgotten', he said, 'that a revolution took place in Egypt, and not a *coup d'état*. The revolution is carrying the people's aspirations in life. The hopes of the enemies of the Egyptian people will never be justified because the revolution follows a correct path and the people believe in the revolution.'

Listing some of the 'miracles' the people of his country have achieved since the revolution, he listed: the abolition of feudalism and the restrictions on individual land holdings: the running of the Suez Canal; the building of the Aswan high dam; the development of heavy industry; and the decree abolishing class privileges.

Figures issued at the same time show that, since the revolution, capital investment in Egyptian industry has risen from 2.1 million Egyptian pounds to a level of 150 million for the year 1964 alone. Agricultural production had grown 80 per cent since 1952, while the number of farm labourers increased from 3.2 to only 3.6 million. In education, the number of students in elementary schools where education is now compulsory, had been 3.2 million, compared with 1.3 million in 1953, and in various types of secondary schools 821,000 compared to 485,000. Students at technical, trade and agricultural schools increased from 22,000 to 132,000. One aspect of the educational advance is that there are now over 1½ million girl students at schools and colleges, where almost all girls remained uneducated and illiterate before the revolution.

**LIBERIA.** In August, Liberia celebrated the 118th anniversary of its independence. It is the oldest independent state in West Africa, tracing its statehood back to the declaration of the Republic on July 26th, 1847.

**MOZAMBIQUE.** September 25th marked the first anniversary of the people's proclamation of general armed insurrection against Portuguese colonialist rule in Mozambique. Reviewing the year's campaigns, 'Mozambican Revolution', organ of the Liberation Front (Frelimo), says that 'the Portuguese colonialists have lost control of a great part of the zones of Cabo, Delgado, Nyasa, Zambesi and some regions of Tete.' It says that the freedom fighters who enjoy real support amongst the people, are advancing from strength to strength.

Portuguese war communiques report frequent military clashes with patriotic forces, especially in the area near the Tanzanian border, and along the shores of Lake Nyasa. Frelimo communiques claim many successful ambushes of Portuguese troops, and at least one Portuguese military plane shot down.

South African financial penetration into Mozambique is proceeding rapidly at the same time as South African, Portuguese, Rhodesian military alliances are taking shape. A major South African mining and finance corporation, General Mining and Finance Corporation, is to establish the Bank of South Africa and Lisbon Ltd. in South Africa, in partnership with three Portuguese banks, Bank of Angola, Nacional Ultramarino and Portugues do Atlantico which will be large shareholders. The bank, it is said, will help finance transactions tending toward the creation of a common market of the three southern African bastions of reaction. Johannesburg's Anglo-American Corporation is joining Portuguese interests in prospecting for diamonds between parallels 22 and 24 south, and the state sponsored South African Industrial Development Corporation is to invest almost £2½ million in the new sugar mill being built at Manhica in Mozambique.

**ANGOLA.** The freedom fighters continue to harry the Portuguese in Angola, as continual military communiques issued by the Portuguese military authorities show. Many clashes have been reported, and the areas of Zala Roca, Novo Mundo and the Vamba River valley remain in freedom fighters' hands despite strong Portuguese attacks.

Popular resistance to Portuguese colonialism persists despite the terror and persecution. The Military Court of Luanda recently sentenced seventeen people to imprisonment for 'subversive activities', meaning opposition to Salazar policies. The authorities in Luanda and other towns have seized 10,000 publications described by them as 'pornographic, subversive and anti-Portuguese'.

The Portuguese government has made a new allocation of just

under £7 million to its armed forces in Angola. As part of its military entrenchment, it has ordered the construction of 1,250 miles of military-strategic roads in the colony by 1966, at an estimated cost of over £11 million.

**ALGERIA.** One of the few documents to have successfully passed through the press censorship and news blackout which surrounds Algeria since the deposition of Mr. Ben Bella, is a call which has been circulated in Algeria by the underground Organization of People's Resistance (O.R.P.). It is signed by Hocine Zahouane, who was a member of the political bureau of the National Liberation Front until the coup of June 19th. Addressed to the people and workers of Algeria, the call demands the restoration of legality and determined struggle for the implementation of the Revolutionary Charter of Algiers.

Shortly after this statement appeared in Algeria, there was a wave of arrests of prominent people who had fought in the Algerian revolution, including the Algiers bureau of the F.L.N. itself, and the veteran Communist leader Hadj Ali. Almost all those so summarily arrested were released shortly afterwards, without any public explanation. There is still no information concerning the whereabouts of the former President, Ben Bella.

**GHANA.** At the fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the O.A.U. (Organization of African Unity), meeting at Accra in October, Mr. Kojo Botsio of the Ghana state planning commission was elected chairman. Twenty-seven delegations were present. Business was conducted in closed session.

At the same time, a statement was issued in Ghana concerning President Nkrumah's meeting with three other African heads of state, the Presidents of Ivory Coast, Upper Volta and Niger, which had taken place in Mali under the chairmanship of Mali's President Modibo Keita. The statement said that agreement had been reached between the heads of state on the question of families of political refugees who had once been resident in Ghana. Where such refugees had been deported from territories in accordance with the resolution of the Lagos meeting of O.A.U. a year before, it was now agreed that families should also be deported. The Ghana government would seek the assistance of the embassies of the other states in finding these families, and deporting them.

When this has been done—between the date of meeting and October 21st—the three governments of Niger, Ivory Coast and Upper Volta '... undertake to maintain fraternal relations with the Government of

Ghana, and this will make it no longer possible for persons opposed to any one of these four governments to reside in any of their respective states.'

**LESOTHO.** Chief Leabua Jonathan has said in Maseru that he is to visit Britain in October, to discuss several matters, in particular the questions of the right of Basuto citizens to transit across the Republic of South Africa which surrounds Lesotho on all sides; Basutoland's economic future; and his country's diplomatic representation abroad. He said that he would press the British government to accept that Basutoland becomes independent on April 29th, 1966, one year from the general election which brought his party to political power.

**NIGERIA.** A new fortnightly newspaper, *Advance*, subtitled 'Nigerian Workers' Own Newspaper' has commenced publication. Following the working-class socialist policy of the Socialist Workers' and Farmers' Party of Nigeria and the Nigerian Youth Congress, the paper's first issue sets out its direction in its first editorial: 'Since labour is our central theme—our people are not given to a life of indolent ease—we shall endeavour to give eloquent expression to the struggles of labour . . .'