

is divided into 'progressive' and 'imperialist' states. This seems to have been what, in fact, the communists tried to do: Solod's activities along these lines was an important factor in the disturbances.

They miscalculated badly. It is interesting that Mr. Ismael Touré, half-brother of the President, and known to have had rather stronger sympathies with the communists than most other government members, took the leading part in quelling the riots and making arrests. And the President of the High Court which sentenced the accused Teachers' Union officials was M. Abdoulaye Diallo, whose political sympathies had also been linked with the far left. In other words, there was no wavering whatever in the leading circles of the Government. Despite apparent short-term gains in the ranks of the teachers and the students—some of whom have been trained in the East—the attempt to 'step up the Guinea revolution' was a failure for the communists.

THE MISTAKE WAS APPARENTLY recognised at once. Soon after Solod's departure, the Russian Vice-President, Mr. Mikoyan visited Guinea to open the Soviet trade exhibition in Conakry. His speech for the occasion was full of praise for Guinea's platform of non-alignment, and impeccably non-interventionist. The Government's reception of Mikoyan was less than raptuous, but no public reference was made to the Solod affair. In February a new Russian Ambassador was accredited in Conakry.

The immediate effect of the whole episode was to intensify the general prickliness of the Guinea government towards any outsiders, from East or West. Forty-three students were recalled from Moscow University and a few from Paris, on the grounds that they were being subjected to ideological pressures. If the atmosphere cooled between Guinea and the communist governments, especially Russia, it did not warm between Guinea and the West. All visitors and journalists to Guinea during the few months following the disturbances were treated with suspicion.

SINCE THEN A GENERAL relaxation has set in—and again, it applies all round. The emphasis has been on business-like trade and aid arrangements. It is likely that one factor in the upheaval last year was the rice shortage, caused partly by a failure of a rice scheme run by inexperienced Russians, and partly by the previous precipitate adoption of the Guinea franc, which meant that many farmers were smuggling their rice abroad rather than sell it for Guinea currency. There is no doubt that serious economic strains have been experienced since the Guineans were forced by abrupt French withdrawal in 1958 to alter their entire economic structure, mostly by trial and error. Though errors have been quickly and courageously recognised, bottle-necks, dislocation and even minor breakdowns have followed. Guinean inexperience was matched by Russian and Czech ignorance of conditions in the African vacuum which they were quick to offer to fill.

This year major new trade and aid agreements were negotiated with the Americans; and following the Algerian settlements, relations with France led to the start of negotiations for comprehensive agreements with France as well. At the same time the Russian

agreements have been renewed and expanded. Political non-alignment—a proud, guarded refusal to pay, politically, for economic favours—remains the touchstone of Guinea's foreign policy, and is likely to succeed. When Mr. Anton Joujou, Prime Minister of Bulgaria went to Guinea earlier this year, President Sékou Touré signed a joint statement with him on the iniquities of 'imperialism' in the Congo, foreign bases and so on, but added, coolly, "We have the same aims, but our methods of realising them may be different." Internally, the Guinea government has shown itself flexible and undogmatic in the methods it has used for the development of the economy. Some of them have been successful, some less so. The same pragmatic devotion to the particular needs of the particular international situation of Guinea dictates non-commitment in the cold war. So far, that has been achieved, despite every temptation and provocation. ●

A F R I C A N A

Send contributions to R. Farquharson, P.O. Box 2068, Cape Town. One Prize of R1 will be awarded for the best item each month, and two additional prizes of 50c each.

- Pet lovers, fresh wholesome mince, 3 lb. for 2s. 3d.; fresh veal, 1s. 1b.; servants' beef, 1s. 3d. 1b. Save money and have contented staff and pets—*The Star* (H.F.L.).
- INVEST SAFELY
INVEST WISELY
INVEST IN THE
GHANA NATIONAL LOTTERIES.
—Advertisement in the *Ashanti Pioneer*, Kumasi. (J.C.).
- With the Kaokoveld Bantu Reserve and the southern Kaokoveld Nature Reserve, the Etosha Reserve forms the largest nature reserve in the world—*Digest of South African Affairs*. (Y.S.)
- The Police Department is anxious to built up a reserve Police Force to assist the full time Police Force in times of emergency. All male europeans over the age of 21 years who are willing to serve his country and enlist in such an adventure are invited to call at the Braamfontein Police Station—Circular from S.A. Police, Johannesburg.
- No cost-of-living allowance is payable any more seeing that it has already been consolidated with the basic salary.—Advertisement by O.F.S. Education Department.
- Mr. Handley, a public relations consultant, said presenting South Africa's case to the rest of the world is recognised in international public relations circles as the trickiest single public relations problem.—*South African Digest*, issued by the Department of Information, Pretoria.
- Neville and Brenda wish to announce that they will be going steady until Fri.—Personal column, *The Star*.