

Ghana Needs 4 Years to Repair Economy After Nkrumah Reign

By ROBERT LEE

ACCRA, Ghana— Economic experts predicted it will take at least four years to repair the damage done Ghana's economy by the free-spending forced-socialization policies of former president Kwame Nkrumah.

Analysis:
WHAT THE NEWS MEANS

The country's new governing body, the National Liberation Council (NLC), has designated the next two years as a period of economic review and stabilization. But the council's top economic adviser, E. N. Omaboe, makes it clear he does not expect full recovery in that time.

"The problems will not have been solved," he said, "but we hope to be able to get on top of the problems by then."

Nobody knows these problems better than Omaboe, who, as government statistician, watched with horror as prices shot up 65 per cent in three years, foreign exchange reserves dwindled from \$400 million at independence in 1957



Nkrumah

to virtually nothing, and the country accumulated a debt of more than \$1 billion.

TO SHOW for it, Ghana has an atomic research reactor, a \$20-million complex of buildings to house the Organization of African Unity and a capital full of broad streets and awe-inspiring public monuments.

But there is little on grocery store shelves. Even with the return of milk to the market, due to an emergency shipment from the United States, the local selection of food products looks like what an American supermarket could not get rid of in a closing-out sale.

Nkrumah, the United States will furnish \$7.5 million worth of flour, rice, corn, grain sorghums, vegetable oils and cotton this year.

THESE commodities will be sold through normal commercial channels, and three-fourths of the proceeds will go toward shoring up Ghana's development budget. The other fourth of local currency receipts will be reserved for United States uses.

U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) officials say that they have left the door open for another such agreement later this year, but that no outright loans or grants to bolster Ghanaian finances are contemplated.

"Ghana has a tremendous debt, and the U.S. government is not going to pick it up," said one AID administrator. "The World Bank will help bring this back in line. As far as jumping in on any prestige projects is concerned, we're not interested."

NKRUMAH also used to say private enterprise was welcome, but his commitment to a socialistic society the tough restrictions placed on repatriation of foreign capital, import controls and Ghana's growing entanglement with the Communist bloc discouraged foreign investors.

So did the inflationary budgetary policies that Ghana continued to pursue despite warnings from the International Monetary Fund.

Omaboe and the other members of the Economic Committee he heads know that it is with these policies they must start if they are to restore business confidence.

The first steps have already been taken. Ghana's diplomatic missions abroad are being pared from 62 to about 30. And Ghana Airways, the national airline, has eliminated money-losing flights to Rabat, Morocco and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which had been maintained for prestige reasons. All development projects are sa-

An Iowan Visits Africa

Science Teaching Offers Challenge

By ROBERT D. LEE



ACCRA, Ghana —Robert Foster, a 23-year-old Peace Corps Volunteer from Westchester, Pa., announced to his Ghanaian physics class that they were ready to begin studying the three states of matter.

A hand shot up. "I understand the three part," said the eager pupil. "But what was the rest of that?"

Foster admits he had difficulty explaining. "You know, the word 'state' is pretty vague," he points out, "and it isn't easy to tell anyone what matter is."

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It is not much easier to explain why neon lights glow to students who have never seen them, or how a train runs to children who have never watched one go by. The most experienced American teacher would probably find it challenging.

It is doubly so for Foster, a slender six-footer with a shaggy flat-top and a mustache, who, like most of the other 97 Peace Corps teachers in Ghana, had had no previous teaching experience.

He joined the Peace Corps fresh out of Penn State University and was assigned to a three-year-old secondary school at Bawku in the extreme northeast corner of Ghana, where he is not only a physics instructor but also assistant headmaster, senior hall master, and science master.

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"It's amazing what these kids have never seen," he said last week while on Easter vacation in Accra. "In demonstrating the three states of matter, I showed them some ice cubes. They touched them and jumped back, saying, 'Oh, it burns!'"

"When they found out it was water and cool, they all came running to the front of the room to get some."

Foster said most of his pupils — generally 14 and 15-year-olds—had a great desire to learn, but progress was slow because of the language problem (courses are in English) and their lack of experience.

"You think something is so

simple," he said, with emphasis on the "so." "But when nobody in the class understands, something is obviously wrong. You can't go on. When half understand, you think you are doing pretty well."

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In 12 weeks of the first term, he covered 12 pages of what he considers a fairly simple physics text. He went through three or four chapters in the second term, and hopes to do still better between now and June 30.

"The problem," he said, "is that they see no relationship between an experiment you are doing and the law you are trying to prove by it. The idea of cause and effect is very difficult for them to grasp."

Outside the classroom, Foster faces problems equally challenging. As assistant headmaster he aids a Ghanaian headmaster, who is as inexperienced as he is, with administration. As science master he is responsible for purchasing equipment, and as senior hall master he has charge of discipline.

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"Boy, have I learned a lot about discipline," he said. "Even those who have trouble understanding the simplest concepts come in with the most ingenious excuses for wanting exeats (passes) for town. You accept one excuse and they all come in with it the next day."

"Then they go into town and come back late, with excuses for that, which you never can verify. I've come to the point where I just have to say, 'Tough; you will be punished anyway.' And now they don't seem to get sick in town anymore and have to go to the hospital and get back late."

Another thing Foster has become hard-nosed about: lending money to pupils so they can go home at the end of the term. After the first term he, another Peace Corps teacher, and a Canadian University Overseas Service Organization volunteer lost more than \$50 on such loans.

Ghana Tacitly Adm

Death of 11 Russians

By ROBERT LEE

4-17-66

ACCRA, Ghana — A long-standing report that 11 Russians were killed during the Feb. 24 coup d'etat in Ghana has been tacitly confirmed by the chairman of Ghana's Foreign Relations Committee.

Asked how the reported Russian deaths had affected his country's relations with the Soviet Union, Chairman H. R. Amonoo said: "They have not raised the matter, and we have not raised it either."

The comment, made in an interview with Amonoo, was the first indication from an official of Ghana's new military - police regime that Russians had in fact died in the takeover.

THEY are believed to have been security advisers to the deposed president of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. Presumably they were killed along with about 15 Ghanains in fighting at Nkrumah's residence, Flagstaff House, on the morning of the coup. Nkrumah was in Peking, China, at the time.

The new regime has never categorically denied reports of the Russian deaths.

The interview with Amonoo in his wood-paneled office at government headquarters in the Christianborg Castle, a monstrous white-walled fortress that overlooks the Gulf of Guinea, concentrated on Ghana's relations with the Communist countries.

Choosing his words carefully, he differentiated the present climate of Russian-Ghanain relations from that prevailing between his country and Communist China, which he described as "cool, very cool."

BETWEEN 225 and 250 Russians and Chinese were ordered out of Ghana in the wake of the coup d'etat.

"Even though the old regime said it was nonaligned, it was obvious to all that it was not," said Amonoo. "What the new government has actually done is to cor-

rect the balance, to swing back to the center."

He said the National Liberation Council was "not too worried" about Communist claims that Ghana had moved into the Western camp.

The committee of which Amonoo is chairman advises the National Liberation Council on foreign policy matters.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent fellowship.

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ACCRA'S LIVELIEST SHOW DEALS IN WEALTH

4-21-66

Probe of Nkrumah Draws Crowd

By ROBERT LEE

ACCRA, Ghana — The best show in Accra plays daily in the conference room of the University of Ghana Law School.

More than a hundred Ghanaians, few of them law students, gather there every morning to witness a three-man commission's investigation of the properties of former President Kwame Nkrumah.

Even on a bad day it beats "Hell Drivers," "Lovers of Hercules," and "Maciste, Strongest Man in the World"—a sampling of current movie offerings in Accra.

For instance, a single morning of testimony last week—and by general consensus it was a dull day—turned up evidence that Nkrumah had invited a Romanian doctor to come tell him how to stay young, supplied a pair of refrigerators to jurors he was housing at the Ministry of Defense during an important trial, and spent some \$30,000 on security lighting for his residence.

More significantly, in a little more than a year, Nkrumah made two payments of \$56,000 and one

- \$84,000 to the Soviet
- on for arms and ammu-

nition for his private guard.

This was disclosed in testimony of Charles D. K. Adjei, executive secretary of Nkrumah's office, who thumbed through check stubs explaining how the deposed president had used a \$6-million-a-year government contingency fund.

Among the more unusual uses:

Operation of the Bureau of African Affairs, Nkrumah's vehicle for meddling in the affairs of neighbor states. Irregular payments range from a few hundred dollars for printing presses to a \$60,000 sum specially earmarked for a "top-secret affair" outside Ghana.

\$40,000 for preparations. for the Afro-Asian Summit Conference scheduled for July 1965 in Algiers, Algeria. Because of the coup d'etat in Algeria, the conference was postponed until November, then canceled after a short foreign ministers' meeting.

\$10,000 for the relief of Guinean refugees in Ghana. Nkrumah, overthrown Feb. 24 while on a peace trip to Hanoi, North Viet Nam, is now himself a refugee in Guinea and a guest of President Sekou Toure, the man whose rule the Guinean refugees were fleeing.

\$200,000 for a residence for the Ghanaian ambassador in Cairo, U.A.R.

\$280,000 as partial payment of \$1 million in debts acquired by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), a wing of Nkrumah's Convention People's party.

\$10,000 for a pair of Jaguars. "The president was fond of using Jaguar cars," said Adjei, "not for ceremonial purposes, of course, but probably in the evening when he was going out."

\$1,600 for spare parts for two Russian cars Nkrumah had purchased during a

1963 trip to the Soviet Union. Adjei declined to estimate how many cars were in the presidential fleet, but there were Opels, Peugeots, Mercedes, Fiats and many other kinds, he said.

Other commissions are investigating import licensing procedures under the old regime, the Ghana Housing Corporation and finances of the TUC.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under William P. Gray foreign correspondent's furlough.

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Nkrumah Stirs Fear, Disdain

By ROBERT LEE

LAGOS, Nigeria — The boast of Kwame Nkrumah, former president of Ghana,

that he will return to "save" his people from their new military rulers has provoked two sorts of reaction in Nigeria, where a military government is itself only two months old.



Nkrumah

One school holds that Nkrumah's dreams of regaining the Ghanaian presidency are sheer fantasy.

That they are not sufficiently within the realm of possibility to warrant worry.

A **SECOND** school believes that Nkrumah's plans to raise an army in Guinea and lead it through the Ivory Coast into Ghana represent a serious threat to world peace.

It is an assumption of both viewpoints that the military government that seized power in Ghana February 24, while Nkrumah was on his way to Peking, Communist China, is a popular one.

His appeals for support from his former followers in Ghana are falling largely or deaf ears.

According to those Nigerians of the "fantasy" view, Nkrumah is a "mental" who simply is unable to rec-

oncile his sudden misfortune with his own estimate of his importance.

NIGERIANS who hold this opinion doubt that Guinea could put together an army of 50,000 men, as President Sekou Toure has said it will to "liberate" Ghana.

And even if it could, President Houphouet Boigny of the Ivory Coast would never let the "liberation force" cross his borders. Thus, the argument runs, Nkrumah can shout all he likes but will never achieve his objective.

The Nigerian press has taken a more serious view of the situation. "Threat of a Global War Looms," screamed a front-page headline in the Lagos Sunday Times.

The story reported the arrival of a "mysterious Soviet mission" in Conakry, Guinea, and an "American build-up" in Accra.

"Clearly, therefore, the over-riding issue that may escalate the Ghanaian situation was seen in Accra as the ideological conflict—the Cold War," the story concluded.

LATER IN the week the Nigerian president, Gen. J.T.

U. Aguiyi - Ironsi, made a statement in which he seemed to subscribe simultaneously to the "fantasy" and "danger" schools of thought.

He said he was "concerned about certain pronouncements attributed to some African leaders" and about "reported consultation between them with a view to mounting a military intervention in a sister country" — as if Nkrumah might really not have said anything at all.

"Should this report be true," the general continued, "a serious threat which no true African can ignore would have been created."

"To contemplate such action would not only entail repudiation of the principles of the Charter of the OAU (Organization of African States), but will amount to the abandonment of the overall interests of Africa."

THE OFFICIAL Nigerian newspaper, the Morning Post, noted that 2½ million Nigerians live in Ghana, constituting more than a third of that country's population.

"This means that Nigeria

must be alert to protect her nationals, who might be caught in this web now being woven by Nkrumah and his associates," the paper said.

Revelations of Nkrumah's personal wealth and that of his ministers have caused Nigerians to identify still further with the new Ghanaian regime.

The Nigerian government has itself launched an all-out campaign against the corruption that plagued the First Nigerian Republic, and disclosures of shortages or announcements of embezzlement arrests are almost daily occurrences.

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