

# Senegalese Isle Was Slave Trading Port

By ROBERT LEE

DAKAR, Senegal — Although the city of Dakar is little more than 100 years old, you have only to take a 20-minute boat ride to the tiny island of Goree to make contact with the 15th century.



From the ferry (a round-trip ticket costs 32 cents) Goree looks like a man's shoe—300 yards wide and 900 yards long—turned upside down.

The boat skirts the toe and the wreck of a ship sunk there during World War II to put in at a sandy beach that the Portuguese explorer Dinis Dias must have used when he landed in 1444.

**DIAS PROBABLY** made it to shore more easily than do the modern ferry's passengers. They must leap to the pier as the boat bangs against it and moves away.

After Dias came a host of other Portuguese adventurers, including Vasco da Gama, Bartholemew Dias and Christopher Columbus.

In the 16th century, the French, the English and finally the Dutch came sailing through to trade along the Gulf of Guinea in what are now Ghana and Liberia.

**FROM THE FALL** of the first French Empire until Senegal gained independence, in 1960, Goree was French.

It grew in importance with the advent of steamships in the first half of the 19th century, then declined as the French established themselves on the mainland at Dakar.

Most of the 600 persons who now live on Goree commute daily to Dakar. (The prisoners kept in an old fort at the extreme lower end of the island are an exception. They are trustees who keep the parks, streets and beaches clean.)

**SINCE THERE** are no cars, children have free rein.

They play soccer in the streets, explore the maze of tunnels in the ruins of ancient forts at the upper end of the island or crawl over the huge guns put there to defend Dakar from the English and Free French in 1940.

That was one battle De Gaulle lost.

On Sunday the island's only beach, a 50-yard stretch of sand, is jammed by Senegalese, Lebanese and Europeans come to enjoy the quiet waters and serenity of the island.

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

# GOREE: A TINY ISLAND OUT OF AFRICA'S PAST

7-21-66

## Former French Fort Dates to 15th Century

BY ROBERT LEE

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

DAKAR, Senegal, July 20—Altho the city of Dakar is little more than 100 years old, you have only to take a 20-minute boat ride to the tiny island of Goree to make contact with the 15th century.

From the ferry [a round-trip ticket costs 32 cents] Goree looks like a man's shoe—300 yards wide and 900 yards long—turned upside down.

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### Passengers Leap to Pier

Dias probably made it to shore more easily than do the modern ferry's passengers. They must leap to the pier as the boat bangs against it and moves away.

After Dias came a host of other Portuguese adventurers, including Vasco da Gama, Bartholomew Dias, and Christopher Columbus.

In the 16th century, the French, English, and finally Dutch, came sailing thru to trade along the Gulf of Guinea in what are now Ghana and Liberia.

### Chief Sold to Dutch

Three years before the first Puritans landed in Massachu-

Manhattan-style, from a local tribal chief. They built a pair of forts, one on the raised "heel" of the island, the other near the "toe."

However, the defenses were not good enough to ward off the English in 1633. English possession marked the first of 11 times the island would change hands in the following 150 years, as the slave trade gradually gave Goree strategic importance.

### Houses Still Stand

The island was in the height of its glory in the years between the American and French revolutions. Under French control then, it boasted the residence of a poet member of the Academie Francaise, the Chevalier de Boufflers, who also was governor of Senegal.

see a hotel-restaurant named after him, and by wandering thru the island's narrow streets, you can find the rather plain stucco houses where he and his mistress are said to have lived.

A contemporary of de Boufflers reports the island had 1,840 inhabitants in 1786 and 200 slaves in transit. Presumably some of them were kept in the Slave house, a two-story building with an attractive staircase and a series of dingy rooms along a corridor that opens over the sea. This made for easy disposal of bodies, according to one legend, which seems to be strictly legend.

Goree's golden days ended eight years later, when the French revolutionary convention abolished slavery. The

under Napoleon but was definitively outlawed in 1818.

### France Held Control

From the fall of the First French Empire until Senegal gained independence, in 1960, Goree was French. It resurged in importance with the advent of steamships in the first half of the 19th century, then declined as the French established themselves on the mainland at Dakar.

Most of the 600 persons who now live on Goree commute daily to Dakar. [The prisoners kept in an old fort at the extreme lower end of the island are an exception. They are trustees who keep the parks, streets, and beaches clean.]

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of ancient forts at the upper end of the island, or crawl over the huge guns put there to defend Dakar from the English and Free French in 1940. That was one battle De Gaulle lost.

On Sunday the island's only beach, a 50-yard stretch of sand, is jammed by Senegalese, Lebanese, and Europeans come to enjoy the quiet waters and serenity of the island.

# Senegal Attracts Non-Senegalese

By ROBERT LEE

DAKAR, Senegal — A visitor to the University of Dakar was impressed by the dazzling whiteness of its buildings, the fresh breeze that blows in off the sea, the lush greenness of gardens trimmed a la Francaise and most of all by the size of the campus.

"It seems almost too big for Senegal," he said to a young man with books under his arm. "Where do you find enough students to fill it up?"

"WE DON'T," replied the student. "There are only 2,600 of us here. And, while the Cite Universitaire (living quarters) is overcrowded, classrooms and laboratory facilities could easily accommodate 3,000 or 4,000 students."

"Twenty-six hundred," mused the visitor, "that is still quite a few students for a country like Senegal, with a population of 3.5 million and a very low literacy rate."

"It would be if we were all Senegalese. In fact, all but 900 of us are foreigners."

"Mostly from neighboring African countries, I suppose."

"No, half of all the foreigners are French."

"French? I had no idea French students were that interested in Africa."

"Oh, they're not. It's

just that this university is much less crowded than those of France. Every medical student can have a cadaver to himself. And the degrees are exactly the same."

"I SEE," said the visitor, "but I would think a French law student who intended to practice in France would find it a bit irrelevant to study African law."

"Who studies African law? It's French law we learn here. The degree we earn is valid anywhere in France."

"I guess that is pretty nice for the French, but what good is it to an African?"

"It's very handy," replied the student with a smile. "If I am thrown out of my own country for political reasons, I can always get a job in France."

"I hadn't thought of that," said the visitor. "all the same, I would think most Africans would be more interested in their own continent than in France. I suppose you learn a lot of African history, geography, sociology, economics and literature along with your French law."

"No, very little. You don't seem to understand that it is French degrees that are given here. To qualify for those degrees you have to take examina-

tions on subjects prepared by the French Ministry of Education."

"Wait a minute. I thought this was a Senegalese university. Why should the French Ministry of Education have the right to establish the curriculum?"

"BECAUSE the French government built the university at a cost of nearly \$40 million and pays more than 80 per cent of its operating expenses."

"I understand," said the visitor. "But why did they build such a big institution for such a small country?"

"Oh, it wasn't built for Senegal. It was begun with the idea it would serve all of French West Africa. Happily, French West Africa is no more."

"Then the university must belong to all those countries that were once a part of the colonial West African Federation."

"Nothing so sensible as that. Other West African countries send just about as many students as Senegal but have no say in the administration of the university. It doesn't really matter, though, since the French run it anyway. The

rector is French."

"ISN'T HE supervised by the Senegalese Ministry of Education?" asked the visitor.

"Oh, yes, by the director of higher education. It just so happens that the rector holds that job, too."

"So he is his own boss."

"Are you kidding?" asked the student. "You know De Gaulle is not just czar of all the Russias . . ."

"I forgot."

*ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave of absence under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.*

# WOMEN LEARN VALUE OF EGGS ON SENEGAL TV

## Housewives Learn About Nutrition

BY ROBERT LEE

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

DAKAR, Senegal, July 14 —

A dozen Senegalese women in bright, floor-length dresses and swirling headdresses arranged their chairs in a circle to discuss what they had just seen on television: a 15-minute program advising them to feed youngsters more high-protein foods.

"On this matter of giving eggs to children," began one woman cautiously. "It is said that if you put an egg in a child's mouth he will never be able to speak rapidly."

There was a moment of silence as the other members of the group, most of them illiterate housewives from the lower strata of Dakar society, weighed the traditional counsel against the advice offered them by a Senegalese doctor via television.

### Another Speaks Up

Another woman spoke up. "I notice that whites give lots of eggs to their children, and their children seem to talk even more quickly than ours."

The point was made. It was the kind of response the discussion moderator, a Senegalese sociologist named Fara N'Diaye, had not dared hope for. It showed how follow-up discussions can nail down points made in televised instruction.

This is the method being test-

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1966

A malaria cure is made from plants containing a small amount of quinine, and the guava broth has demonstrated anti-diarhetic, but not anti-parasitic, effects. This was explained to the television audience.

### Derivatives Cost Little

Why then did the women accept a superior malaria medicine and reject a dysentery

cure? Those who conducted the pair of surveys hypothesize that the treatment for malaria was adopted because it varied less from traditional practice than the recommended anti-dysentery measures. These include a controlled diet, necessitating the purchase of special foods, and relatively expense medicines.

Quinine derivatives cost lit-

tle, on the other hand, and their use is only an extension of traditional practice.

N'Diaye and his colleagues have found that a combination of illustrative drama and instruction is the most effective means of reaching their poorly educated audience.

Too much amusing drama and the women miss the point.

Too much lecturing and they become bored.

Then the lessons must be solidified with discussion. All instruction and discussions are conducted in Wolof, the language most widely spoken in Senegal.

Even then the message does not always get home. A third of the women surveyed, after watching program after program that emphasized cleanli-

ness of the household, reported they still had no garbage cans

jointly by the United Nations economic and social council and the Senegalese government.

Every Monday afternoon some 500 women, members of a dozen Tele-Clubs spread throughout Dakar, watch a 30-minute program devoted to nutrition or hygiene. Then, with the help of "animators," they talk about what they have learned.

#### Watch with Husbands

On Friday nights the same women with their husbands and families crowd the Tele-Clubs to watch an hour-and-a-half variety program that always includes some illustration of topics treated in the Monday afternoon sessions. This gives husbands some idea of what their wives are learning.

The results are surprising. From surveys of participating women done at the beginning of the experiment, in December 1964, and 15 months later, it appears that the majority have changed their thinking if not their practices in matters of health and nutrition.

For instance, 100 women were asked at the start how they would treat a member of the family who contracted malaria, a disease almost no Senegalese family escapes. Not one woman said she would use quinine or quinine derivatives, which are the standard modern treatment.

#### After Weeks of Instruction

After 70 weeks of televised instruction, 72 per cent of the same women said they would employ quinine remedies.

However, asked at the same time how they would treat dysentery, only 47 per cent of the women favored anti-parasitic medication, despite the counsel they had been receiving thru their Tele-Clubs. Half the women recommended a customary medicine made from guava leaves.

Doctors say traditional Senegalese remedies for both malaria and dysentery have value.

# MOVE TOWARD COALITION ON IN SENEGAL

## Opposition Is Offered Government Posts

BY ROBERT LEE

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

DAKAR, Senegal, July 17—Leopold Sédar Senghor, Senegal's pragmatic president, has bought out his political opposition at a price that looks especially attractive in a year when political carelessness has cost two west African presidents their jobs.

The announced price is three of the government's 17 ministerial posts, 10 of 57 seats in the Political bureau of Senghor's own party, the Senegalese Progressive Union [UPS]; and 54 seats, among several hundred, in the party's national council.

In return, the only legal opposition party, the Parti du Regroupement Africain [PRA-Senegal], has disbanded and joined the ranks of the UPS.

### Advantages Are Told

The advantages for Senghor are obvious. First, it is now certain that he will be unopposed in the 1967 presidential elections. Second, the tired muscles of the UPS will be infused with new blood. Third, his support will be solidified in those areas where PRA-Senegal has been strong [in the Casamance region, a strip wedged between Gambia and Portuguese Guinea]; and among school teachers.

These gains appear so tangible and important that some analysts wonder if the real price paid by Senghor might not have been higher than the one disclosed.

According to one report, the unification of the two parties is only the first step in a program of national reconciliation that may include special legislative elections this fall to give former PRA-Senegal members representation in the National assembly. It may also lead to the liberation of Mamadou Dia, the former Senegalese prime minister who has been imprisoned since he lost a power showdown with Senghor in December, 1962.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, MONDAY, JULY 18, 1966

Some Senegalese politicians remain skeptical, arguing that Dia's presence on the political scene would complicate the very situation Senghor has apparently been trying to simplify. They point out that although most of Dia's followers are to be found within PRA-Senegal, the party's leaders have traditionally been rivals rather than supporters of Dia.

On the other hand, Dia, is reported to be going blind in a prison located in the far eastern region of Senegal. Some observers believe Senghor, himself a poet and philosopher

with strong humanistic convictions, would like to spare himself the onus of holding an invalid in his prison.

### Two Worked Together

Dia was Senghor's right-hand man in Senegal's struggle for independence from France. He became prime minister and Senghor took the presidency when the country gained full independence on Aug. 20, 1960.

Dia and Senghor stood together in 1958 against a group of young intellectuals who broke with the UPS and organized PRA-Senegal to urge immediate independence. They

asked the country to vote "no" in a referendum on the question of becoming an "internally autonomous" country within a "French community."

Only Guinea, among what were then French colonies, voted "no," and incurred the enduring wrath of President Charles de Gaulle. Senegal followed the advice of Senghor and the UPS by voting "yes" without giving up the idea of obtaining complete independence at a later date—with the blessing of France.

### Ideologies Are Close

When this happened, in 1960, PRA-Senegal lost its reason for being. Although it has generally been regarded as left of the UPS in the political spectrum, there have in fact been no significant policy differences between the two parties in recent years.

The only other opposition to Senghor has come from the Independent African Party [PAI], an openly communist group

that has been outlawed. Its support is thought to be small.

In achieving reconciliation with PRA-Senegal, Senghor would seem to be following an alternative course which led Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and Upper Volta's Maurice Yameogo to disaster. Each let his party organization deteriorate while he denounced and imprisoned his opposition.

Yameogo was forced to resign Jan. 4 and Nkrumah was overthrown Feb. 24.

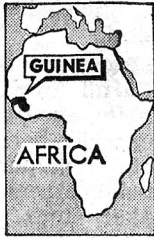
OVER FOOD, NKRUMAH

6-18-66

# Discontent Increases in Guinea

By ROBERT LEE

DAKAR, Senegal—African leaders and European journalists have been free with predictions that President Sekou Toure of Guinea will be the next African victim of a coup d'etat ever



since he put out the welcome mat for Ghana's deposed president, Kwame Nkrumah.

As a matter of fact, reports reaching Dakar indicate that Nkrumah's presence in Guinea has stirred discontent and that the economic situation there is chaotic enough to be sufficient cause for general unrest.

**IT SEEMS** likely that there will be an acute shortage of staples such as rice and wheat in another month.

But, the reports say, experts on the scene are unable to identify an organized force capable of ousting Toure.

Guineans showed indifference to, or perhaps contempt for, Nkrumah at a May Day celebration in the Conakry sports stadium.

**WHEN AFTER** a program of dancing and sports the former Ghanaian leader rose to speak a fourth of his audience walked out. A similar number left the stadium as he finished and Toure himself took the rostrum.

In theory, by Toure's decree, he and Nkrumah are copresidents of Guinea. Despite a meager knowledge of French, Nkrumah has been

performing a number of the ceremonial functions of the office.

But not all Guineans accept dual leadership.

A RECENT American visitor to Guinea asked a government employe why he did not have a picture of Nkrumah along with the portraits of Toure and other Guinean officials on the wall of his office.

"After all, you do have two presidents, don't you?" said the American.

"Not really," replied the Guinean.

Although Guinea has greater potential for economic development than perhaps any other country in West Africa, output has grown slowly since independence under the socialistic guidelines laid down by the Toure regime. Last year the economy was stagnant.

Today grocery store shelves are literally bare, except for a few jars of jam that look spoiled. A bakery is selling only sacks of plain cookies, at \$1.50 a bag.

**THE PUBLIC** water supply is shut off for a few hours almost every day in Conakry and electric power is interrupted every time there is a storm. At this time of year there are storms every night.

Taxis limp around the city in various states of disrepair. Automobile graveyards contain recent model cars junked for lack of a few spare parts.

Dozens of stores are closed and shuttered. A



Nkrumah



Toure

*Copresidents of what?*

clothing store attracts a crowd with the display of a rain coat in the window and a few small items of clothing on the shelves inside.

A butcher shop shows two sheep carcasses, nothing else.

**THE AMERICAN** whose impressions these are remembers paying \$4.60 for a meal of hash and pineapple with a glass of orange juice to drink.

A hotel room without air conditioning costs \$10 a night. Air-conditioned rooms start at \$14.

However, given the frequency of power failures, air conditioning is only partial protection against the stifling combination of heat and humidity that is Conakry in June.

**ALL THIS**, particularly the virtual impossibility of obtaining imported products, makes life unpleasant for anyone accustomed to Western standards of living who does not have diplomatic import privileges.

But there is reason to believe the mass of Africans is feeling the pinch, too.

Rice and wheat are already in short supply and observers say the problem will be much more serious in another month unless someone like Communist China comes to the rescue.

The United States has cut back its shipments of surplus food to Guinea in the last two years, partly because of the war effort in Viet Nam.

**AMERICAN** economic assistance as a whole amounts to more than \$20 million a year, or about a third of the Guinean budget. The Soviet Union and Communist China together are believed to be providing more than a third.

The effects of the food shortages are likely to be most deeply felt in the interior. Food riots are a possibility there. But whether they could threaten the stability of the regime is another question.

The leading candidate for an overthrow role in this year of military coups d'etat in Africa is quite naturally the Guinean army. But Toure has taken pains to strengthen the National Gendarmerie as a counterbalance.

The Gendarmerie is headed by one of Toure's most trusted followers and has its headquarters only a few hundred yards from the presidential palace.

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