

AFSAAP ADDRESSES

President: Dr. Cherry Gertzel
Department of Politics
Flinders University
BEDFORD PARK, South Australia, 5042

Secretary: Dr. Randall Pouwels
(Correspondence and Membership) Department of History
La Trobe University
BUNDOORA, Victoria, 3083

Treasurer: Dr. David Dorward
Department of History
La Trobe University
BUNDOORA, Victoria, 3083

1983 Annual Meeting Convenor: Dr. David Goldsworthy
Department of Politics
Monash University
CLAYTON, Victoria, 3068

Newsletter Editor: Dr. James H. Polhemus
School of Social Sciences
Deakin University
GEE LONG, Victoria, 3217

MEMBERSHIP

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Dr. D. C. Dorward
Department of History
La Trobe University
BUNDOORA, Victoria, 3083

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

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The AFSAAP Newsletter appears three times a year, in March, July and November. Suggestions, short contributions, correspondence, and items for the News and Notes section are invited. Contributions on Africa-related research and teaching are particularly welcome. Material received by the first day of a month of publication will appear in that month's issue. Contributions should be sent to Dr James H. Polhemus, School of Social Sciences, Deakin University, Victoria, Australia 3217.

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1984 AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 30 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 1984,
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

1984 Annual Conference

As announced in the last Newsletter, the 1984 AFSAAP Conference will be at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, from Thursday, 30th August, to Saturday, 1st September. These dates have been selected to accord with those of the annual conferences of the Australian Political Studies Association (University of Melbourne, 27-29 August) and the Australian Historical Association Meeting '84 (University of Melbourne, 27-31 August). Hopefully this will enable a number of out-of-state academics to consolidate their travel arrangements and include two conferences for the travel costs of one.

At this stage, we have every expectation of holding the conference registration fees to last year's levels, that is \$25 for Non-AFSAAP Participants, \$20 for AFSAAP Ordinary Members and \$5 for AFSAAP Student Members. The Annual Conference Dinner will be on Friday evening at a cost of \$16 per person.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation will be available at Trinity College at a rate of \$24.50 per day per person, with the provision of lunch at \$5.50 each and dinner at \$7.00 each. As regards the latter, many may wish to avail themselves of the culinary delights of the numerous ethnic restaurants in the Lygon Street area, within immediate walking distance of Trinity College. We also hope everyone will join us at a local BYO restaurant on Saturday for a break-up lunch after the final paper.

Regarding papers, I wish to take this opportunity to make a formal call for papers and panels. Proposed panels and papers to date include;

"Politics and Literature", panel organizer Andrew Peek (Tasmania CAE)
 "Women in Africa", panel organized by our Canberra colleagues
 "Missionaries and Zulu Medicine", paper by Norm Etherington (Adelaide)
 "Class and Gender on the Copperbelt; Women in the Northern Rhodesian Copper Mines 1926-1964", paper by Dr Jane Parpart (Dalhousie, Canada)
 "Self-reliance and the Indigenous Building Materials Industry in Ghana", paper by Kwabenor Donkor and John Lea (Sydney).

David Dorward
 AFSAAP Conference Organiser 1984
 History Department
 La Trobe University

A Note from the Treasurer

I wish to remind you that many have not paid their 1984 membership subscriptions, which are now outstanding. A modest sum to support a worthy cause;

\$10 Ordinary Membership
 \$ 2 Student Membership

Payments should be sent to: Dr D.C. Dorward
 History Department
 La Trobe University
 Bundoora, Victoria
 Australia 3217

SOUTH AFRICA REVISITED

In December 1983 I revisited South Africa, my place of birth and nurture, for the first time in eight years, for a much-needed family visit. I still love the place, for its variety of people, the confusion, the black (in both senses) humour, the scenery, and the familiarity. The unpleasant aspects are also still present: the militarisation, the racism, the aimless and uncaring nature of organised life, and the genocide-like homeland and migrant system of life for blacks. What still generates human warmth occurs in spite of official policy, and has survived all attempts to destroy it: some as yet unconsolidated African philosophy. Not much has changed. In Johannesburg and Cape Town petty apartheid has been somewhat diluted by civic assertion; and blacks lucky enough to live in the cities are marginally more secure in tenure. On the other hand, the lot of blacks without a license to be in urban areas has deteriorated markedly.

My first stop was Johannesburg, in a summer trance of 25 degrees celsius days, afternoon thunderstorms, and as usual smelling faintly of petrol. The city centre is now black: black bank clerks and shop assistants, black shoppers, bus drivers and police. The whites have by and large withdrawn to suburban shopping centres. My favourite street, Diagonal Street, is still in business, the venue of fruit stalls, and shops for clothes, music, shoes and herbal remedies. There is a constant flow of people, pedestrians, and people arriving in taxis and buses. Fashions are increasingly Western, but worn with African style. Nearby is a cluster of containers of white male power: John Vorster Square, the police headquarter; the squat, muddy magistrate's courts; and the batch of Anglo-American Corporation office blocks. These are populated by whites who drive to work, and park in the dark security of underground parking garages, before setting their polished shoes out of their cars.

The main relic of the Grand Era of petty apartheid is the Johannesburg station, which still sports 'whites only' signs, and has racially distinct entrances and platform segments. It serves as an inner city oasis for negrophobic whites, even down to a whites-only post office. It is the venue as ever for poor white tramps, wearing respectable suits, but concealing bottles of brown sherry in paper bags. The big red railway buses still arrive with a flourish in front of the station, luggage trailers clattering, from nameless hot places around the Highveld, clouds of dust somehow hanging around them even in mid-city.

Still a violent city, Johannesburg received its share of ANC bombs in the period around the Day of the Vow - the day that used to be called Dingaan's Day, the white holiday of thanksgiving for victory in a massacre of Zulus at Blood River, on the calendar as a public holiday. One bomb target was the government department responsible for black population control, a not inappropriate target. An age-old pattern of racial violence played out on a pre-Christmas weekend at Zoo Lake, a pleasant park in the white northern suburbs, but open to blacks. Traffic police confiscated the ignition keys of cars belonging to blacks parked, against regulations, on the grass. This was to prevent the cars being

4.

driven away before being ticketed. Anger at this silly act escalated to stone throwing; in due course a riot squad arrived, cleared the crowd, and arrested hundreds. Two blacks died in the melee, one of injuries from falling onto a wall embedded with broken bottle pieces, while trying to escape arrest.

Cape Town is as beautiful as ever, with decreased air pollution since the retirement of the old steam tugs and locomotives. The South Easter wind still howls in January, sand-blasting thousands of Transvaalers on holiday. The continued pleasures of Cape Town are Kirstenbosch - the national wildflower gardens, wild flowers generally, the old harbour, smoked snoek at Roubt Bay fishing harbour, the dried fruit and nuts from the Wellington Fruit Growers shop, and the views from the top of Table Mountain.

Old District Six, previously a busy and vital residential area for coloureds and Malays has been bulldozed flat, apart from some school buildings, churches, mosques and police flats. Now declared for whites only, no-one has been willing to develop the site, and the raw earth remains a memorial to violent, obsessed racism. The removals policies are still being applied in Cape Town, with apartheid's absurd plethora of pseudo-ethnographic categories. As Cape Town was the location of my teenage years, I still feel intensely bitter at the destruction of so much of the city, resentful at the unwanted interference by Pretoria in its management, and embarrassed at how little resistance was offered to this superimposition.

The Cape Flats area, the very windy, very sandy bit between Table Mountain and the Cape mountain ranges, has been built up extensively, and mostly but not entirely offensively. The architectural heritage of apartheid, with its straight lines, huge hostels, minimal little boxes will be around for a long time. The open sore of the Cape Flats is Crossroads, where squatters have been concentrated. The lucky ones have corrugated iron shanties, reluctantly tolerated by the authorities as a temporary arrangement; others are subject to continual harassment by police and other officials who bulldoze down shacks, and confiscate building materials and personal possessions, right down to children's clothing and nappies, in an effort to get people to move to the homelands. Some live in holes in the ground covered with plastic garbage bags salvaged from the nearby rubbish tip. The battle that is Crossroads is largely because it is populated by black workers who have the right to live and work in Cape Town, but have 'illegally' brought in their families to live with them.

The racial signs have mostly disappeared in Cape Town, but this has its own complications. Some institutions have a permit to be racially mixed, others do not, but there is no way of telling which is which except by asking. Furthermore some mixing occurs on the basis that if no white complains it is o.k., but one objection is enough to get, say, a beach cleared of all non-whites. While I was in Cape Town there was a series of arrests of coloureds for going onto white beaches. There was also a conviction under the Immorality Act, of a man and woman who both worked in the navy, so there is not much change in that respect.

The political operation of the country has had a few changes of emphasis. White South Africa is highly militarised; its capacity and readiness to use extreme force is a matter of open government pride, and a secret consolation to most whites, which provides a sense of identity: 'We can beat the Cubans, defy the Soviet Union, do without the West, and control southern Africa'. But what they can't do is eliminate SWAPO, or even find a puppet government for Namibia, so it is hard for any parent to be confident and proud about sending sons to Namibia. Even the Afrikaans press asks questions about why South Africa does not pull out of Namibia entirely, to defend South Africa's home borders with renewed feeling. Most young men do their conscripted duty, but few of the English-speaking ones go with enthusiasm. It's more a case of 'I'll get it over and done with', while hoping for a posting as a clerk to the Castle in Cape Town.

Public analysis of the real nature of the 'Threat' or the 'Enemy' in Namibia is negligible, and it does seem that the government has no real mechanism for assessing the intentions of black Africa, let alone the Soviet Union or Cuba. There were newspaper hints in January that South Africa is talking directly to the Soviet Union on the issue of Angola. Perhaps, they will find they have a strong similarity of personality, and even some interim compatibility of purpose.

The aspect of South Africa which has regressed most is the charade of the homelands; and the linked status of blacks in the country. The pattern which exists can only be described as genocide-like. There is a battery of laws and enforcers to ensure that huge numbers of unwanted people are pushed into an area long known to have resources inadequate to sustain them. Indeed the homeland system was designed in the first instance to force blacks to migrate from rural areas in search of work; the mechanism of compulsion was restriction of land rights and imposition of cash taxes. The indices of genocide are the 50%+ infant mortality rates, abbreviated life expectancy, disease rates, and extreme community vulnerability to natural disasters such as drought or flood. There is no economic line below which there is a net to help people survive. Poverty in these areas is as bad as anywhere in Africa.

The new constitution is, if anything, a step backwards, as it entirely excludes blacks, and makes it harder to alter political organisation in a non-racial direction. To co-operate or not has become an issue for some coloureds and indians, probably because it is a novelty. My full white-grade vote had no effect in four previous elections and a referendum; and I can't see a devalued coloured one having any impact at all. Some white liberals have a faint spark of hope that the next constitution will be better, and that a set of non-white parliaments will somehow contribute to national training in racial manners. To me South Africa is still the country where, in a Marquezian decadent nightmare, government never changes and life goes on in a lunatic fashion despite official attempts to control it.

The lot of the liberal dissident white has improved, although it depends how you phrase your opposition; there are fewer dawn raids, confiscations of marxist works, not so many bannings,

and censorship of books is less evident. The African National Congress has become the centre of expressed security attention, and massive sentences are dished out for quite trivial actions which can be construed as furthering the aims of the ANC; such as the 10 year spell for a young man for possessing an ANC T-shirt. It is hard to assess to what extent the ANC threat is real, or a symbolic rallying point for white loyalty. Certainly ANC bombings were almost a daily event, and must keep the security forces busy.

The state of the media was a bit of a shock. The English press has moved to the right, the Afrikaans press faintly to the left, so that they are virtually indistinguishable. They are of uniformly poor quality, with dramatic headlines and colour pictures on the front cover, and virtually nothing inside. The television must rank amongst the worst in the world; the news is largely 'talking heads', 'Dallas' the intellectual top ranked serial, and with such choice selections as 'The Waltons' dubbed in Afrikaans to start the evening, or a 2 hour documentary on B.J. Vorster.

The cost of living has shot up; Johannesburg and Cape Town house prices are similar to those in Sydney, while salaries for whites are about 25% lower than in Australia, for equivalent occupations. All in all, a rand buys what a dollar does, so even the white middle classes are under financial stress; this is despite having an economy based on cheap black wages.

And so back in Canberra, noting in passing that Cape Town, Harare and Canberra airports are all planted with Eucalypts. The pain of homesickness drawn by a long visit, sorry that so little progress has been made towards a non-racial future, pleased to see Sydney again, and wishing that the air fares were less prohibitive.

Jeff Leeuwenburg
University of Melbourne
March 1984

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MAGARINI SETTLEMENT PROJECT

Note:

The Magarini Settlement Project is Australia's largest foreign aid project in Black Africa. I was shown around the project by senior Kenyan and Australian officials on 21 September 1983, and wrote the following account of my impressions over the next couple of days. I chose to cast my remarks in the form of a response to criticisms of the project, not because I was unaware of its many problems but because it seemed to me, first, that its positive aspects had been insufficiently noted in some earlier commentaries, and second, that a turn for the better in its evolution was being reached. I felt further that it was worth attempting to bring out these positive aspects in so far as the Australian Government was showing every indication of seeking to scale down its foreign aid commitments in Black Africa.

As it happened, my visit virtually coincided with a decision back in Canberra to pull Australia out of the Magarini project. Subsequently, however, top-level representations from the Kenyan Government to the Australian have brought the scheme a six-months reprieve. It is clear that the Kenyan Government very much wants Australia to see the project through to its conclusion, planned for 1988-9. Whether or not Australia does so depends now upon a decision to be made after an official review mission - the latest of several - has reported back.

Introduction

The Magarini Settlement Project, which lies in a semi-arid/sub-humid area inland from Malindi in Coast Province, Kenya, is Australia's largest foreign aid project in Black Africa. The project began in 1978-79 and the goal is to settle 4,000 farming families on plots averaging 12 hectares in size by 1988-9. On each plot, 4 hectares are cleared prior to settlement. The majority of the settlers (at least the first 2,400 families) are/will be drawn from among the local Giriama people who have hitherto subsisted on a shifting, slash-and-burn pattern of agriculture on trust land. It is intended that the resulting settled community will achieve food subsistence, will realise modest surpluses from cash-cropping and livestock sales, and will be adequately provided for in terms of agricultural extension, primary health care, education, and other community facilities.

My one day tour included meetings with several of the project staff and a small number of the farmers, and was preceded by a reading of relevant documents. This still adds up to only a very limited experience of a major project - too limited to permit firm conclusions. Nevertheless I did form a number of impressions and these were generally positive. That had not been my expectation. Many of the earlier reports on the project have been critical. At least one has predicted failure. I went to Magarini with the main lines of earlier criticisms very much in mind. Clearly the project does face many problems, but as far as I could see the main ones have been identified and analysed, and progress is being made in dealing with them in spite of severe financial constraints. The

project is now a going concern and is beginning to achieve a momentum of its own that - to judge by some reports - simply did not seem in prospect only two or three years ago. In short, I think that many of the earlier criticisms, however valid at the time they were made, are now out of date.

The main lines of criticism in earlier reports include the following:

Administrative factors

- 1) The Australian presence is intensively technocratic.
- 2) The project is dominated by 'outsiders', principally urban-based Kenyans. There is little participation by the settlers themselves in project planning and implementation.
- 3) The Kenyan project staff have poor rapport with the local Giriama, who are widely regarded by other Kenyans as unprogressive and unmotivated. The obverse of this is a sense of alienation from the project among the Giriama settlers.
- 4) Settlement is proceeding extremely slowly. By late 1980 only 76 families had settled. By the beginning of 1983 - halfway through the project period - the number was 670.

Economic factors

- 5) Agricultural productivity on the project is disappointingly low, for several reasons including:
 - a) the reluctance of the settlers to change from shifting to sedentary agriculture;
 - b) difficulties with water supply in a region of irregular rainfall;
 - c) a severe problem of weed growth on the cleared plots;
 - d) the high labour input required - higher than in traditional agriculture;
 - e) inadequate choice of crops.
- 6) In cost-benefit terms the project entails unacceptably high settlement costs per family.
- 7) Related to this: standards of technology, as incorporated for example in infrastructure and buildings, are inappropriately high, and hence the costs of future maintenance will be too high.

Social and community-developed factors

- 8) Social and community development lag badly; in particular:
 - a) educational and health care facilities remain rudimentary;
 - b) there has been very little progress in the establishment of cooperative institutions;

- c) no provision is being made for community involvement of women;
- d) it is feared that the original settlers may come to be dominated in future by other groups. A proportion of future settlers may be drawn from the more advanced and innovative peoples of the Kenyan hinterland; economically aggressive coastal Arabs may move into commerce and retailing in the project area.
- 9) The project provides only for the present generation, making no allowance for Kenya's high population growth rate and the probability that plots will be subdivided among descendants, thereby becoming decreasingly viable as productive units.

I will relate my comments to these main criticisms.

ADMINISTRATIVE FACTORS

1) The Australian presence

This is now extremely unobtrusive. There are only three Australians still employed on the project: the assistant director, an agricultural planner and a water-drilling specialist. The most senior Australian clearly has a very harmonious working relationship with the Kenyan project director - something which was not always the case, I gather, with their various predecessors. It also seems unreasonable now to accuse the Australians of an excessively technocratic attitude (i.e. having little regard for the human factor). Social and community development have become central concerns of Australian policy. This year a large proportion of Australian funding (approximately 5 million shillings) has been derived from the sale of Australian wheat through the World Food Programme, with the proceeds being directed specifically towards financing social infrastructure and community development. Aspects of these programmes are discussed below.

(2) Outside domination and local participation

The Kenyan professional staff (planners, agricultural extension officers etc.) numbers over 90. Almost all of these people came from other parts of the country. But in view of the professional nature of the work it could hardly be otherwise, because the Giriama region has long experienced relative neglect in the educational field. It will take some years for the first generation of local people to achieve educational and technical qualifications.

Giriama people are now well represented, however, in several decision-making institutions associated with the project. They predominate in the management committees of the polytechnic and the forthcoming health centre. All nine members of the Farmers Cooperative Society committee are Giriama, as is the Co-operative's full time secretary-manager. There are also various formal and informal channels of consultation on the project.

Settlers are now being directly involved in plot demarcation and land clearance.

- (d) On the question of the high labour input required, I am not able to make any judgement. A project official told me that hard work should be seen as the trade-off for having a secure right to a plot of land, a right no settler wants to relinquish.
- (e) The question of choice of crops is complex. The settlers choose their own crops, no planting policy is forced on them, and they do not have to report what crops they have planted (it is part of the extension officers' job to report on this). There are bound to be some crop failures.

'Crop packages' are being developed at the project's General Investigation Station (GIS) and several sub-stations. These packages involve, for example, superior strains of maize, legumes which help enrich the soil, citrus, sunflowers for oil, and potential cash crops which grow well in the region, e.g. cotton, sesame, cassava and sisal. But the process of experimentation is lengthy and is being hampered by a shortage of R and D funds. The senior officials described this as one of the areas in which budgetary constraints hurt most (all the more so as the GIS is heavily used by outside organisations and clearly has a value extending well beyond Magarini). It is anticipated that as appropriate crop packages evolve, the farmers will learn by example and through the extension service. This is an area in which improvements appear to be forthcoming, but cannot be expected to arrive overnight.

(6) Cost-benefit considerations

By one rough estimate the establishment cost per family is of the order of \$7500, which has been criticised as unacceptably high. The pioneering nature of the project means that initial capital costs (largely paid for out of Australian aid) were indeed high. Roads, water drilling and supply, plot demarcation, land clearing, afforestation, plant and equipment, consultants' fees and so on, all had to be financed. It can be said, however, that much of the most expensive work has now been completed. Project officials say that the project as a whole now looks like achieving an economic rate of return on investment of 10% and a financial rate of return of 16%. They say too that on present trends the project should 'pay for itself' - which I take to mean that the settlers' loans for plot purchase (6000/- per plot), development loans, and other initial debts, will be paid off - in about 20 years rather than the planned 30.

The Magarini project will never generate great profits, but that was hardly to be expected. Currently it is being very carefully managed financially; provided that it continues to be well managed, there seems to be a good prospect that the project will pull through financially. It may be noted here that the estimated 'general farm budget' for a fully established farm, using notably conservative assumptions for crop yield, arrives at a net annual surplus figure after loan repayments of 3000/- per farm. How many farms might achieve such a figure I cannot say, but there does seem to be fair margin for error above the subsistence breakthrough level.

What is unfortunate, in my view, is that the task of meeting local costs now rests mainly on the frankly impoverished Kenyan government, since Australian aid policy does not provide for meeting local costs in a country which is classified (as Kenya is) as an LDC rather than an LLDC. A little more Australian flexibility on this point would be very welcome. The political and economic arguments against any policy change are obvious enough. Nevertheless several other DAC countries do permit a degree of flexibility on this point, and this it seems makes them rather better able than Australia is to modify their development programmes and projects according to changing circumstances in the field.

(7) Levels of technology

It seems that these are now being held at reasonably inexpensive levels. Roads are all-weather, but not sealed. There are no extravagant buildings. In keeping with the aim of gradually changing rather than drastically transforming the settlers' lives, the settlers construct their own farm buildings out of mud and thatch; the corrugated-iron farm roofing so evident elsewhere in Kenya is not evident at Magarini. For ploughing, the emphasis is on acquiring oxen rather than tractors (although a small number of tractors is maintained for use at the GIS, and for hire through the farmers' co-operative).

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT FACTORS

(8) Social and community development

Much of the critical interest in Magarini has been focused upon social and community development and this has become a central concern from the Australian point of view. As mentioned earlier, the quasi-windfall income from Australian wheat sales is being directed towards social and community ends. The income for next year will be considerably larger than this year's. Here again, it seems to me that earlier criticisms are now of decreasing validity. For example:

- (a) Educational facilities are being upgraded, with extensions and improvements to existing schools in the project area, with a new high school projected, and with work proceeding on a new permanent building for the polytechnic, and Health facilities will be greatly expanded when the projected primary health care centre (to be managed by a registered health worker) is completed.
- (b) As for co-operation, the Marafa Farmers Cooperative Society, set up in November 1980, is now a going concern. All farmers are expected to join; so far 631 have, paying 25/- each to do so. The co-operative's aims and activities include marketing of members' produce (this has been done for three years now); assistance with the purchase of inputs (tools, insecticides, etc) for sale to members; posho milling for members and non-members (the Posho mill, set up by arrangement with the project, is earning about

100/- a day); running a tractor hire service; and making credit available to members (either directly from the co-operative's funds, or in the form of government loans which are accessible through the co-operative). A godown-cum-office had recently been built, and will provide storage space for members' produce. A house for the secretary-manager has been erected nearby. The next objective is to start up a shop to retain farm inputs to members. The co-operative is a member of the Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives and the Kenya Farmers Association; the latter supplies farm inputs at a discount, provides a channel for marketing, and is a further source of credit.

Clearly the co-operative still has a long way to go. It has yet to pay a dividend. It has not yet made any loans to members (though it expects to begin doing so shortly and is opening a new bank account for the purpose). It has only just begun repaying the government loan which financed the construction of the godown. It will need to raise another substantial loan in order to establish its shop. The secretary-manager - a secondary-educated Giriama, who is being advised on book-keeping by the project accountant - is still fairly inexperienced.

Nevertheless the co-operative is being managed very carefully. The secretary-manager and the committee appear wholly committed to making it work, and so too do the senior project officials. The senior Australian official spoke of channelling more and more project business through the co-operative, thereby giving it experience and progressively adding to its finances. A million shillings' worth of business, for example, could mean about 100,000/- accruing to the co-operative itself.

- (c) The role of women has been another focus of concern. Earlier reports have pointed out that although women provide a (the?) major part of farm labour they do not hold the titles to the plots, and they have very little opportunity to become involved in community institutions and take part in decision-making.

The institutions of social power, such as the co-operative and the various committees of management, do remain in male hands. To the extent that this situation is reinforced by cultural factors, rapid change cannot realistically be expected. However, in other forms of community involvement a beginning has been made. There has been some development of women's clubs. Groups of women perform such tasks as preparing tree-seedlings for planting (under the aegis of the GIS), with payment in the form of food-for-work. A diplomate in agriculture and home economics from Egerton College, Mary Ochola, has been appointed specifically to

help improve the position of the women. So far she has initiated seven small-scale projects, including a bakery, two village 'hotels', and a cockerel run, with the purchase of cockerels being financed by the sale of goats. Each project is run communally by about 35 women, so that somewhere between 200 and 300 women are now involved in one project or another. This expanding involvement in small-scale projects does provide for community interaction and experience in management. It also has the potential to lead some at least of the women on to participation in more general social institutions. These would appear to be steps in the right direction.

Ms Ochola has ideas for further such small-scale initiative but her work - like so many other things at Magarini - is now being hampered by the shortage of funds. I would hope that new ways of supporting her work might be found. Perhaps there could be a role here for an Australian aid NGO. For example, an NGO might establish contact with Ms Ochola through the Magarini project director, evaluate her proposals for further women's projects, and if it saw fit, provide some funding, again by way of the project director.

- (d) There is also the fear that the Giriama will come to be dominated, in the long term, by other groups. Whether or not they will be is at this stage unknowable. The selection of a proportion of future settlers from non-Giriama areas is certainly a delicate issue, but not one in which Australia can play any part; this is very much a matter for the Kenyans themselves. It can be said that the Giriama will remain by a large margin the majority group in the area, and that they have made a start (with assistance from the project) in the establishment and management of community institutions such as the polytechnic and the co-operative. The co-operative's committee is elective, and the Giriama members may not be dislodged as easily as all that. As for Arab traders 'moving in', I saw no evidence of this; I did see Giriama-run shops and stalls in the villages.

(9) Future generations

Finally, it has been suggested that the project is concerned only with sustaining the present generation and makes little provision for the problems that are bound to arise in future, especially in view of Kenya's high population growth rate: for example, future subdivision of plots into decreasingly viable units.

This of course is a problem world-wide. The Magarini project offers no long-term answer; it is doubtful if any development project anywhere does. It needs to be remembered here that the project officials at Magarini must work within the existing Kenyan system of private property relations, in which individual farmers and title-holders are free to sell, buy or sub-divide land. In other words, a 'collective ownership' solution would be opposed

by both the farmers and the state, and to recommend such a course would not get aid officials very far. But the problem is well understood, and by making the plots unusually large (averaging 12 hectares, or about 30 acres), the project officials feel that they have catered as well as they are able for at least the next generation in addition to the present one.

CONCLUSIONS

Magarini will never be a wealthy area; nor will the settlement project become highly productive or profitable. But that is surely beside the point. The value of the scheme is precisely that it shows what can be done in a marginal area. Human lives are not being transformed, but they are being improved. This has very large implications for future settlement patterns in Africa's marginal lands.

Mistakes have no doubt been made, and wrong or over-expensive solutions applied. The water supply system, for example, could probably have been installed more economically. Members of the project staff themselves say this, adding that the Magarini experience has at least shown them how to do it more cheaply in the future.

But the major problems now appear to be those which arise from severe budgetary constraints and administrative difficulties at higher levels. The revised Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments has yet to be finalised nearly three years after the joint Australian-Kenyan mission of review evaluated the project, in large part because of doubts at the Australian end about financial aspects. The initiation of 'Phase 3', which was due to begin on 1 July 1983, is not yet in sight (though in itself this delay does not seem to make a qualitative difference to the kinds of tasks being done in the field). The supply of Kenyan money has virtually ceased other than for the payment of the salaries of project staff (who would be on salary anyway, as members of the Kenyan administration). In Australia, ADAB, and especially its African section, is understaffed, and Australian aid allocations to Africa were scaled down in the 1983-84 budget. Magarini is now being run on very little money.

In the present economic climate it is understandable, though regrettable, that the Australian Government does not envisage becoming involved in further such projects in Africa. But with regard to Magarini itself, having come this far and with only six years or so to run, the Government surely has a strong obligation to see the project through at an adequate level of funding. Had the project continued to achieve no more than the very low settlement rates of the first two years, there might have been a case for scaling it down. But the scheme is now an established fact, with a certain momentum gained and with many thousands of people committed to it for their future livelihood. Thus human, social, political and economic considerations all lead to the conclusion that the scheme should be properly sustained through to its conclusion.

David Goldsworthy
Monash University

AUSTRALIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN AFRICA

In December 1983 the Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs of Parliaments' Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence issued two reports stemming from the inquiry it launched in August 1982 to 'examine the geo-political situation in the Horn of Africa and peripheral countries'. The longer of these, which will be reported in the next issue of the Newsletter, is The Provision of Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid to The Horn of Africa. This is accompanied by Some Observations on Australia's Diplomatic Representation in Africa and Adjacent Indian Ocean Island States.

The Sub-Committee was prompted to consider and report on Australia's diplomatic representation by several observations in the course of its inquiry, including difficulty in looking into alleged aid misappropriation in Ethiopia in the absence of official representation there, difficulty in obtaining accurate information on developments in the Horn of Africa, and the absence of any Australian resident representation in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa, the inconvenience of which was underscored by the Libyan invasion of Chad during 1983.

After reviewing the current situation (which is tabularised in the report) the Committee recommended that consideration be given to:

1. the establishment of a resident mission in Addis Ababa in view of the location there of the headquarters of both the Organisation of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia's importance in African affairs, and the need for more accurate reporting from the Horn;
2. 'opening a post in a former French colony' which could also service other Francophone states;
3. 'opening a post at Mauritius to promote Australia's interests in Mauritius itself and among the island states of the Pacific' which would 'be a more rational use of resources than exists at present and would improve considerably our ability to promote our interests in this strategically important region.'

AFRICAN LIBERATION TRUST FUND

The following information has been received concerning the African Liberation Trust Fund (P.O. Box 51, Kensington Park, South Australia, 5068, telephone 08 3326474):

1. This Fund has a single objective: to support the struggle being waged for the final liberation of African territory by the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. This struggle has the aim of replacing the white minority rule of four million over twenty-six million with democratic non-racial states in which all citizens share equally in the political process.

2. The money contributed to the Fund will go directly to support the liberation movements; and the first priority is the establishment in Australia of an African Liberation Office to be shared by the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West African People's Organisation of Namibia (SWAPO).
3. It is estimated that at least \$30,000 is needed to establish the African Liberation Office and to maintain it for one year. This office will link with the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid and with Australian anti-Apartheid organisations, to promote organisational and educational activity within Australia.
4. The Fund will also provide direct support to ANC and SWAPO to help sustain and support their activities in Southern Africa.
5. The trustees will decide what priorities the Fund will have after the needs of the Liberation Office have been provided for.
6. Australian organisations and individuals will be invited to become sponsors of the Fund.
7. All donations received will be placed in a properly constituted legal trust fund administered by one of the Fund's trustees, Mr Peter McCusker, President of the Society of Labor Lawyers.
8. Contributors to the Fund will be invited either to make a single donation or to pledge a regular monthly amount. The account, 'African Liberation Fund' No. 921-998, Adelaide Branch, Commonwealth Savings Bank, S.A., can be paid into at any Commonwealth Bank or Post Office in Australia, or by bank transfer, or by cheque. People pledging regular contributions are urged to arrange a bank transfer through their own bank.
9. It intended that the Fund shall operate until both Namibia and South Africa have thrown off the control of the white minority regime and have established systems of government based on one-person-one-vote. At this point the trustees will decide the disbursement of any remaining monies and the Fund will be wound up.
10. CARE (Campaign Against Racial Exploitation), recognised by the U.N. as Australia's anti-Apartheid organisation, initiated the proposal for the African Liberation Trust Fund and is ready to support the Fund organisationally. However, the Fund is designed to operate autonomously, hopefully with the support of many organisations and individuals.

STANDING CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS ON AFRICA

SCOLMA, established in 1962 as a forum for librarians and others concerned with the provision of materials for African studies in the UK, is open to institutions and libraries throughout the world which are concerned with Africa. It aims to assist the acquisition of library materials on Africa; publish bibliographical works and a journal; and organise meetings on African bibliographical topics.

SCOLMA Publications

Available from booksellers and for these works marked (*) on payment of cash from: The Librarian, Institute of Commonwealth Studies 27 Russell Square, London WC1.

(*) African newspapers on microfilm, comp. M.D. McKee. SCOLMA, 1973. £0.50.

(*) African periodicals in the library of the British Museum (Natural History), by V.T.H. Parry. SCOLMA, 1974. £0.50.

Conference on the acquisitions of materials from Africa, University of 1969. Reports & Papers, ed. V.J. Bloomfield. Zug (Switzerland): Inter Documentation Co., 1970.

(*) Debates on African legislatures, ed. M. Alman. SCOLMA, 1972. £2.50.

Periodicals from Africa, a bibliography and union list, ed. C. Travis. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1977. ISBN 0-8161-7946-8. (17,000 titles with locations in British libraries).

(*) Printing and publishing in Kenya by J. Ndegwa. SCOLMA, 1973. £0.50.

SCOLMA directory of libraries and special collections on Africa, in the U.K., and Western Europe, comp. H. Hannam. 4th ed. Oxford: Zell, 1983. ISBN 0-905450-11-6.

Theses on Africa, 1963-1975, comp: J.H. St. J. McIlwaine. Mansell, 1978. ISBN 0-7201-0728-8.

Forthcoming

African census reports, a bibliography & checklist, ed. J. Pinfold.

Periodicals from Africa, supplement ed. C. Travis & D.S. Blake. Boston: G.K. Hall, March 1984. (7000 titles to August 1979. A second supplement, ed. D.S. Blake is in preparation.)

U.K. resources for Southern African studies, proceedings of the 1983 SCOLMA Conference, ed. P. Larby. SCOLMA.

Journal

African research and documentation (SCOLMA's journal).
 First published 1973. 3 issues p.a. Current subscription
 £6.50 or \$15.00. Subscription information and back issues
 from The Subscription Manager, African Research &
 Documentation, c/o Main Library, University of Birmingham,
 PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT, England

AFRICAN URBAN QUARTERLYCall for Papers

AFRICAN URBAN QUARTERLY (AUQ), an independent, international and interdisciplinary journal for comparative urbanization in Africa, is a quarterly journal intended to serve as a 'central clearing house' for research dealing with analytical, descriptive, evaluative and prescriptive problems concerned with the comparative urbanization and development planning in Africa with the rest of the world. The journal is published by Transaction Periodical Consortium and edited at the State University of New York at Albany.

1. Types of Papers: AUQ invites manuscripts which focus on any of the problem areas just mentioned, provided that the link between the subject treated and the central problem of comparative urbanization and planning in Africa within the rest of the world is reasonably clear. In particular, we shall be happy to have manuscripts that are: (1) reports of empirical investigations, (2) studies of methodological problems, (3) studies of real world situations in Africa, (4) philosophical analyses of basic urbanization and planning theories, (5) prescriptions or policy research and practice, and (6) findings on the current research, findings, information, and interpretations of general interdisciplinary interest to African studies. In general, AUQ encourages and publishes quality papers that cut across traditional lines of thought, especially synthesis or innovation of traditional ideas within quantitative and behavioral research.

2. Editorial Office: All manuscripts, comments on articles, correspondence intended for the editor, books for review, review of books, subscription, donation, changes of address, orders of back-issue, permission to reprint articles, and advertising should be sent to :

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 US\$12.00 for overseas airmail.

NEWS AND NOTESARGS 1984 Grants for African Studies

The Australian Research Grants Scheme has approved two grants for research projects in Africa for 1984. Dr. Cherry Gertzel of Flinders University has been awarded \$4900 in support of research on "Amin's Uganda: A study of Tyranny" and Dr. James H. Polhemus of Deakin University has received \$3900 for a study of the "The 1984 Elections in Botswana." This marks an improvement over 1983, when only one African research proposal was funded, but is still not up to the levels of 1982 when four research projects on Africa received a total of \$38,999.

1983 ASA Meeting

John Ravenhill of the University of Sydney who attended the 1983 African Studies Association Meeting in the United States, reports:

A less appropriate venue for an African Studies meeting than a snowy Boston in December is difficult to imagine. Nevertheless, the 26th annual meeting of the African Studies Association (U.S.A.) attracted a huge turnout with most of the North American "notables" in the field being present. More than 120 panels had been arranged, spread over four days. With only two sessions per day and an average of fifteen panels running simultaneously, there was the usual problem of having to make difficult choices among a number of potentially attractive presentations.

Although the panels ran the usual gamut from "Missionaries and Change in African societies" to "Short fiction in Africa", the conference's theme--The Food Crisis in Africa--was represented in many panels. Unfortunately this focus at times served merely to demonstrate how little many participants know about economics in general, and agricultural economics in particular--especially in the African context. It was somewhat ironic to hear those whose work has most often focussed on "sub-imperialism", etc., now to be offering the supposed solutions to Africa's contemporary food crisis.

A particularly disappointing feature was the keynote addresses. Senator Edward Kennedy, scheduled to present one on U.S. Foreign Policy towards Africa, failed to materialise. The other, by Rene Dumont, fell far short of expectations. Speaking in English, Dumont was barely coherent, his only answer to questioners was to refer them to his latest book.

In general, however, the organizers of the conference did a remarkably good job given the numbers involved. And, despite the absence of any convincing answers, it was good to see the conference addressing the most critical contemporary issue facing the continent.

1984 ASA Meeting

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association will convene at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, in Los Angeles, California, October 25-28, 1984. PAPERS AND PANELS ON ALL ASPECTS OF AFRICAN STUDIES AND FROM EVERY DISCIPLINE IN THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES ARE ENCOURAGED. The Program Chairperson for the meeting is Dr. Carol B. Thompson, Department of Political Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0044. Paper and panel proposals should be sent along with typed abstracts as early as possible for full consideration. The deadline for submission of proposals and abstracts is April 15, 1984.

Maps of Africa

AFSAAP member Jeff Leeuwenburg, who has recently been appointed Curator of Maps of the Baillieu Library of the University of Melbourne, writes:

The Library has as one of its aims the collection of medium and large scale maps of Africa. We already have about 5,000 African maps, and are actively acquiring more. Coverage of various countries varies, but for example we have the 1:50,000 coverage for Lesotho, Swaziland and parts of Eastern Botswana. Most of the maps are topographic maps, but the collection includes historical maps, geological maps, tourist maps. We will obtain a few satellite images as well, and I hope that the Thematic Mapper in the new Landsat V will eventually produce African material.

Outsiders are welcome to use the collection, and I suggest you phone up beforehand to check what is available for your area of interest. Additions to the collection are also welcome, especially recent town plans. Enquiries should be directed to Jeff Leeuwenburg, Curator of Maps, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, 3052.

African Crisis Areas and United States Foreign Policy

The Pacific Coast Africanist Association announces publication of a Special Report: African Crisis Areas and U.S. Foreign Policy based on a conference at U.C.L.A. during 1983. The contributors include several notables in the field. Copies can be obtained by joining the P.C.A.A. (payment of \$10.00 annual dues brings a copy) or by sending US\$3.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling for each copy to P.C.A. Enterprises 2843 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, C.A. 94553 U.S.A.

Folklore in Africa

The second International Colloquium on Folklore in Africa Today will be held in Budapest, 28-30 August 1984. Information is available from:

EOTVOS University
'FOLKLORE IN AFRICA TODAY'
The Secretary of the Conference
Budapest XII, ker.
Tornalja utca 1/B
HUNGARY
H-1536 PF. 387

Randall Pouwels

Members of the Association will be pleased to learn that Randall Pouwels, until recently at La Trobe University, has recently received research clearance to work in Zanzibar on the development of Islamic ideology and leadership during the colonial era. It is a real coup since no one has been allowed to carry out this type of research since the 1964 revolution. He will be concentrating on Shirazi traditions from the rural areas, Hadimu and Watumbatu. His project is being funded by grants from SSRC and NEH.