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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in AFSAAP is open to anyone interested in the development of African studies in the Australia and Pacific region.

Current rates:  Regular member in region  A$20
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Cheques should be made to 'African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific' and posted to:

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AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC
NEWSLETTER

Volume X Number 2  December 1988

The AFSAAP Newsletter now appears twice a year in June and December. Long and 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 April 30th and September 30th will appear in the June and December issues respectively. Contributions should be sent to Cherry Gertzel, School of Social Sciences, Politics Discipline, Flinders University of South Australia, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

Contents

Note from the Editor  1
Obituary: Michael Crowder  2
Aids in Africa
   Elizabeth Reid  3
Pauline in Seroni District, Uganda
   Joan Vincent  8
University Education in Kenya  10
The African Desk in the Department of Foreign Affairs
   and Trade and Australian Diplomatic Representation
   in Africa  12
Drowning as a Development Problem in Africa
   Robert Burrowes  14
About Books and Films, Research Materials and Research
   Life Histories of African Women, Patricia V. Romero (ed)  19
   Pen Etherington
   The British Documents on the End of Empire Projects
   David Goldsworthy
   Film Production in Africa
   Martin Whande
   Research on the Bantu Government's South Africa Policy
   Dave Cox, Flinders University
   Resources for Development Educators  29

News and Notes

1989 AFSAAP Annual Meeting

Inside
Back Cover
Note from the Editor:

Once again I must thank APSAAP members and others for their contributions to the Newsletter. So far as this issue is concerned I am especially grateful to Elizabeth Reid who wrote her Aids in Africa immediately after her return from the Kinshasa Conference, and to Joan Vincent whose report on famine in Soroti district, Uganda, was sent to me by a correspondent in England. At a time of so-called "compassion fatigue" in Australia, and elsewhere, when the media give all too little attention to the African scene, these two reports, of very different but equally tragic situations, must make us pause, and reflect, not least on the human element of the African crisis. We need also to reflect on the economic, political, social and cultural consequences of this devastation and suffering; and to acknowledge the enormously positive way in which Africans themselves seek to take charge of their own history. Hopefully the Newsletter can provide a vehicle for such reflection, which is why members' contributions are so important.

Members of APSAAP will be sad to learn of Michael Cowdrey's death reported in this issue of the Newsletter, but will be pleased to know that it is proposed to set up a Michael Cowdrey Trust Fund whose main aim will be to tackle the African "book famine" that concerned him so much. Interested members might wish to contact Jackie Hunt at the International African Institute in London.*

On a happier note, APSAAP members will be delighted to learn of Norman Etherington's appointment to the Chair of History at the University of Western Australia, which he tells me he will take up in the first half of 1989. Congratulations.

This year's annual conference, held at La Trobe University, Melbourne, was a quiet but satisfying occasion. There was a general consensus among those who attended that the combined meeting with the Research Centre for South West Pacific Studies was fruitful, and of the high quality of papers presented. Next year's conference will be in Sydney.

Finally, a housekeeping problem. The production and distribution costs of the Newsletter have, like everything else, increased over the past two years. Some of this increase reflects its increased size, but the single largest item is the cost of postage, especially in view of the fact that a number of members change addresses without informing us. For these reasons, please would you fill in and return the attached slip to indicate that you wish to continue to receive the Newsletter. This information will also be useful for updating the APSAAP Directory.

My thanks to Anne Gabb and Jackie Ansara who typed this issue.

Please note that starting in 1989 the first issue of the year will appear in June. Contributions by the 30th April please.

Cherry Gertrud

* 10 Portugal Street, London, W.C.2.

OBITUARY: MICHAEL COWDREY

Members of APSAAP will be saddened by the news of the untimely death of Michael Cowdrey, on August 14th 1988, at the age of fifty four. Those who attended the 1986 African Studies Conference in Melbourne, will recall his lively and stimulating contributions to the proceedings and not least his concern for the needs of African universities and the ways we might help to overcome what he called the African Book Famine. That concern reflected his long involvement in the African universities and with African scholarship, as teacher, historian and editor. His association with Africa went back to 1952-54 when he first went to Nigeria as a young National Service Officer. It continued, with a further ten years in Nigeria, first as Secretary of the then newly founded Institute of African Studies at Ibadan, and then as professor of History at, in turn, Iife, Ahmadu Bello and Lagos Universities. Later he spent a further time as professor of history at the University of Botswana. He will be remembered also for his scholarly contributions to African history as author of a significant number of important studies of West Africa, and as co-editor, with Jacob Ajjayi of the two-volume History of West Africa and the Historical Atlas of Africa.

In Botswana Michael began work on an immense biography of Tshekedi Khama, as well as other studies of White Bechuanaland, one of which he subsequently wrote up while a Visiting Fellow at Denklin University in 1986. At the time of his death he was editor of the British Documents on the End of Empire Project. His enthusiasm and his capacity to generate interest in a wide range of scholarly and other activities of value to African studies will be sadly missed.

A Memorial Service, attended by some three hundred people, was held at the University Church of Christ The King, London, on Saturday 22nd October, 1988.
AIDS IN AFRICA

Elizabeth Reid

We are all now accustomed to listing the various risk groups for HIV infection in Australasia: homosexuals, intravenous drug users and, we sometimes add, recipients of blood and blood products. For the majority of our population this allows the epidemic to be relegated to a location far from themselves and their sphere of action and responsibility. In most of sub-Saharan Africa, however, there is only one main risk group for infection: the virus has so penetrated the population, particularly in central, eastern and southern Africa, that all sexually active people are at risk and perceive themselves to be so.

The psychological impact of this may be difficult to conceive but has at least a partial analogue in homosexual communities, particularly in the United States. A widespread fatalism pervades. Adults assume that they are infected or that they will become so. Fear of infection has caused a paralysis of the will to protect, individually and collectively. Hope is focused on an imminent cure or on the possibility that infection may not be fatal.

Underlying the rhetoric, which often singles out prostitutes as widely infected or to blame, is the unspoken knowledge that there are effectively no psychological distancing techniques. Every sexually active person feels themselves to be at risk, either from their own actions, past or present, or those of their sexual partners. This includes therefore politicians, bureaucrats, including AIDS bureaucrats, journalists, educators.

Individual psychological coping mechanisms, denial, bargaining, displacement, concealment, become public policy or determine it: the means of protection from infection are not clearly and stridently stated; reports of cures or of vaccines are widely reported; the survival rate for those infected is claimed to be 50 per cent, to give hope, falsely; the extent of the epidemic remains unreported. Pre-sexually active children are proposed as the target group for intervention programs, implicitly writing off all those in older age groups including the women who must bear future generations.

The extent of the epidemic

The extent of the epidemic is not known. At 31 August 1988, 14,939 AIDS cases had been reported to the WHO Global Programme on AIDS from 51 African countries with only 6 countries reporting no cases. It is possible, for a range of reasons including the fact that very many cases are not diagnosed, that the reported cases are only 20 to 30 per cent of all AIDS cases. However, because of the long latency period, data on AIDS cases do not begin to reveal the extent of the epidemic of B.I.V. infection.

The region of highest infection where most surveys report more than five per cent of adults in urban areas are infected includes Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Tanzania, the Congo, Burundi, Zaire, Malawi, the Central African Republic and Angola. Surrounding these countries is a region of lower prevalence where surveys suggest that one to five per cent of urban adults are infected. This region includes Kenya, Mozambique, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Gabon, Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast. In other African countries, the reported prevalence is closer to levels in the United States, Europe or Australia.

Estimates of the extent of infection in the countries of central, eastern and southern Africa range from about 2 per cent of the sexually active or adult population to over 20 per cent: from one in fifty adults infected to one in five or higher. In specific groups or regions infection rates are believed to be much higher: around Lake Victoria, among the military, among prostitutes.

More data are known for particular countries. In Uganda, a conservative estimate was that 20 per cent of adults in Kampala, including pregnant women, were infected. In one study about 25 per cent of the children born to infected women are infected. Mortality rates among these children have not been as high as expected with only 12 out of 80 children dead after two and a half years. In some rural areas of Uganda, infection levels are higher than in Kampala.

Kinshasa studies indicate that about six to eight per cent of the adult population are infected, with a male/female ratio of 1:1.3. The population of Kinshasa is thought to be about 3.5 million, so an estimated quarter of a million adults in Kinshasa alone are infected. The peak incidence of infection in women occurs in the 15-30 age group with at least eight per cent of women in this age group infected and with infected women outnumbering infected men in this age group by two or three to one. The peak incidence age group for men is 25 to 40.

Studies in one Kinshasa hospital show that six to seven per cent of all staff at the hospital are infected, three per cent of new borns, 25 per cent of casualty patients, 25 to 40 per cent of adult patients in the internal medicine wards and 12 per cent of children in these wards. A study undertaken in one factory in Kinshasa showed that between three and four per cent of the staff were infected, with proportionately slightly more men than women. Infection levels in Luwunumbashi, Kisangani and Kolwezi are estimated to be between three and five per cent of the adult population and in the rural areas up to 2 per cent.

* Senior Consultant on AIDS, Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health, Canberra and Australian delegate to the WHO Second Regional Conference on AIDS in Africa, held in Kinshasa 24-29 October 1988.
In Africa, it is thought that between 80 and 85 per cent of all cases of infection occur as a result of heterosexual contact, with between 10 and 15 per cent occurring through blood transfusions or unsterile injections and between five and ten per cent through perinatal transmission. For these reasons especially in countries of central, eastern and southern Africa, all sexually active people constitute the group most at risk of infection and therefore the group to which education and prevention programs must be targeted. This is confirmed by preliminary results from a mathematical model developed to predict future trends in HIV incidence by the School of Public Health at the University of Kinshasa. These show that the potential of interventions to screen blood donors or to sterilise injection equipment to dampen the epidemic are minimal.

Within this risk group, further risk factors have been identified: multiple sexual partners, concurrent sexually transmitted diseases, particularly ulcerative conditions. Mobility has also been identified as a risk factor. These additional risk factors allow the identification of particular target groups within the group of those at risk: the military, the police, prostitutes and their clients and truck drivers.

Despite the horrifying extent of spread of the virus that all these figures indicate, the epidemic is still in its infancy in Africa and the extent of its social, economic, political and psychological impact is still to be determined. The Kinshasa mathematical model predicts the possibility of a sharp acceleration in the epidemic: in Kinshasa in 1990: an increase in HIV seroprevalence in adults in Kinshasa from the present estimate of eight per cent of adults to 32 per cent by the year 2000 and 58 per cent by the year 2010. However the model also shows that quite modest interventions achieving, for example, 25 per cent condom use among casual sexual partners and 50 per cent with prostitutes, assuming correct usage two-thirds of the time, could reduce the number of new infections by a third in ten years.

The response to the epidemic

A strong tension exists between the psychological impact of the epidemic and the economic and political imperatives to respond quickly and effectively. The outcome of this tension is also influenced by the fact that while technology exists and can be imported to secure the blood supply, there is no simple importable package to change sexual behaviour.

The WHO Global Programme on AIDS has drawn up a blueprint which forms the basis of National AIDS plans: immediate needs are addressed in a Short Term Plan during which Epidemiological and other studies are undertaken in order to determine priority needs to give shape to a three to five year Medium Term Plan. The Medium Term Plan identifies what needs to be carried out, where and when and at what cost to achieve the objectives of the national AIDS programme and identifies who is responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It is also used for the mobilisation of external multilateral and non-governmental funds. Most African countries are in the process of drawing up or have drawn up their national AIDS plans.

Inevitably the emphasis has been on what is quickly achievable. Massive amounts of HIV screening equipment, test kits and laboratory equipment have been imported from manufacturers in the First World to secure blood supplies. Typewriters, photocopiers, personal computers and cars have been imported for the staff of national programme units and to carry out surveillance studies, knowledge, attitude and belief surveys and other research. Funds have been transferred to local accounts to cover supplies and running costs.

All African countries now have at least one facility where blood supplies are screened and in some countries, such as Kenya, the infrastructure has been put in place in less than 10 months to secure the total blood supply.

Inevitably also the programs to date have been highly centralised. In addition, the National AIDS Committees and programme units have been dominated by technicians: clinicians, medical researchers and health officials. This has meant that in most countries to date there has been little role for social scientists, for counsellors and social workers, for non-governmental organisations or for the media and at times an insufficient role for AIDS educators.

Inevitably also the consequences of this approach will be increased dependency on external assistance with its concomitant welfare mentality. Increased dependency may be an unavoidable outcome of the existence of the epidemic but the area where interventions are most needed is to curb the epidemic rather than to provide at least to offer: education and prevention programs to minimise heterosexual transmission.

Virtually the whole post-puberty population must learn how transmission can be prevented or minimised. Without this process of learning and of behaviour change not only will the epidemic not be stemmed but the fatalism which so pervades these societies can not be confronted. This is a much more difficult task in any society than securing the blood supply. The messages are known: abstinence from intercourse prevents infection; the correct use of good quality condoms significantly minimises the risk of transmission. Yet to date in the region these messages have not been clearly and widely stated. Injunctions to Love Faithfully or to Zero Grazing are much more prevalent. Whilst such behaviour may well lessen the risk of transmission, limiting education programs to these messages does not give people the range of information required for them to make realistic behavioural choices nor to give them a sense that the epidemic can be brought under control.

However, there is a widespread response to the epidemic to prevent further infection and to care for those already infected. In Kampala, for example, a number of community based support groups have started. The first of these, TASHO, The AIDS Support Organisation, was started in 1987 by a nurse who had cared for her husband until his death of AIDS. The group provides emotional and financial support and food to infected people. It has started a follow-up clinic where infected individuals can get a health check, medicines, counselling and support or can drop in for a chat. They now have a mobile unit which they use for home visits to the sick and to follow up on contacts. The group has attracted a large number of volunteers to its program, including a number of infected individuals, and
through its work has brought about a significant change in community attitudes towards infected individuals.

Jonathan Mann, the Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, in his opening address to the recent WHO Second Regional Conference on AIDS in Africa identified three areas where national programs were in need of strengthening: education programs; the provision of social and support services which sustain behaviour change, including counselling and condom accessibility; and the creation of a social context which prevents the discrimination, intolerance and stigmatisation of those infected. These directives clearly reflect the experience at both the global and country levels of the interventions of the last two and a half years in Africa. The immense desire of all those responsible to act swiftly and effectively will mean that they will be heeded.

Canberra,
November, 1988

FAMINE IN SOROTI DISTRICT, UGANDA

Joan Vincent*

On Wednesday, September 1, 1988, I learned from the Principal of Namasagali School, just south of the district boundary, that an Oxfam fieldworker, Nicholas Stockton, had just returned from touring Soroti district (Teso) and reported the most severe famine conditions he had ever seen.

On Thursday I called in to see Mr. Stockton at Oxfam Headquarters in Kampala and in a 45 minute interview he described what he had seen. There is famine throughout the entire district, the survivors living on cassava and waragi (a drink made from cassava). There are now no cattle in Teso, formerly the main cattle producing district of Uganda, due to the activities of rustlers from Karamoja who have swept through the district, killing and looting. They are armed with automatic weapons and the massacre of at least one named village has been reported. There is no millet, once the main staple of the people of Teso. Fishing nets have been looted. The military (of the National Resistance Movement government now in power) seems to have been unable to control matters. The development of famine conditions is said to date back to June or July 1986. Adult kwashikor is now widespread.

Soroti has been visited (along with Gulu and Lira in northern Uganda) by the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and West Germany. It is said that skulls were brought and piled up alongside the airstrips where their helicopter landed in order to demonstrate the magnitude of the disaster. Mr. Stockton reported after his three week tour of the region, risking his own life, that the demographic profile of the district revealed only children and old people. He saw few young or middle-aged men. The Bishop of Soroti (Church of Uganda) has insisted on remaining with his people. It is said that he informed the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Lambeth Conference of conditions in Teso. The population was made up largely (but not entirely) of Anglicans. Mr. Stockton believes that action will be taken only if there is an international outcry over famine in northern Uganda. He pointed out that the British press usually carries only one Africa story at a time, and, at the moment, attention is focused almost exclusively on the floods in the southern Sudan. We hope to be able to draw attention to the famine in Soroti when the press (and especially the BBC) accompany Geoffrey Howe to Uganda in ten days time.

I am a social anthropologist, now teaching at Columbia University in New York, who worked in Soroti and Teso District between 1966 and 1970. I was funded by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

I returned to Uganda on August 24, 1988, to conduct preliminary research into the transmission and prevention of AIDS, now concentrated in the southwest of the country and in the capital. When I inquired about visiting Teso, I was told that security conditions did not permit it. I was particularly anxious to inquire about a child, Omedel Charles, who had been adopted by the parish

* Barnard College, Columbia University, New York.
church at Pyecombe but with whom contact had been lost. I also wanted to revisit the people I had worked with in the field twenty years before. From an Erestat in Kampala, I learned more of conditions in the district. Over two days, all I learned confirmed Mr. Stockton’s assessment of the situation and provided names and details of the people and villages that had suffered. Most of these were in the three southern counties (Sorere, Nuni and Ngara) where I had worked and in Soroti, from whence some refugees had been able to flee. There was said to be fighting in the extreme north of the district (Amuria county) but no first hand accounts since the region could not be reached.

There is additional cause for international alarm besides the widespread and severe famine conditions. Should the Ugandan Army be sent into the district in any large numbers, it is likely that AIDS (in Uganda a heterosexually transmitted disease) will spread beyond the limited areas in which it is now found.

September, 1988

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN KENYA

Since Kenya attained political independence, twenty-five years ago, university education has seen tremendous growth both in terms of student enrolment as well as in degree awarding institutions. In 1963 for instance, the only institution offering university education was the then Royal College, Nairobi, which used to offer degrees of the University of London under a special relationship. Its total enrolment was only 356 and only 18 students were awarded degrees in that year. Today the country has four public Universities and over 10 church sponsored institutions offering secular education. In the four public Universities, namely, the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Moi University, and Egerton University, the total student enrolment is well over 20,000.

As the oldest of the four Universities, Nairobi has the highest number of student enrolments amounting to ten thousand. In terms of diversity of the degrees offered, it also has the largest number. It offers degrees in the Human and Social Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Biological and Physical Sciences, Medicine and Adult Education. Two years ago it established an external degree programme which currently enroils 600 students who study off the campus and only report to the College of Adult and External Degree Studies for short periods during which they consult their lecturers. On the average, the University of Nairobi graduates 2000 students every year. It has established links with over 45 overseas universities allowing for exchange students, teaching and research staff which has proved useful as a method of ensuring that academic standards are of international levels. These universities include University of California, Pennstate University, Kalamazoo, Guys Teaching Hospital, University of Ottawa, Soka University of Japan, and some universities in the Federal Republic of Germany amongst many others.

The University of Nairobi has six campus colleges established under the 1965 University of Nairobi Act. These are the College of Adult and Distance Education, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, and College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Kenyatta University is the second largest University in Kenya in terms of student enrolment. Currently it has about 300 students taking courses in Education, B.A. and B.Sc. and will soon be diversifying its degree programmes beginning with the 1988/89 academic year. It became a full fledged University in 1985 after 13 years as a constituent college of the University of Nairobi. It was in 1972 that the college started enrolling its first group of students to pursue courses leading to the degrees of the University of Nairobi. However, with the pressure for more university places mounting, the college was promoted to a university status in 1985 enabling it to grow and diversify its academic programmes.
Besides offering courses leading to the award of Bachelor of Education in the various fields, Kenyatta University will now offer Bachelor of Arts and Science (BSc & BA) degree programmes and also has facilities for Postgraduate diploma, Masters and Doctoral degrees.

Moi University was officially inaugurated on December 6th, 1985 by H.E. The President, Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya. However, the idea of establishing a second university to meet the growing demands of the rapidly changing modern and technological society started with the appointment of the Presidential Working Party on January 21st, 1981 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Colin B. Mackay. The Working Party, considering the demand for higher education and the resulting pressure of the existing institutes, recommended the establishment of a second university and also prepared the detailed plans and recommendations on how such a decision to start a new university could be implemented. The working party presented its report to H.E. The President during September 1981. The report was accepted by the Government and thus laid down the foundations for the establishment of Moi University. The report of the Working Party recommended that the new university should be technically oriented and should focus on problems of rural development in its training and research programmes. As a technical university, it should also develop linkages with the non-degree technical training institutes in the country. These recommendations formed the nucleus of Moi University upon which the future development of the university would be based.

Moi University presently has the following Faculties, Schools and Institutes:

Faculty of Forest Resources and Wildlife Management
Faculty of Science
Faculty of Technology

The fourth university in the country which also happens to be the youngest is Egerton University. The university was established three years ago initially as a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi. Before then it had offered Diploma courses in agriculture. In 1987 it was upgraded to full university status. Today the university offers courses leading to B.A., B.Sc., and B.Ed.

Nairobi,
June 1988

Editor's Note

I am grateful to Professor Godfrey Muriuki, Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi, for this information.

THE AFRICA DESK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE AND AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC
REPRESENTATION IN AFRICA

Michael Potts, Director of the Central and Southern Africa Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has kindly provided the following information on the present disposition of African affairs within the Department.

The responsible Branch is South Asia, Africa and Middle East Branch, headed by Mr Roas Burns, Assistant Secretary. The Branch has four sections as follows:

- Central and Southern Africa Section (CSA)
- Middle East and North Africa Section (MENA)
- South Asia Section (SAS), and
- South Asia, Africa and Middle East Trade Section (SAMBITA)

Of these, the first and last deal with Africa.

CSA Section deals with Australia's political relations with all Africa except for Egypt, Sudan and the Maghreb. It is headed by myself as Director. There are three desk officers at the moment, Steve Etheridge (South Africa), Paul Smith (Front Line States and East Africa, the Horn) and Jane Madden (also South Africa). As you can see from the allocation of duties, much of the Section's work centres on South Africa and the management of government policy in relation to that country, including the administration of sanctions. We expect changes in all the desk officers shortly.

SAMBITA handles Australia's commercial relations with all of Africa. Its Director is Nick Warner and Julie Chater is the Africa trade desk officer.

You might also find useful the following information on Australia's diplomatic missions in Africa below the Sahara. There are six missions, as follows:

- Australian High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya.
  (Development House, Moi Avenue, Nairobi)
  (P.O. Box 30360, Nairobi)
  (Telephone (254444-2) 334666)

  High Commissioner: Mr Douglas Campbell
  Counsellor (Commercial): Mr Brian Leedham
  First Secretary: Mr Barry Bitchcock
  First Secretary (Development Assistance): Mr Hans Geissler

  Accredited to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia.
  Also covers Djibouti, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi.
DROWNING AS A DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM IN AFRICA

Robert Burrowes*

For six months in 1985 I travelled through nine countries in Africa: Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan and Egypt. A significant part of that time was spent conducting a preliminary investigation into the drowning toll.

I undertook the research for three reasons: I am especially interested in development issues; I have some specialist knowledge of drowning as a community problem; and I became acutely aware that deaths by drowning had not been investigated and seemed more significant than a first glance would suggest.

Consequently, as I travelled, I sought information about the nature and extent of the drowning toll from several sources: official publications, newspapers, expatriate lifesaving personnel, aquatic clubs and swimming pool officials. I also spent considerable time discussing the issue with local people.

The preliminary investigation provided few answers: it did help to identify many areas for further research. This article summarises the basic findings of the investigation and offers some comment on the present situation.

Community Safety

While it is obvious that both natural and human disasters - such as droughts and volcanic eruptions on the one hand, and wars on the other - can cause immense loss of life in a short period of time, the dramatically nature of these events usually leads to a compassionate and concerted international response; even when such events occur in the developing world.

However, the nature of 'accidental' deaths is usually less dramatic and involves the loss of 'only' one or a few lives at a time. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, these 'minor' incidents frequently go unrecorded and unreported; they are therefore effectively ignored.

The total number of people killed in these less dramatic incidents appears to me to exceed vastly the number of victims of major catastrophes. Yet virtually nothing is done by governments or international agencies to prevent or respond to them. They are 'hidden' problems of Third World development.

Preliminary studies of the nature and extent of the drowning toll suggest that community safety, particularly in relation to water safety, is one of the untackled problems of Third World development.

* Robert Burrowes is a postgraduate student at the University of Queensland, Department of Government.

1. In addition to the investigation undertaken in Africa in 1985, I undertook a companion study in South Asia in 1986.
Neither the 'World Health Statistics Annual,' nor any other publication, contains an accurate and comprehensive statistical summary of deaths, including accidental deaths, in the world each year. Indeed, this is not possible simply because statistics related to deaths (accidental or otherwise) are not compiled in many countries, notably those of Africa, Asia and Latin America. And where statistics are compiled, there is often considerable evidence to suggest that they are incomplete.

However, it is apparent from the preliminary investigation that in the category of 'sudden death,' drownings, fires, motor vehicle accidents, falls and venomous bites (including snake and crocodile attacks) are major killers (in about that order).

In relation to the specific concern of this investigation - the nature and extent of the drowning problem in Africa - the limited evidence available so far clearly suggests that drowning claims the largest number of lives lost in the category of accidental deaths and that a great deal is yet to be done before the drowning toll is reduced to rates comparable with the developed countries. What it also suggests is that we would do well not to underestimate the significance of accidental deaths, including deaths by drowning.

The features of the investigation which are of most interest from the viewpoint of development personnel are the nature and extent of the drowning toll, the extensive variety of African attitudes and practices in relation to the lifesaving and the nature and shortcomings of the limited responses to the drowning toll.

The Drowning Toll

The lack of official statistics makes it difficult to establish the nature and extent of the drowning toll in Africa. Letters to the relevant offices in all African states requesting statistics and other information on accidental deaths have so far elicited only a few replies. Of these, seven countries, (Angola, Lesotho, Mauritius, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zimbabwe) sent some (usually quite incomplete) details; four (Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Rwanda) agreed that statistics are not kept; and Liberia referred the query elsewhere.

The only African country which has figures published in the 'World Health Statistics Annual' is Mauritius. Of the nine African countries I visited in 1982, only Zimbabwe apparently compiles any official statistics on accidental death, including drowning.

In these circumstances, any estimate of the drowning toll in Africa contains a significant element of speculation. Nevertheless, based on information from several sources, I estimate that between 25,000 and 50,000 Africans drown each year. It could be more. The drowning rate for Africa, based on these estimates, is double to quadruple the rate in the United States and Australia.

It appears that drownings occur primarily in rivers and lakes. The obvious dangers of rivers and lakes are compounded by the hazards posed by crocodiles, hippopotamuses and predators.

Wells, including those installed as part of development projects, are also frequently the site of death by drowning (or falls). The failure of many development personnel to understand the hazards associated with wells - and the simple means of overcoming them - is a particularly tragic aspect of this problem. Too many wells have uncovered openings at ground level.

Drowning is related to a wide range of activities. Prominent in descriptions of individual drowning accidents were fishing, drinking water, bathing, recreation (including swimming), washing, working and during transport. Prominent in descriptions of multiple drownings were vessel sinkings and vehicle submersions. Drowning at sea is not however a major hazard.

Attitudes and Practices

Lifesaving skills have been practiced for centuries by village Africans who live near water. However, whites frequently and erroneously presume that there is little African interest in lifesaving. This is based partly on ignorance, partly on their exposure to city rather than village Africans and partly on their exposure to assumptions promulgated through expatriate or white-settler dominated swimming clubs.

Africans who still have knowledge or links with the village are often able to describe a variety of swimming techniques, competitions, rescue skills and resuscitation practices. Conversely, city born and raised Africans tend to be much less aware of these traditions and considerably less competent at swimming. There are several important reasons for this. Lifesaving skills, like many aspects of village culture, have been largely lost in the city. There are few public pools in many African countries. Where pools are available, swimming is an expensive activity. Thus, one concomitant of the socio-


3. For the purpose of this article the following definitions apply. Drowning means death by submersion in a liquid. Near-drowning is the term used to describe a process in which a person has been successfully saved (by rescue and/or resuscitation) after nearly dying following submersion in a liquid. Lifesaving is a generic term which refers collectively to the skills of swimming, survival (in water), rescue and resuscitation. A lifesaver is therefore someone competent in these facets of aquatics.

4. The figures supplied by the Central Statistical Office in Harare record an average annual drowning toll of 241 - in a population of 8.1 million as at the 1982 census - for the years 1980 to 1983.
economic conditions which prevail in Africa today is a city culture in which aquatic activity and safety have lost their importance.

Among village Africans however, lifesaving skills are very evident. In Zambia, for instance, swimming is taught variously by grandparents, parents, older siblings, friends and ‘experts’. Teaching techniques include pulling the learner by rope behind a dugout canoe.

If someone gets into difficulties they are rescued using a variety of techniques: swim rescue; reach rescue from the bank using such aids as branches; rescue by dugout canoe and ‘throwing’ rescues using ropes or buoyant objects.

The sophistication of some African lifesaving is evident from the following response to a question about rescues: ‘they wait for him to be drowned a bit and then dive in the water and life him up’.

This reveals commitment to a sophisticated rescue philosophy which was first enunciated in western lifesaving literature in 1962: ‘the rescuer must wait and exercise good judgment, acting speedily and effectively when the victim is about to submerge’. At least some village Africans are well aware of the dangers of rescuing a drowning person.

It is evident that attempts are sometimes made to perform resuscitation: ‘... if he had swallowed water it is removed by sitting on his stomach’. Several other techniques involving some form of abdominal thrust were described. There was no evidence of pulmonary ventilation (a distinctive feature of expired air resuscitation) in any of the techniques described however.

In Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya I had the opportunity to speak to the members of many tribes, particularly those of rural Kenya. The Shona and M’belele of Zimbabwe, the Chagga and Irapu of Tanzania, and the Kikuyu, Luo, Masai, Turkana and Abaluya of Kenya all swim as part of their traditional culture if they live near water. My investigation revealed a rich variety of lifesaving knowledge and skills in the villages of Africa.

**Response to the Drowning Toll**

At the village level, Africans in some countries have developed a range of lifesaving skills in response to the problem of drowning. However, it would appear that there is scope for further development of these responses, particularly in relation to rescue and resuscitation techniques. An appropriate development strategy would build on existing knowledge and skills.

Despite the extent of the problem of accidental death, including drowning, there has been no systematic African or international effort to encourage the development of community programs which would improve the impact of local responses. There appear to be several reasons for this.


This volume contains seven life histories of African women which come to us as a result of the work of a number of people who are either historians, anthropologists or folklorists. Some of these "life histories" are fairly standard small-scale biographies; some are constructed as biographies with a liberal sprinkling of oral evidence gathered from interviews, so that they seem to be, at the same time, biography and autobiography: one is entirely autobiographical in that it is a direct translation from the original account in the Xhosan language. Professional historians might have some scepticism about this kind of material both because of the life-history approach and because of the dependence on oral sources. It is interesting, therefore, that the most valuable essays in this collection are not those written as biographies by professional historians who had access to some conventional documentation as well as oral sources or oral tradition. The most instructive and revealing account comes from the Xhosan woman who tells her own story and the interest in the other life histories is best maintained when the women are allowed to speak for themselves.

The writers who introduce these women take for granted that their subjects must be placed in their sociological context in terms of status, class and culture since this provides the necessary backdrop for each case. Four of the essays are important in the field of social history and particularly for the insights they offer into gender relations. Three are about the public roles of the women concerned.

Beverley Mack's account of the life of Hajjiya Ma'daki, a royal Hausa woman, concentrates on the public life of this member of the Fulani aristocracy, who was born in 1907, the daughter of royalty and eventually the wife of royalty. She wants to end Ma'daki's invisibility in the historical record because Ma'daki played some intellectual and political role in two important families during the colonial era. Ivor Wilks rescues Akyawoo Tikwank of Asante from historical oblivion. This daughter of the royal house of Akroase, probably born in the 1770s, was active in diplomacy and war in the pre-colonial period and is claimed here to have been the chief negotiator in the Anglo-Asante peace treaty of 1831. Christine Obbo's story is of Bito, the Buganda woman who became "a facilitator of women's education opportunities" and set up a home for girls many of whom had illegitimate children but could be prevailed upon to complete their education. Obbo is reflecting in this biography on African-European cultural conflict and on the fact that the notion of illegitimacy was a by-product of Christian missionary work which forced polgamy.

The reader might well see these three writers as looked into the search for "women worthies", a preoccupation of the first wave of feminist historians, many of whom now feel uncomfortable in this field of political history which inevitably privileges powerful families and, broadly speaking, the activities of men.

The other four life histories are quite different. Their subjects talk about the patterns of their upbringing, about marriage partners, about how they worked for their own and their children's survival. There is poignancy in these accounts, even a kind of absorbing life drama, but there is no self-pity. These are the stories of women who had no special status, some of them exploited sexually, who speak after a life time of reflection. They do not speak of themselves as victims but as independent people who made many difficult life choices.

The story by Nongenile Masithathu Semani of her sexual awakening, her puberty rites and her marriage according to Xhosan custom is a vehicle for revealing the struggle between those called the traditionalists who were committed to preserving Xhosan culture and those with some western education known as the trousered people. Semani does not dwell very long on the birth of her five children, only one of whom survived infancy, but focusses in the final part of her account on her preparation to become a doctor according to Xhosan custom and the difficulty faced by her husband in reconciling himself to her new role and her frequent absences from home. This is a sensitive understated account which provides answers to a variety of subtle questions about gender relations.

The Hausa woman Hajjiya Hassana, who was born in Kano city in Nigeria in 1937, was married at the age of twelve years to the man she remained with all her life. Her husband could not provide enough money to support the family which included eight living children. The biography is about marriage rites, about childbirth and about the way in which the family prepared and cooked food, which was sold through street hawking, provided the basic needs of the family and the small sums necessary to accumulate a dowry for each daughter.

Mama Khadija, who now lives in Lamu off the coast of Kenya, cannot remember a time when she was not working. She was born a slave but was freed as a child. She married six times, most of the marriages ending after she perceived them to have been "a mistake". She made choices about her own sexuality but she could not prevent the marriage of her beautiful daughter to the Sharif who saw and desired her, but deserted her soon after the marriage, as he had done many times before. Khadija's exceptional marriage arrangements and her child bearing are a reflection of her determination to survive and to engage fully with the people of her community. It is she who has the power to dissolve Afro-Arab tensions in this Swahili society: it is she who has a cure for venereal disease and knows how to procure an abortion: it is she who as midwife can deal with difficult births.
Mercha, the Ethiopian woman who is a potter, laughs as she explains that she was first of all given in marriage as a pre-pubertal girl to a eunuch. When she left two subsequent husbands and returned to her father, she "had the mark of not liking conjugal life" but eventually married a man with whom she was very happy for six years. The account of the break up of this marriage and of her final liaison with the father of her youngest daughter is told in the first person by a woman who is able to reflect on her attitudes to those individuals close to her, who is sad but resigned at being a woman "who claps with one hand".

It is a reflection of the successful presentation of these four life histories that they seem to belong to the subjects rather than to the four authors-editors-translators. It is difficult to decide which is the appropriate term to apply to Harold Scheub, Enid Schildkrout, Patricia Lemba and Chris Prouty Rosenfield. But we are in their debt for the publication of four essays which are a valuable addition to our understanding of gender relations and the position of women in Africa.

Pen Hetherington
University of Western Australia
History Department

The British Documents on the End of Empire Projects
David Goldsworthy

AFSAP members who attended the 1996 annual conference at the University of Melbourne will remember the session at which Michael Crowder and Anthony Low described the British Documents on the End of Empire Project. The purpose of this enterprise is to edit and publish the key British documents on decolonisation, on the model of Nicholas Man selfie's twelve-volume series The Transfer of Power in India 1842-7.

With funding from the Leverhulme Trust and the British Academy, with a home base at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, and with BNSO confirmed as publisher, the project is now a going concern; or at least the first five-year module is. Broadly, each module will include a set of general volumes on high policy together with sets of volumes about each country which became independent within the span of years covered by the module.

Work on the first module is expected to proceed from this year until about 1992. The module's brief is to cover events up to 1957. The sub-topics and editors are:

- General policy: 1929-45: Michael Lee (Uni. of Bristol) and Paul Rich (Uni. of Warwick)
- General policy: 1945-51: Ronald Ryan (Cambridge)
- General policy: 1951-7: David Goldsworthy (Monash)
- Ceylon: Kingsley de Souza (Uni. of Colombo)
- The Sudan: Douglas Johnson (Oxford)
- Ghana: Richard Rathbone (Uni. of London)
- Malaya: Tony Stockwell (Uni. of London)
- Informal Empire in the Middle East: John Kent (Uni. of Aberdeen)

The project committee is chaired by Anthony Low, and research assistance is provided by Anne Thurston of University College, London, and Anita Burdett of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Michael Crowder, until his sad and untimely death, was general editor; his successor will be Professor David Murray.

Work on the second module is expected to begin in about 1993. Under the thirty-year rule, documents up to 1963 will be available in the Public Record Office, which will enable the next shift of editors to cover the Macmillan years, 1957-63 - in many ways the most critical years in the story of British decolonisation. After that, further modules will be produced as and when resources become available. The time-scale is grand, to say the least: bear in mind
that the final documents for Zimbabwe will not become available until after 2010, or those for Hong Kong until after 2027. For all we know, the editor for Hong Kong may not yet be born.

All of the current editors are well aware that they are dealing with only one view of the decolonisation story: the view from London. The BOKEP volumes will not, and cannot, cover even the views of grassroots British officialdom out in the field, let alone those of the nationalist politicians with whom the British dealt, or those of external agencies such as the US government and the UN. Nevertheless the volumes will provide a large-scale resource for historians, not least those in the ex-colonies who wish to explore this extremely formative era in their own countries’ histories. The hope is that scholars in these countries will undertake corresponding exercises in order to put their own national view of the story on record - as is now being done in New Delhi, following the completion of the Mansheg series in London.

I have spent much of this year working on my sub-section of the project at the Public Record Office. I expected the documents of 1951-7 to be interesting, and indeed they are. ‘But I was not fully prepared for the sheer quantity of available documentation; thousands of files, each containing dozens (some of these hundreds) of pages. The whole colonial empire, it seems, was built on paper. Selection is not easy - editors will be able to publish only a very small proportion, perhaps one or two per cent, of the papers they see.

The other aspect for which I was not fully prepared is the intensely human element which emerges from the documents. What we have, essentially, is a small group of powerful people writing notes and memoranda to each other about major issues; writing well, and writing candidly. The interplays between the Bumprey Applebys and Jia Hackers of the day come out clearly, and in a fascinating way.

But I have also received at least one salutary reminder of the place of academics in the scheme of such things. On one occasion a senior official proposed to Lord Swinton, Churchill’s somewhat crusty Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, that it might be worth consulting Professor Keith Hancock on a particular point. Hancock was then director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, had authored two major volumes in the Survey of Commonwealth Affairs series, and had already done a good deal of work for successive British governments. But Swinton minced testily, in blunt red pencil: ‘Who is Hancock? I don’t want professors. I just want facts.’

London, September 1986

Film Production in Africa

Martin Mhando*

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the production of feature films in Africa. As the saying goes, this is a new wave in movie production in the Western World. Many of us have asked ourselves, why this sudden interest in the cliché “Shot on Location in Africa”. “Out of Africa”, “Color Purple”, “King Solomon’s Mines”, “Steve Biko”, “Gone Must Be Crazy” are only a few of the recent productions all shot in Africa. The interest has not dwindled and is in fact growing. “Nelson Mandela” (British) is now being prepared for shooting in Zambia. No. 1 (India) shot in Tanzania, while “White Lion” (Japan) is being shot in Kenya. Tanzania and Egypt. Many more productions are in the pipeline and the near future should be bringing in more movies from the Bollywood Moguls. To know of this trend, to prepare for it and to take advantage of it is the purpose of this article.

The basic themes of films produced can be put in three categories.

First there is the escapist genre. Dave Keller of the “Chicago Tribune” puts it very well in his article “Call of The Wild” when he notes: “Everyone seems to agree that things aren’t going well, and, an anxiety, the movies are there to help us escape. “Out of Africa”, “Color Purple”... are only a few of the eighties films that have found, in primitive landscapes, or primitive cultures, dreamy alternatives to the overcivilized, overregulated, overcrowded life we associate with the late twentieth century. While science fiction (“Star Wars”, “Alien”, “Close Encounters”) imagines an escape into the future, primitivism - less publicized and defined - invites us to escape into a past that is simple, sweet and satisfying”.

As noted above, this escapist theme is aimed at self-gratification ego rousing and racist interpretation by the European/African mind. It is the least paradise that the film producers bring out to the screen: “A fantasy of primal wholesomeness, pleasure and ease”.

Secondly there is the theme of imperialist designs. Here is where the latent racism of the Western mind becomes clear. The poor African is the ignorant Blackman, the primitive man in Africa is nonetheless the owner of so much natural wealth. The meeting of the two cultures (the conqueror and the vanquished) are well documented in the movies and the location of Africa is used to portray this net from several European points.

There is the point of view of the romantic in which the modern man and woman meet in this haven and are free to live and love as naturally as possible. The love sub-themes in “King Solomon’s Mines”, “Out of Africa” attest to that desire.

* Martin Mhando is Production Manager in the Tanzanian Film Corporation, Dar es Salaam and presently on leave in Australia. This article is taken from a longer piece that first appeared in the Sunday News, Dar es Salaam, and is reproduced with Mr Mhando’s permission.
There is yet the point of view of the acclamation of the noble savage. The African personality is seen as a higher culture than the Western one. In spiritual films, as shown in many "Tarzan" films or "King Kong". The extension of that same cord, results in films like "The Gods Must Be Crazy" where the Apartheid regime in South Africa finds a spokesman in the horrific humour around the Bushmen. Again as Harvey points out: "In this film the despised Bushmen who are really happy - they don't need jobs or a political voice and wouldn't know what to do with the money if they got it. Still one wonders if South Africa's Blacks wouldn't rather be offered the choice".

The third popular category is that of the missionary view. Here the western mind acts as the father figure, the benevolent master. As in Karen Blixen's books and the film "Out of Africa" the African is part and parcel of the imperialist body, owned and controlled. Meryl Streep (as Karen Blixen) has "her" natives who she loves and owns. She comes into trouble by being "too good" to them and domesticates them. This is the most dangerous of all the categories since it is a direct interpretation of history from an imperialist viewpoint and denies us the proper interpretation of history.

The films made in Africa then, to start with have only the western audience in mind. They are usually commercially oriented and often given to distortions, misinterpretation and outright irresponsibility. Why then are they allowed to be made in Africa?

The usual answer is that where films go, big money goes too and so it is in Africa that is an undeniable fact but it is the extent that one still questions. For 1,800 m. +/- production, usually not only about 180m/- is spent in Africa. That's hardly 10 per cent of the total budget. And that's the blood money. For that 180m/- many an African country would not even read the script in order to attract the producers to move in.

At present the two prime film countries are Zimbabwe and Kenya. Kenya has been in the business for quite some time. Over 15 films have actually been put on location in Kenya including the "Flames of Thika", "Out of Africa" and "Rise and Fall of Idi Amin". Zimbabwe boasts of "King Solomon's Mine", "Steve Biko" and most other productions, while Tanzania has received "The Bushbabies" and "Batari" producers in the past. All these productions have been shot using foreign crews, a minimum of local talent but with a growing local participation from year to year.

This local input in these productions is at present varied and interesting. In Kenya the experience gained through the production of over 15 films over the span of almost the same years has produced a small but enviable production infrastructure. There are in that country now, film consultancy firms, semi-professional film actors/actresses, film equipment hire companies, a host of the local personnel experience in production management, and film production companies. A sadness nevertheless still reigns in this country. As with many African countries many of the local entrepreneurs have come forward to produce any films based on local themes. Sharad Patel's "The Rise and Fall of Idi Amin" though a noted Kenya production was almost totally foreign financed. Only last year did we see the first Kenya produced film, "Kolormasks", and even that by the parastatal Kenya Film Corporation. It might take some time, the director, another 5 years to be able to raise funds for another production.

In Zimbabwe the situation is worse. While the government has taken the lead attracting film producers to shoot their films in the country, even investing in some productions, (Zimbabwe contributed well over (6 million Zimbabwean Dollars to the production of Richard Attenborough's "Steve Biko") there is yet to come out any local production. Though it has little to offer in terms of experience in film production infrastructure (except for the colour laboratory which the film producers hardly make use of) Zimbabwe's easy accessibility and disallowable bureaucracy in filming permits has made it more and more attractive. Last year three major films were shot there.

The Tanzanian experience meanwhile has been totally different. "Batari" was made in the Serengeti plains way back in the 60s with John Wayne popularising further the word "Safari" in the adventure world, but that was all. Most of the foreign films made in Tanzania have been documentaries concentrating on the Socialist experiment in the country since 1967. The first President of Tanzania, the photogenic Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was also the man every TV journalist would love to trade words with and was often the subject of many films.

Aside from that, the country has established a national film production company, the Tanzania Film Company, which to date has made three feature full length films and three short features which have captured the attention of film makers in Africa. "Arusi ya Marimuu" won four awards at the 1985 FESPACO festival in Ouagadougou while "Mama Tunani" won the UNICEF Award for a film on the Development of the Woman and Health of Children at the FESPACO festival in 1987.

It is ironic, or may be because of that, that Tanzania, which is yet to establish TV, has moved faster than most African countries in the Broadcasting and Sound region in the world. To date it has moved from Tanzanian owned films to embrace co-productions with other nations in its desire to produce films with an African viewpoint. It has so far co-produced films with U.S.A., Norway, Holland and India.

Conditions prevalent in the Southern/Eastern zone of Africa for film production still leave much to be desired. There is no question of the need to expand the infrastructure already available to be able to sustain even medium size productions. The laboratory in Zimbabwe at Central Film Laboratories, the lighting and transport facilities available in Kenya and the experienced personnel and equipment available in Tanzania are only miniature pointers to a well-organised film production base. There are as yet no film studios in the region making it necessary to do sound post-production work in all films made there. There are no production studios as are found in Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia which have proved to be viable foreign currency earners for those countries.
Lack of foreign currency is the single most serious reason for the poor state of development of the industry in this part of the world. With the current economic state hovering around the Third World no wonder we see the film industry relegated to the fringes of the national economic planning of many Third World Countries. But surprisingly enough, this is the one industry that could attract a considerable amount of foreign exchange if it is properly organised and tapped.

What are the chances for this industry in this part of the region?

No doubt the film industry in Africa has a bigger future than in many other countries in the world. The TV or Video scares will take long to reach the villages in Africa, thus assuring the industry a growing market. But several inhibitions should be shed before real progress is made.

First, the misplaced sophistication of the filmmakers as pertains to either colour or black and white films to be made, then the faulty desire to emulate Hollywood quality standards and the pegging of the industry upon a star basis should be totally disregarded.

Secondly, the continued reliance on the 35 mm circuit as the commercial circuit should be broken. The mobile 16 mm film distribution system presents a bigger and evergrowing market and in the same vein we should create an audience that has no qualms over tastes that are typically urban. The rural areas are a better target socially and commercially in the final analysis.

Thirdly, it is the present leadership in many countries that ought also to be taken to task for not getting hold of this strong mass mobilization media; for using it to encourage their social (elitist) tastes and for their endless indecision. The powers that be are in the final analysis the greater culprits who would certainly be ready made subjects of films made in the region when the time comes.

Adelaide,
September 1988

Research on the Hawke Government's South Africa Policy

Dave Cox, post-graduate scholar in the Politics Discipline, Flinders University of South Australia, writes:

I am currently undertaking research toward an M.A. thesis on the topic Profit or Principle? The Hawke Labour Government's South Africa Policy.

South Africa is deeply concerned about the prospect of more economic sanctions. Only its supporters would now argue otherwise. The time when South Africa's political leaders could deny the efficacy of sanctions has long past. Sanctions - by no means comprehensive or mandatory - are in place, and to a greater or lesser degree, most countries have fashioned policies aimed at pressuring the apartheid state.

My present research is directed toward examining Australia's role in the sanctions process. Is Australia's current policy toward South Africa based on principle or profit? Or is it, as many suspect, an ill-defined combination in which profit dominates? Two related areas are worth detailed study; Australia's gold and diamond production. The connection with South African based corporations is clear. The more interesting - and the more difficult - area of research is a political economy approach which attempts to highlight areas of strength that Australia could use to increase pressure on South Africa.

Any information relating to this topic would be most welcome.

Flinders University of South Australia
Politics Discipline
Resources for Development Educators

Global Issues, Audio-Visual Guide published by the Development Education Group, Adelaide, South Australia. This useful catalogue of audio-visual resources, (i.e. film, video, slide) on development on Human Rights, Aid, Culture, and Society, includes a good number of items on Africa. Published July 1988. Available from The Development Education Group, 155 Pirie Street, Adelaide, S.A. 5000. Price $7.50 including postage (within Australia) (50 pages).

Teachers for One World Newsletter Issue No.9 is on Southern Africa. Designed for teachers, especially secondary school teachers, to be used in the class room, to promote development issues, it includes ideas for action; role play activity; an article on the Front Line States, and another on Children in South Africa, and a discussion with Don Ngakana, ANC student studying in Australia. Useful information, plainly set out, good illustrations and photographs. 8 pages. Single issue, Teachers $2.00, Students $1.50. Write to Deborah Stringer, Teachers for One World, Room 6, 1st Floor, 155 Pirie Street, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.

Austcare Audio-Visual Resource List includes films on Africa. Annotated list. 20 pages.

Contact your Austcare State Office.

Commonwealth Fact Book 1987, from Commonwealth Secretariat, useful source of basic data on African Commonwealth states.

From Commonwealth Secretariat, Information Division, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5EX, five pounds.

A New Journal


Subscription: US $15 per issue (airmail) US $12 per issue (surface)

The first issue was on Southern Africa in Crisis, the second on Labour Process in Africa. Contributors have included Sam C. Nolutshungu, Bernard Magubane, Archie Mateje, Ibobo Mandeza, Claude Ake.

Africa Four Years On


Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

Andrew Macintosh was nominated by ACOFA to attend "the Africa Four Years On" Conference held in Geneva last April. (See News and Notes below). This is his Report. My copy from ACOFA, GPO, Box 1562, Canberra ACT.


Newsletter No. 2, June 1988, from the Issue-Based Indian Ocean Network, includes a Report on the IBION Research Workshop and Steering Group Meeting held at Masingira Institute at Nairobi, for five days in July 1986. The Editor writes "Although IBION is still lacking the funds to implement its proposed research and consciousness-raising activities, it is slowly developing as a network of people with a regional perspective."

For further information write to the IBION Secretariat, Masingira Institute, P.O. Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya.

For a note on the recent August 1988 Workshop in Mauritius, see News and Notes below.
Jubilee Conference of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom

The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom held its Silver Jubilee conference at Newham College, Cambridge, from September 14-16, 1988 (traditionally, the ASAUK organizes a full conference every two years and a one-day Seminar in every alternate year). More than 200 participants registered, comfortably the highest attendance ever recorded by the ASAUK. The Association has a paid-up membership of about 440, virtually the same number (albeit very different names) as that on its books in the Palmer days of the late 1960s.

Two further organisationally successful features distinguished this conference from its predecessors. Some thirty African Scholars from a wide range of African universities were enabled to attend, thanks to the generous co-operation of the British Council and several British institutions and firms, and a fair number of African students doing postgraduate studies in the UK were invited to take part at a specially reduced concessional rate.

Unusual (though not unique) in the ASAUK tradition, the sessions were divided into simultaneous panels, a device which, as with the York experiment in 1984, proved to be successful and welcome. There was, too, sensibly in the view of many and wisely for such a special occasion, no attempt to prescribe an overall yet necessarily exclusive theme, but of course every session was divided into three or four panels, each of which considered one well-defined topic. Thus there were, for example, panels on responses to the refugee crisis in Africa, small-scale irrigation, photographs as an historical resource, the militarization of Southern Africa, African debt and SAPs, crime and the law in colonial Africa and the future of food aid. No papers were distributed in advance, all were available for sale at the conference at one pound each. An exhibition of Asante brass castings was on display at the University's African Studies Centre. The Amampondo concert group, fresh from accolades earned at the Edinburgh Festival, put on a performance one evening, while the next, following the conference banquet, the participants were addressed by Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For 1988-1990, Mr. A.H.M. Kirk-Greene (Oxford University) was elected to succeed Mr. D. Rimner (Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham University) as President of the ASAUK, while Dr. J. McCracken (Stirling University) becomes Vice-President. The Honourable Secretary remains Dr. H. Nelson (London University), from whom details about the ASAUK can be received by writing to her at 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5RJ. The annual subscription is eighteen pounds, or twenty-one pounds for joint membership of the Royal African Society which entitles members to receive the latter's journal, African Affairs.

A.H.M. K-C
St. Antony's College
Oxford University.

The "Africa Four Years On" conference, organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva) from 23-27 April 1988, brought together 73 participants from African, northern and international NGOs and representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes. Its objectives were to assess the continuing impact on the African people of the development crisis affecting the continent, to examine responses emerging from the involvement of African NGOs in grassroots development, to review changes in cooperation between NGOs, both African and northern, and the UN system, and to discuss how to improve collaboration between African and Northern NGOs in operational activities as well as in information, development education and campaigning.

The conference took place four years after the African famine situation had revealed to world public opinion the development crisis in Africa, and almost two years after the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the critical situation of Africa. Africa Four Years On was organized with a view to providing an opportunity for African and northern NGOs and for the UN system to take stock of the experiences gained by these institutions, to reflect on the progress of, and constraints on, their respective efforts to address the challenge of Africa's recovery, and to discuss ways of increasing support for non-governmental initiatives and activities in Africa.

The conference also took place at a time when new opportunities had emerged, both within the UN system and within the NGO community, for increased consultation and cooperation mechanisms in support of grassroots development. NGO participants reiterated the uniqueness of their experience and contribution to the development process. They expressed their concern over the importance of maintaining the integrity of participatory and self-reliant development. They welcomed the opportunity which the conference had given them to engage in a policy dialogue with representatives of multilateral institutions and underlined the positive role played by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva) in facilitating this dialogue.
17th Annual Meeting of The Canadian Association of African Studies

The Canadian Association of African Studies held its 17th Annual Meeting from 11-14 May 1988 at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. The theme was Domination, Resistance, Liberation in the development of African societies, cultures and states, "chosen to promote the presentation of research on, and further discussion of, the diverse struggles through which Africa's peoples have shaped their societies". The programme listed an impressive number of papers presented in both panels and roundtables, across a wide range of topics, including agriculture, crises in African cities, health care delivery, religion and the State in Southern Africa, the Uganda crisis, peasant struggle and social process.

IBON Workshop, Mauritius
August 31 - September 3, 1988

The Issue Based Indian Ocean Network (IBON) held a workshop in Mauritius late in August to discuss its plans for establishing an information resource network to include the island states of the Southwest Indian Ocean region and Australia. The theme of the workshop was the basis for regional cooperation and it began with a survey of current regional cooperation programmes in Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Specific papers were then given on the nature of existing cooperation within the Southwest Indian Ocean region, and between Australia and the area.

The workshop was attended by delegates from the Comoros, Madagascar, West Germany, the Indian Ocean Commission, La Reunion, Seychelles, Rodrigues, India, Australia and Mauritius. Participants included a range of government spokesmen (foreign affairs officers from the Comoros and Madagascar, and the Indian and Australian High Commissioners to Mauritius) as well as representatives of various NGOs and academics from several tertiary institutions in and beyond the region.

The Australian government (through the agency of AIDAB) was the largest single supporter of the workshop. Dr. Kenneth McPherson, Director of the Centre for Indian Ocean Regional Studies at Curtin University, presented a paper "Australia and the Island States of the Indian Ocean" which was an historical analysis of Australia's political, economic and strategic relationship with the area.

Further workshops are planned and will form the basis for the establishment of a permanent information and resource base to facilitate processes of regional cooperation. It is expected that these workshops will include participants from East African states and the Maldives.

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Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Africa

An Australian Parliamentary Delegation led by Colin Hollis visited Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in June/July 1988. Other members of the delegation included Bruce Goodluck, Elizabeth Harvey, Mary Crawford, Senator Michael Bause and Michael Cobb. The delegation undertook a most ambitious program which included official meetings with heads of State, key briefings with Ministers and senior officials and visits to many parts of Eastern Africa.

Issues canvassed during the visit included such things as South Africa, sanctions, destabilisation, humanitarian and development aid, famine and drought relief, resettlement and villegisation, the refugee problem, the Eritrean conflict, the Mozambican conflict, SADCC, FLS, OAU, ANA PAC, role of NGOs, foreign investment and bilateral relations with Australia.

The trip itself was most rewarding, albeit a little difficult at times. The very clear message to come out of the trip was the very high regard which the independent African states have for Australia. Our stance on apartheid, sanctions, sporting links, humanitarian and development aid and nuclear disarmament are second to none according to all four countries visited.

It was also commented on several occasions that Australia is only one of a very few countries that have an unblemished record when it comes to African affairs.

A full report of the Delegation's visit will be tabled in Parliament in December 1988.

Joyce Mokhesi visited Australia as a guest of the Government from 11 to 23 October. Joyce's brother, Francis Don Mokhesi, is one of the six South African men, now known as the Sharpeville Six, whose conviction of murder and death sentence, after what many consider an inconclusive trial, has aroused such international concern and criticism as to persuade the South African authorities to grant an indefinite stay of execution, to allow the Six to explore all legal remedies at their disposal. Joyce has, since 1987, travelled extensively to campaign on behalf of her brother and his colleagues. The Australian Government, which has closely monitored the situation of the Sharpeville Six, believes her visit to Australia was very useful in raising public consciousness of their plight.

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Uganda Nurses in Sydney for Training

A group of five Ugandan nurses arrived in Sydney on 28 October for a one year post-graduate training program at Westmead Hospital in Sydney's western suburbs.

The five nurses are from the Mulago teaching hospital in the Makerere University, Kampala. Mulago is the only teaching arm of the National Medical School at Makerere and the years of civil conflict in Uganda have taken a toll on the staff and facilities at Mulago.

By providing these experienced nurses with a one year post-graduate skills upgrading program specially designed by Westmead, it is hoped that not only will the teaching role of Mulago be strengthened, but also nursing morale will be restored.

The initiative for this project was taken by Professor Rowan Nicks, retired senior Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital who has had an 18 year association with Mulago after spending 1969 at the hospital as a visiting Professor of Surgery. Russell Rollason of ACFOA worked with Dr Nicks to bring the project to fruition.

The visit and training program has been sponsored by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau under its training program for Africa.

The Director of Medical Services in the Ugandan Ministry of Health welcomed the proposal stating in a letter that "personnel, of course, need rehabilitation more than anything else".

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Stop the Killing: Mozambique

A group of concerned citizens of Adelaide, from various walks of life, earlier this year initiated a campaign to lobby South Africa to withdraw its support from the MNR (Mozambique) and to honour its undertaking for peaceful relations with Mozambique given in the Nkomati Accord in 1984. The campaign involved asking individuals concerned about the killing in Mozambique to send a signed card on three successive months to the South African Embassy in Canberra urging the South African Government to stop supporting the MNR, and to give the people of Mozambique a chance to live in peace. The campaign has been significantly successful, in all Australian States, in terms of the public response. In addition, eight Uniting Church Ministers conducted a week-long vigil for Mozambique outside the South African Embassy in Canberra, the first week in September. The eight ministers have now produced a Theological Statement on Compassion, which is to be sent to the South African Ambassador. This will be available also to the public.

The time is still ripe to join in this campaign, and cards are still available.

AFSAAP members who would like to do so, or who would like further information should write to:

GPO Box 2106
Adelaide  SA  5001

The National Patron of the Stop the Killing Campaign is the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, A.C. C.H.

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Developing Constitutional Orders in Sub-Saharan Africa: Conference

The Legal Studies Department, the Institute for Social Justice and the African Research Institute hosted a Workshop in Developing Constitutional Orders in Sub-Saharan Africa at La Trobe University on 26th November 1988. The workshop brought together scholars in a broad range of fields: "traditional" lawyers, socio-legal scholars, and political scientists, anthropologists and historians. Dr. Dwarsh, Director of the African Research Institute, gave the opening address.

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Professor Peter Lloyd, of the University of Sussex, was appointed Honorary Director of the International African Institute in October 1988. A full report on the Institute’s work will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

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Professor Akim Hashim of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, gave one of the keynote addresses at the 26th Congress of the International Geographical Union, held in Sydney in August 1988. There were altogether twelve participants from Africa at the conference.

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Dr. Samuel Makinda, Lecturer in International Politics at The Flinders University of South Australia, recently participated in a conference on 'Soviet-American Cooperation for Africa' held in Washington, DC, where he read a paper on arms transfers. The conference, which took place from 9 to 12 November 1988, was organised jointly by the Soviet Academy of Sciences and three American institutes: the Center for International and Strategic Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles; the Center for African Studies at UCLA; and the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California. An earlier conference on a similar theme and organised by the same institutes, was convened in Moscow in late 1987.

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Amos Anyimadu who has been at The Flinders University of South Australia as a postgraduate scholar in the Politics Discipline since 1984, returned to Ghana in October, having completed his doctoral thesis on Governing Without Politics: A Study of State Sovereignty and Economic Decline in Ghana 1972-1972. Before his departure he thanked APSAAP members for their generous support towards his travel expenses.

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The African Studies Conference for 1989 will be held in

**SYDNEY**

**THEME:** Africa and Australia into the Twenty-First Century

**DATES:** Wednesday, 8 November to Friday 10 November
           (Study vacation in Universities)

**VENUE:** The University of Sydney

The Conference Organisers are Professor Deryck M. Schreuder, (History, University of Sydney) and Dr John Lea (Town and Country Planning, University of Sydney).

The Conference Administrator (kindly supported by the Vice-Chancellor’s Fund, University of Sydney) is Ms Hilary Weatherburn.

Professor Schreuder hopes that Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, will give the keynote address on “Africa in Australian external policy: the years ahead”. Senator Evans has expressed a principled interest in delivering this address, but at this point his engagements for late 1989 have not been settled. For this reason the conference organisers would like to keep some flexibility in the dates, for a short time. They will issue further details including confirmation of the dates early in the New Year. In the meantime, they will be pleased to have offers of papers for the Conference.

For further information write to:

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Department of History
University of Sydney
Sydney NSW 2006