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REPORT OF THE THIRD SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE
IN COOPERATIVE AND AIDED SELF-HELP HOUSING
Buchanan, Liberia, 23 September -
30 October 1968

M68-1944

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I. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

1. The course, which is part of the regular training programme provided by ECA for its members in the field of housing, building and planning, was convened in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 1393(XIV) and Economic and Social Council Resolution 7318(XXVIII) dealing with International action in the field of low-cost housing and related community facilities.

2. This housing course, which is the third and most comprehensive of the kind organized by ECA, was designed to provide government personnel from the West African Sub-region, engaged in the process of planning low-cost housing projects, with background information and practical experience in the techniques to be used in solving the masses of housing problems in the sub-region.

3. Lectures, demonstrations and practical work were planned on a graduated basis and tuition given in a manner calculated to ensure that participants, on their return to their countries could:

- (a) teach or train others in the principles and practice of co-operative and aided self-help housing, and,
- (b) successfully plan and execute co-operative housing and aided self-help housing programmes.

4. Persons attending were drawn from the following: engineers, site planners, agricultural extension workers, community development workers, construction foremen and social workers.

II. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

5. The organization of the course was on two levels. Theoretical and practical. The first phase of eight days was for lectures and seminars. Lecture periods were held from 9.00 to 12.30 in the mornings and from 2.30 to 5.30 in the afternoons. Seminars and film shows were

held at nights from 7.30 to 10.00. This first phase of the course was intensive and accelerated in order to cover the forty lectures and six seminars dealing with the fundamental aspects of community development and their relationship to aided self-help housing, the practices and principles of co-operative housing and the definition, philosophy and techniques of aided self-help housing.

6. The second phase, which lasted for thirty days, was for demonstrations and practical work. During this period, participants were given demonstrations in the operation of the CINVA RAM block making machine and were shown how to use the laterite soil found in the area for block-making purposes. Demonstrations were also given in the digging of wells by manual and mechanical means.

7. Two houses, planned on a typical Liberian basis, were constructed. The houses had overall dimensions of 578 square feet and provided two bedrooms, utility room and front and back porches. The rural type which was the basic design could, with the introduction of storage space and internal bathroom, be used as an urban dwelling. In this house all the facilities were under one cover and were water-borne. Water being provided by a well dug in the area and pump-lifted to the house.

8. Films on housing and related subjects, as well as diversional ones, were shown during the construction period and discussions held on the work undertaken each day.

9. As a result of the capriciousness of the weather, housing construction schedules were often disrupted. Nevertheless, the general construction plan of 8.00 to 12.00 in the mornings and from 2.30 to 5.30 in the afternoons was maintained throughout the period. On Saturdays participants worked for half a day (until 12.30 p.m.) or used the total period as well as Sundays for recreational purposes.

10. Several visits were paid to housing schemes and places of interest in Liberia during the week-end periods. Places visited were the New Krou Town housing scheme in Monrovia. The National Cultural Centre, the Bong Mining Installation and the Lamco Mining Plant in Nimba country. Unfortunately, by reason of budgetary stringency, it was not possible to visit the Fishubu Town Self-Help Housing Project.

11. ECA assumed major responsibility for the administrative arrangements and the Government of Liberia generously agreed to host the course which was directed by Mr. A.A. Carney, Regional Adviser in Co-operative and Aided Self-Help Housing at ECA. The Associate Director was Mr. Peter Erasmus of Bouwcentrum in the Netherlands. The WHO, ILO, USAID, the Foundation for Co-operative Housing, Bouwcentrum of the Netherlands and the United Nations Development Programme (Liberia) all assisted by providing experts to service the course.

12. Invitations were issued to all the countries of the sub-region and fourteen countries responded positively. Finally twenty-five participants from Dahomey, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Upper Volta and Togo attended the course.

Opening ceremony

13. The course, which was a bilingual one, was officially opened on Monday, September 23, 1960, at 7:00 p.m. at the Unification Pavilion in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia. Chairing the function was the Honourable Charles Williams, Superintendent of the county, who was introduced by Mr. Baldwin Banks of the Department of Planning and Economic Affairs.

14. Mr. Williams gave the welcoming address and was followed by the Honourable David Neal, Under Secretary for Planning in the Department of Planning and Economic Affairs. Mr. Neal spoke on behalf of his department and the Department of Public Works and Utilities. Mr. Carney, course director read a message from the Executive Secretary of ECA.

15. During the serving of refreshments, course participants and lecturers were introduced to the gathering and met distinguished members of the community, who were in attendance.

Closing session

16. Four days before the closing exercises the President of Liberia H.E. Honourable William Tubman while on official tour in the county, decided to pay a visit to the project. He was shown around by the associate director and later met the participants. The objectives of aided self-help construction, the financial advantages and the social and economic possibilities of this approach to housing problems were explained to him. At the end of the tour he made a gift of \$1,000.00 to the members of the course, being \$500.00 to the participants from outside the country and a similar amount to the Liberians.

17. The final closing exercise of the training course were held under the aegis of the Department of Planning and Economic Affairs at the Unification Pavilion, Buchanan, Liberia on Wednesday, October 30, 1968, at 4.30 p.m., with a large and representative gathering from both the Monrovia and Buchanan communities, in attendance.

18. The programme provided musical selections by the Grand Bassa County Band along with speeches by the Hon. Charles Williams, Superintendent, Grand Bassa County, the Hon. Cyril Bright, Secretary for Planning and Economic Affairs and an address and the presentation of certificates to the participants by the Hon. Allen H. Williams, Secretary for Internal Affairs.

19. A brief report on the training programme was given on behalf of the participants by Mr. Anthony Quainoo of Ghana and general comments made by the Director and Associate Director of the Course. Announcements were made by Mr. Baldwin Banks of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and the function was brought to its conclusion with a banquet presided over by the Hon. Charles Williams.

20. Finally, the participants express their profound thanks to the Government and people of Liberia for hosting the Course, to the President of Liberia for his most generous gift, to the Superintendent and people of Grand Bassa County for their encouragement and assistance, to LAMCO Joint Venture operating company for their support and hospitality, to Bong Mining Company for their hospitality, the management and staff of the Hotel Louiza, Buchanan; to the Director, the Associate Director, the Lecturers, Interpreters, Co-ordinators and other members of the course staff for the efficient way the course has been run and to the Economic Commission for Africa for organizing the course.

III. CURRICULUM FOR THE COURSE

21. The curriculum for the course was divided into four sections, as in previous courses, although the subject arrangement was different. The divisions were as follows:

Housing in Africa Two lectures

- a) The problem of housing in Africa with specific reference to the present situation in the various countries - emphasis being placed on Liberian conditions.
- b) Some possible solutions and the attempts being made by the various African governments to solve them.

Community Development Methods Four lectures

A study of the techniques used in Community Development and social work in order to change the attitude and outlook of the people, secure their interest, increase their participation in community affairs and develop local leadership. How these approaches may be applied to the solution of housing problems.

The subjects covered were:

- a) Definition and content;
- b) Methods, needs and motive for action;
- c) Methods of communications, and
- d) Providing community facilities through self-help.

Co-operative Housing Principles and Techniques .. Ten lectures

- a) Housing co-operative principles and world experience;
- b) Prevailing methods and common traits of contemporary housing cooperatives;
- c) Definition of principles;
- d) Organization, methods;
- e) Housing cooperative in relation to aided self-help;
- f) Implementing co-operative housing with focus towards aided self-help construction;
- g) Essential requirements;
- h) Legislation: model rules;
- i) Advantages of the single mortgage (co-ownership) cooperative;
- j) Cooperative housing financing and the investment guarantee programme.

Aided Self-Help HousingTwenty-four lectures

A study of the methods and the techniques to be applied in the planning, organizing and implementing of aided self-help housing programmes, with special reference to the approaches to be used, the designing and construction methods to be applied and the general methods or execution.

A) APPROACHES

Definition and content

Publicising the programme

Social surveys and situation of families

Organizing family groups

Work of (a) Self-help organizer and (b) Construction foreman arranging construction groups.

B) HOUSING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Basic structure: space, health and other requirements

House plans

Designing for specific groups

Expansion possibilities

Simplicity and suitability of construction

Problems

- C) EXECUTION STAGE
 - Land and legal documents
 - Financing: Savings Associations
 - Mass construction methods
 - Site plans, etc.
 - Group work in mass construction
 - On the job training
 - Evaluation

IV. CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

- 22. The practical work of the course consisted of the construction by participants of two houses, one rural the other urban, of concrete blocks. These houses were designed to reflect trends in low income housing in Liberia. The rural house was the basic unit and was so planned that with the addition of an internal bathroom and storage it could become fully urban.
- 23. The twenty-five participants were divided into two teams of twelve each with one man designated as the job captain. Each team selected its group leader and the construction arrangements were as set out in the following chart.

CONSTRUCTION CHART OCTOBER 1968

	October					October							October							October										
	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Lining out the houses	X																													
Digging the foundations	X																													
Pouring concrete foundations		X	X																											
Laying Foundations blocks			X	X																										
Leveling and tamping floors					X																									
Pouring concrete floors					X		X	X																						
Prefabricating lintels						X	X	X	X	X				X																
Construction of walls						X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X			X									
Erecting columns													X		X	X					X	X								
Construction of roof structure													X	X	X	X														
Covering roof (corrugated sheet)																				X	X									
Mounting doors and windows																					X		X							
Finishing of walls															X	X				X	X								X	
Clearing of site														X										X						
Evaluation of project																												X	X	
Closing exercises																														X

V.

RECOMMENDATIONS

24. An Evaluation Committee elected by the participants recommended that whenever possible, in future training courses, more opportunity should be provided to the participants not only to work along side-by-side with local families engaged in self-help housing construction but to assist with the early social survey preparatory to the selecting of the families.

25. The participants expressed their satisfaction at the normal methods and techniques of aided self-help construction which are sufficiently simple and effective when properly applied and were of the view that in all training courses every effort should be made to ensure that only skilled and experienced practitioners in the field be given the opportunity to teach and train recruits. It is clear that a good knowledge of building construction is not by itself enough since unless the teacher is convinced of the effectiveness and suitability of the aided self-help approach he might unconsciously introduce more laborious and complicated methods of undertaking the same jobs and thereby defeat the ends of self-help.

26. It was also felt that developing countries short of finance, skilled personnel and materials can benefit in a maximum way from the use of aided self-help techniques. The local people engaged in the construction would benefit immensely as not only would they learn new skills in the production of housing for themselves but would find new and satisfactory uses for their local materials and develop the discipline of working together in order to find solutions to common problems.

VI.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION

27. The participants recommended that the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa should organize Study Tours for African participants who have had training in courses of this nature to visit other developing countries outside Africa for example Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Chile and Colombia where successful co-operative and aided self-help projects are being undertaken.

ANNEX I

SYLLABUS

THIRD SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN CO-OPERATIVE AND
AIDED SELF-HELP HOUSING, LIBERIA, 23 SEPTEMBER - 30 OCTOBER, 1968

MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 10.45 a.m. Registration of Participants
10.50 - 12.15 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL
7.30 p.m. OPENING CEREMONY - COCKTAILS

TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 1 - Housing in Africa.
"Present Situation"
Mr. Tay
9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 2 - Housing in Africa.
"Problems, Possible Solutions"
Mr. Tay
10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 3 - Community Development
"Definition and Content"
Mr. Peter Omari
11.30 - 12.15 p.m. LECTURE 4 - Community Development
"Methods, Needs and Motive for
Action"
Mr. Peter Omari
12.15 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL
2.30 - 3.15 p.m. LECTURE 5 - Cooperative Housing.
"Housing Co-operative Principles
and World Experiences"
Mr. Paul Campbell
3.20 - 4.05 p.m. LECTURE 6 - Cooperative Housing.
"Prevailing Methods and Common
Traits of Contemporary Housing
Cooperative"
Mr. Paul Campbell
4.15 - 5.00 p.m. LECTURE 7 - Aided Self-Help Housing
"Introduction and Definition"
Mr. A.A. Carney

- 5.05 - 5.50 p.m. LECTURE 8 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Social and Economic Benefits"
"Requirements for Successful
Application" - Mr. A.A. Carney
- 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. DINNER
- 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. SEMINAR OR FILM SHOW

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 9 - Cooperative Housing.
"Definition and Principles"
Mr. Mahn-Tu
- 9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 10 - Cooperative Housing.
"Organization, Methods"
Mr. Mahn-Tu
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
- 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 11 - Community Development.
"Methods of Communication"
Mr. Peter Omari
- 11.30 - 12.15 p.m. LECTURE 12 - Community Development.
"Providing Community Facilities
Through Self-Help"
Mr. Peter Omari
- 12.15 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL
- 2.30 - 3.15 p.m. LECTURE 13 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Investigation and Selection of
Families" - Mr. A.A. Carney
- 3.20 - 4.05 p.m. LECTURE 14 - Aided Self-Help Housing
"Group Organization - Community
Guidance" - Mr. Carney
- 4.15 - 5.05 p.m. LECTURE 15 - Cooperative Housing.
"Housing Cooperative in Relation to
Aided Self-Help"
Mr. Paul Campbell
- 5.05 - 5.50 p.m. LECTURE 16 - Cooperative Housing.
"Implementing Cooperative Housing
with Focus Towards Aided Self-Help
Construction" - Mr. Paul Campbell
- 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. DINNER
- 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. SEMINAR OR FILM SHOW

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 17 - Cooperative Housing.
"Essential Requirements"
Mr. Manh-Tu
- 9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 18 - Cooperative Housing.
"Legislation: Model Rules"
Mr. Manh-Tu
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
- 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 19 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Housing Sanitation" - Mr. Max Roy
- 11.30 - 12.50 p.m. LECTURE 20 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Water Supplies" - Mr. Max Roy
- 12.15 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL
- 2.30 - 3.15 p.m. LECTURE 21 - Cooperative Housing.
"Advantages of the Single Mortgage
(Co-ownership)" - Mr. Paul Campbell
- 3.20 - 4.05 p.m. LECTURE 22 - Cooperative Housing.
"Cooperative Housing Financing and the
Investment Guarantee Programme"
Mr. Paul Campbell
- 4.15 - 5.00 p.m. LECTURE 23 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Selecting the Land, Essential
Features" - Mr. Tay
- 5.05 - 5.50 p.m. LECTURE 24 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Planning" - Mr. Tay
- 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. DINNER
- 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. SEMINAR OR FILM SHOW

FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 25 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Sewage and Excreta Disposal" - Mr. Max Roy
- 9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 26 - Aided Self-Help Housing
"Housing Programme and Design"
Mr. J. Silva
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
- 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 27 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Building Specifications" Mr. J. Silva
- 11.30 - 12.15 p.m. LECTURE 28 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Refuse Disposal, Insect and Rodent
Control" - Mr. Max Roy

- 12.15 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL
- 2.30 - 3.15 p.m. LECTURE 29 - Aided Self-Help Housing
"Cost Estimates: Preliminary considerations" - Mr. A. Votaw
- 3.20 - 4.05 p.m. LECTURE 30 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Justification for Outside Aid"
Mr. A. Votaw
- 4.15 - 5.00 p.m. LECTURE 31 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Planning Conditions"
Mr. Tay
- 5.05 - 5.50 p.m. LECTURE 32 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Plans for Engineering Work, Community Services, Individual House Connexions"
Mr. Tay
- 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. DINNER
- 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. SEMINAR OR FILM SHOW

SATURDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 33 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Project Administration and Management, Organization for Self-Help Housing Methods" - Mr. P. Erasmus
- 9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 34 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Demonstration of Pilot Group"
Mr. P. Erasmus
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
- 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 35 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Legal Instruments and Regulations - Parts I and II - Mr. A. Votaw.
- 11.30 - 12.15 p.m. LECTURE 36 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Awarding Lots. Resettling Families, Building Materials, and Building the Provisional Shelter"
Mr. P. Erasmus
- 12.15 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCHEON INTERVAL

AFTERNOON

Free for visits, etc.

SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

F R E E

MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 a.m. LECTURE 37 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Mutual Work and Reciprocal
Responsibilities Agreement"
Mr. P. Erasmus
- 9.50 - 10.35 a.m. LECTURE 38 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Elementary Technical Instruction
in Building" - Mr. J. Silva
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. BREAK
- 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. LECTURE 39 - Aided Self-Help Housing.
"Planning and Collective Execution
of the Building" - Mr. J. Silva

AFTERNOON

- 2.30 - 3.15 p.m. DISCUSSION OF FIELD ACTIVITIES
- 3.20 - 5.00 p.m. DEMONSTRATION CINVA RAM MACHINE
Mr. Paul Campbell

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

DAHOMY

1. Alfred Domingo
Architecte du Service
de l'Urbanisme et Habitat
Ministere des Travaux Publics
Cotonou
2. Selou Varrissou
Directeur
Service de la Co-operation
Ministere du Developpement
Rural et de la Cooperation
B.P. 34, Porto-Novo

GHANA

3. Anthony Quainoo
Social Worker and Community Developer
P.O. Box 778
Accra

NIGER

4. B. Attefou
Adjoint Technique des Travaux Publics
Ministere des Travaux Publics
B.P. 235
Niamey

NIGERIA

5. A.O. Adediran
Town Planner Officer
Ministry of Land & Housing
Town Planning Division
Ibadan
6. Aruwa Musa
Superintendent of Works
New Nigerian Development Co.
P.M.B. 2040
Kaduna

SIERRA LEONE

7. S.S.C. Pynebailey
Community Developer
Overseer
Ministry of Social Welfare
Bo

8. J.E. Woode
Town Planner Officer
Ministry of Housing and Country Planning
New England
Freetown

SENEGAL

9. Lamine Sylla
Dessinateur Projecteur
Direction de l'Urbanisme et Habitat
B.P. 253
Dakar
10. M'baye Sougou
Dessinateur Projecteur
Direction de l'Urbanisme et Habitat
B.P. 253
Dakar

UPPER VOLTA

11. Etienne Kafando
Chief, Section Entretien Batiments
Ministere du Plan et T.P.
Ouagadougou
12. Adjina Doussa
Chief, Section Chantiers
Ministere du Plan et T.P.
Ouagadougou

TOGO

13. Jean Affognon
Educateur de Masse et de Dev. Communautaire
Service National de Developpement
Rural 15-8-5 Tchitohad-Lama-Kara
14. Antoine Agbondon
Agent de Developpement
Rural SCRAD
Lama-Kara
Service des Affaires Sociales
Lome

LIBERIA

15. Israel Akinsanya
Office Engineer
LAMCO/Civil Engineering Section
Buchanan
16. Aaron Reeves
Community Services Intendent
P.O. Box 69
LAMCO, Buchanan
17. Robert Anderson
Local Agent
Department of Public Works
Monrovia
18. M.T. Padmore
Resident Engineer
Department of Public Works
Buchanan
19. Samuel Jensen
Local Agent
Department of Public Works
Zorzor
20. James Brown
Plumber
Department of Public Works
Greenville
Sinoe County
21. Jacob Wilson
Teacher
Robertsport
Cape Mount
22. I. Yancy
Supervisor
Department of Public Works
Harper, Cape Palmas
23. Augustus Weh
Secretary
Office of the Superintendent
Nimba County

LIBERIA (cont.)

24. Peter Varpilah
Local Agent
Office of the Superintendent
Bong County

25. J.W. Ocran
Construction Engineer
Department of Public Works
Monrovia

ANNEX III

LIST OF LECTURERS

1. Mr. Max Roy
WHO Liaison Office with ECA
Addis Ababa
2. Mr. Nguyen Manh-Tu
ILO Expert
P.O. Box 2067
Abidjan, Ivory Coast
3. Mr. Peter Omari
Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa
4. Mr. Paul M. Campbell
Foundation for Cooperative Housing
1012, 14th Street, N.W.
Washington D.C., U.S.A.
5. Mr. Julio Silva
United Nations Housing Expert
Ouagadougou, Upper Volta
6. Mr. Albert N. Votaw
Technical Adviser, SO.GE.FI.HA
USAID/American Embassy
Abidjan, Ivory Coast
7. Mr. Peter Erasmus
Engineer, Bouwcentrum
Postbus 299
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
8. Mr. A.A. Carney
Regional Adviser
Co-operative and Aided Self-Help Housing
Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa

LIAISON OFFICERS

1. Mr. Baldwin Banks
Department of Planning and Economic Affairs
National Planning Council
Monrovia / Liberia
2. Mr. J. Overgaard
Associate Expert, Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa

ANNEX . IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- 1) Self-Help Housing Guide
Inter-American Housing and Planning Center
Pan American Union - Department of Social Affairs
- 2) Manual on Self-Help Housing (ST/SOA/53)
United Nations, New York
- 3) Leader Training for Aided Self-Help Housing
Department of State Agency for International
Development
- 4) Les Co-operatives d'Habitation
Internal Labour Office

and a considerable number of pamphlets in English and French on
Co-operative Housing, Aided Self-Help Housing and related subjects.

ANNEX V

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY HONOURABLE CHARLES WILLIAMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF GRAND BASSA COUNTY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I speak on behalf of the Officials of Government and people of Grand Bassa County, in extending greetings and welcoming all of the Dignitaries from the Capital, Mr. Arthur A. Carney, Regional Adviser on Co-operative and Aided Self-Help Housing from the United Nations, the Lecturers and Participants involved at this Seminar.

It is interesting and significant that the Promoters of this Seminar selected Grand Bassa County, second Country within the Republic of Liberia as their choice for this convocation. Mindful of our historic background and the progressive rapidity with which we seem to be moving, I have an inner urge to express with moderate confidence that the selection of Grand Bassa was not mistaken, and that the Seminar will have successful results.

In our African Developing Society, the problem of Political Independence is gradually becoming second rate, when compared with the immediate task of up-grading the living standards of our peoples. Thus, the stereotype Political Independence must be rejected and we should of necessity usher in the new concept of economic Independence that provides respectable living standards for our peoples. This new concept is being implemented in a new African Society reminiscent of our great past with motivation and determination to hold a place of our own in the forefront of the line.

Gentlemen involved in the Seminar, yours is the responsibility to help remove our peoples from the thatch mud-huts into something simple and decent. Yours is the responsibility to help rid Africa of the slums and the branded view that our urban areas are the white man's grave. Yours is the duty to spotlight Africa on the World map of continuous progress. Let us together build a better world for all peoples. And we shall succeed.

ANNEX VI

STATEMENT BY MR. A. A. CARNEY, UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA REGIONAL ADVISER IN COOPERATIVE
AND AIDED SELF-HELP HOUSING ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured and privileged at being here today as Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's Third Sub-regional Training Course in Aided Self-Help and Co-operative Housing. I have been requested by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to make this contribution on his behalf.

Liberia, a Member State of the Commission, has generously consented to be the host Government for this Course, which has been organized for countries in the West African Sub-region. It is hoped to extend this work to the Central African Sub-region in 1969 and to the North African Sub-region in 1970. We shall then have covered the four sub-regions of the Continent and shall have trained approximately 150 persons in aided self-help and co-operative housing methods and techniques.

Before going further, I should like to emphasize that follow-up work in this field by governments of member states utilizing the services of those persons who have been trained in these courses is most important. What the courses do in effect is to provide a base from which the work can be extended to national schemes in aided self-help and co-operative housing. The trainees are to become instructors for the benefit of others in their home countries.

We have to be realists in surveying the present situation in economic and social development in Africa and view the enormous and varied demands on the resources which are available to us. It has taken nearly a decade to return to the unescapable fact that economic and social development depends primarily on our own efforts, on self-help and co-operation, on the spirit of self-reliance, and on thrift in all sections of the population.

We feel that aided self-help and co-operative housing has not to date received the publicity it deserves to bring it to the notice of those persons in government and to the majority of people who might be willing actively to take part in it. I have been asked by the Executive Secretary to say that the Secretariat of the Commission will give its full support within its resources, and will give further help to secure the co-operation of any other United Nations organizations whose objective and activities fit into the programme of aided self-help and co-operative housing.

We want to acknowledge with thanks the active co-operation in this work generally and in this training course which we have received from the Government of Liberia, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Government of the Netherlands (through its nominated technical agency, Bouwcentrum, Rotterdam), the United States Agency for International Development and the Foundation for Co-operative Housing.

After receiving the agreement of the Government of Liberia to act as host country, we issued invitations to fourteen countries in West Africa to send two participants each, drawn from persons employed in housing and/or community development work. The interest displayed by the governments is shown in practical fashion here today and I should tell you that we have eleven French-speaking participants and eighteen English-speaking participants.

As this Course is organized on a bilingual basis, the secretariat of the Commission has provided interpretation services for the work which will be carried out in the lecture rooms. However, when the work is moved from the lecture rooms to the building site, we shall have to co-operate very closely to ensure that the theoretical side is successfully transformed into practical application in house-building.

An aide-memoire and notes for the Course have been prepared and are available to the participants so that they can familiarize themselves easily and quickly. The directing staff have organized the work in a competent way which should give maximum benefit to those taking part. They will be available during discussion periods to answer questions from participants and they will be able to give advice on the action which can be taken when the participants return to their home countries.

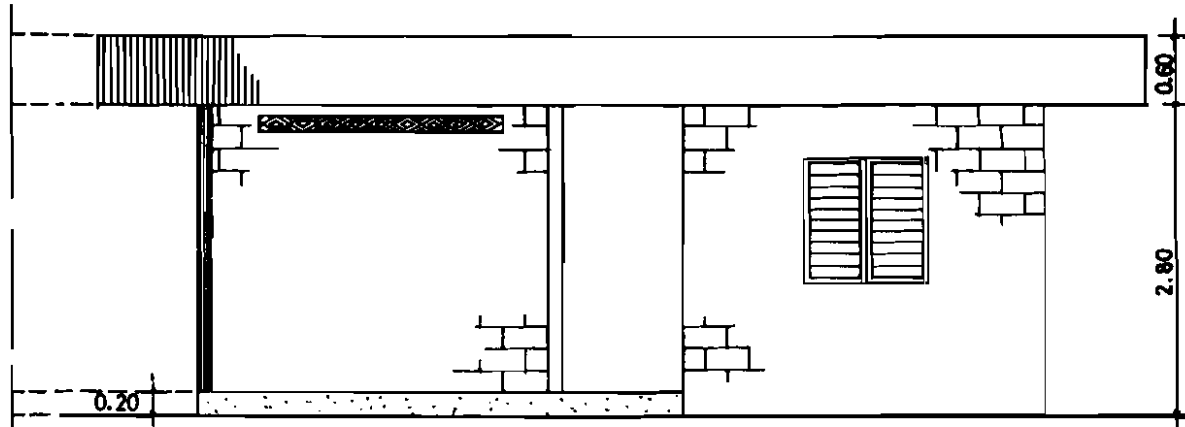
This Training Course is on businesslike lines and will fully occupy the time of the participants. It will involve some hard work which I feel sure the participants will tackle enthusiastically.

The Executive Secretary has asked me to convey his best wishes to all concerned for its successful outcome.

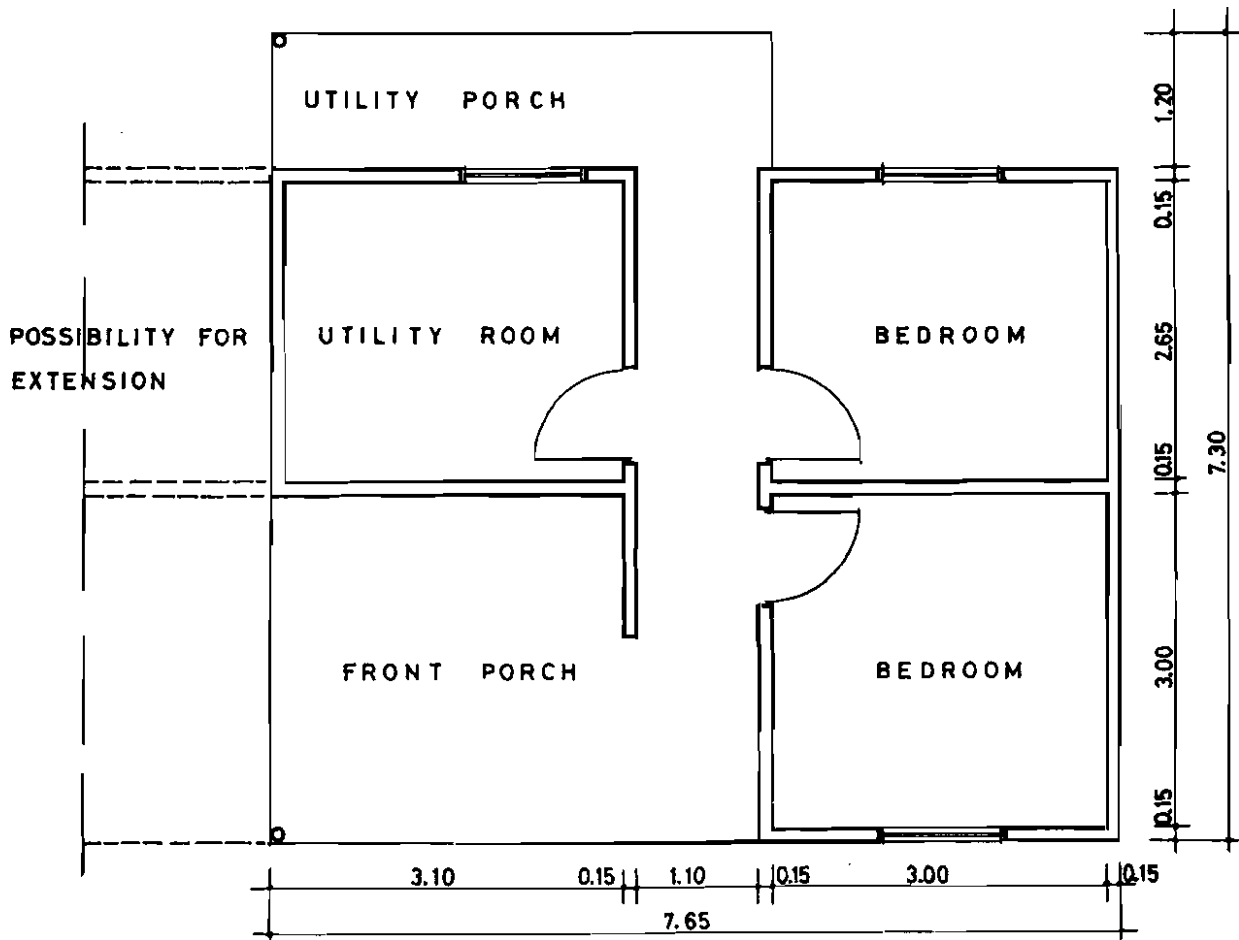
DEMONSTRATION HOUSE
RURAL TYPE

THIRD SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE
BUCHANAN LIBERIA

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FRONT ELEVATION

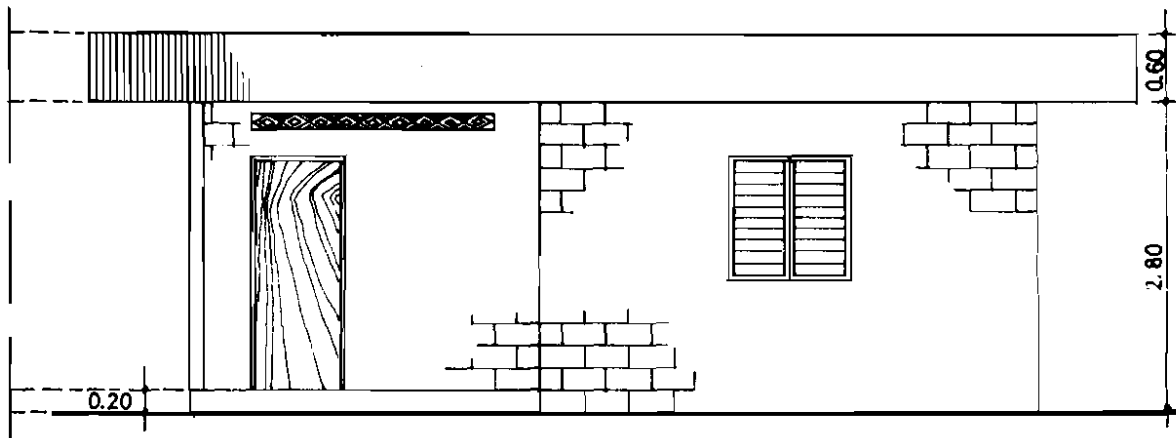


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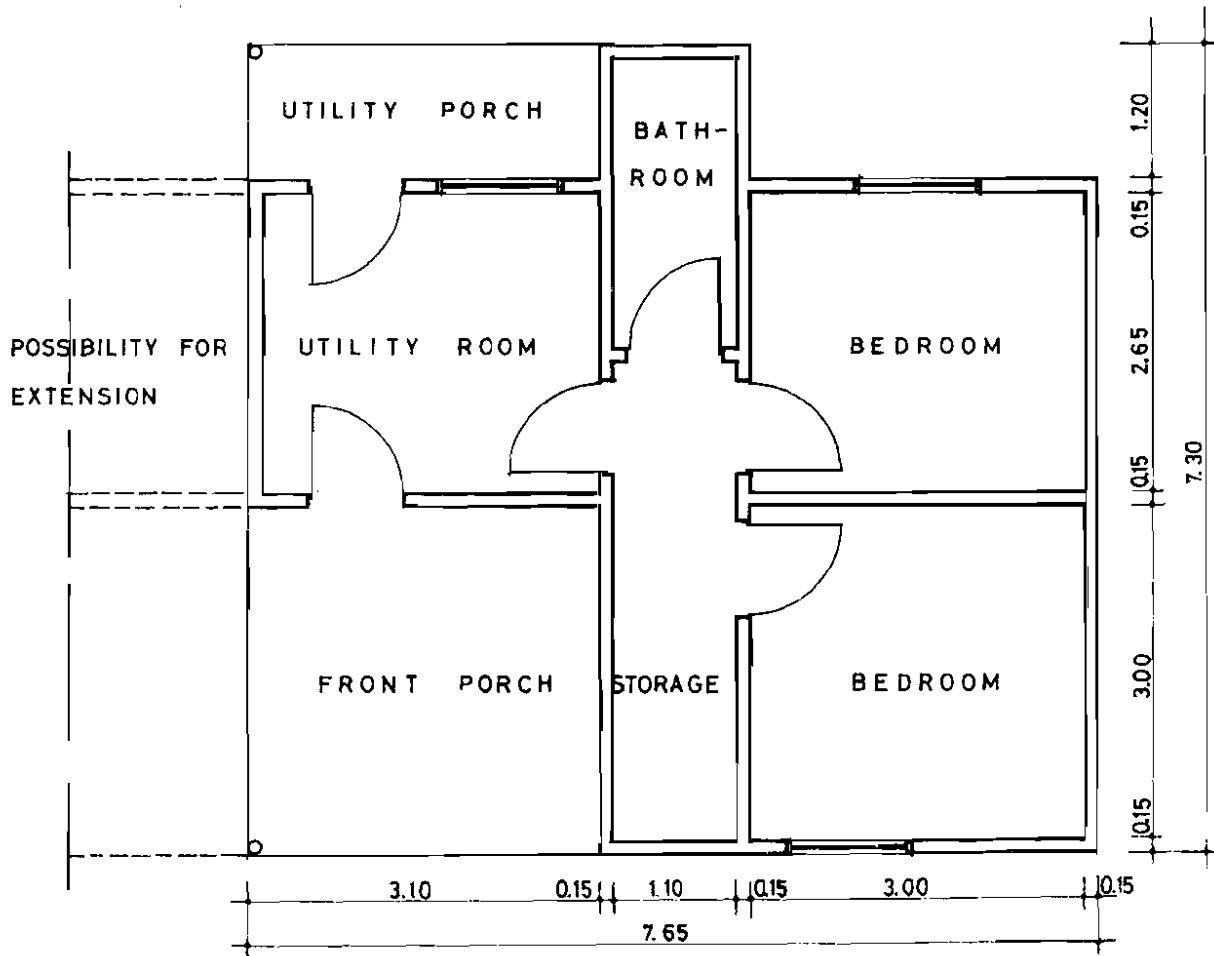
DEMONSTRATION HOUSE
URBAN TYPE

THIRD SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE
BUCHANAN LIBERIA

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FRONT ELEVATION



FLOOR PLAN