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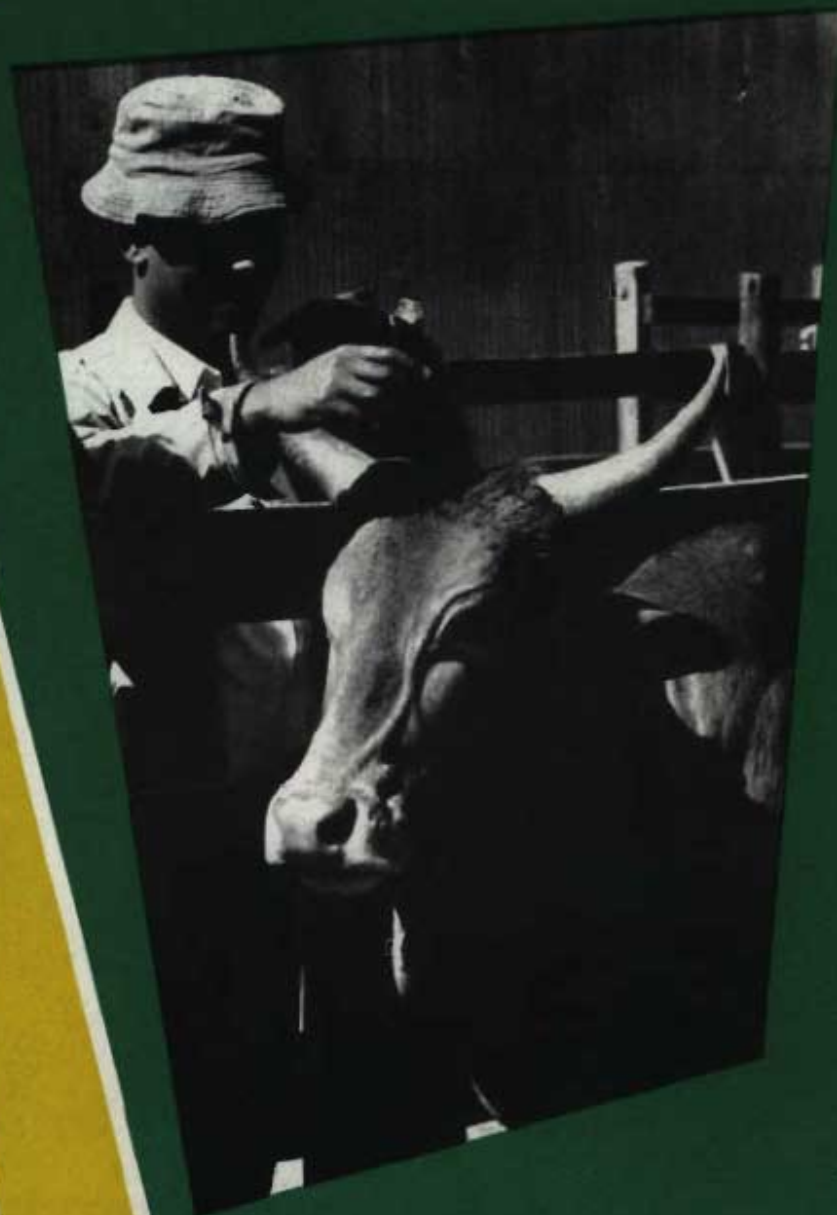
UNITED
NATIONS

AFRICAN TARGET

ECA

- 21 years
of service
to Africa

1958 - 1979



AFRICAN TARGET

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No. I

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Anniversary number

This commemorative issue of AFRICAN TARGET marks the Twenty-first Anniversary of ECA and has been specially produced to give readers an insight into the functions of the Economic Commission for Africa.

In a brief history, and in the stories on the separate Divisions and Sections that make up the ECA, we provide a glimpse of the scope of its activities to date, focussing on the major achievements in the African region and its subregions.

It is not possible in a publication as limited as this to do more than touch upon the highlights. It is intended as an encapsulated review of the ECA's role over the past twenty-one years, and it is hoped that it will acquaint a wider circle of readers with the work of the Commission.

For those engaged on research stints who are interested in an in-depth assessment of ECA's policies and projects over the years, study facilities exist at the Commission's headquarters in Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - or our Documents Section will gladly furnish a list of publications and papers on specific projects for detailed study.

Profile



ECA's MAN AT THE TOP

Dr Adebayo Adedeji

After a distinguished academic career which took him to the University College of Ibadan, the University College of Leicester, London University and Harvard University in the United States, Professor Adedeji was identified with a wide spectrum of activities in public life, covering administration, business, broadcasting, manpower and revenue, - to name only a few.

He was later founder and editor of the 'Quarterly Journal of Administration,' and is the author of no fewer than six books and monographs, among them 'An Introduction to Western Nigeria: Its People, Culture and System of Government, and, more recently, 'Nigerian Local Government Finance: Development, Problems and Prospects.'

A consultant on education and training projects, he was Professor of Public Administration at the University of Ife, and was appointed Nigeria's Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction in 1971. He became Executive Secretary of the ECA in 1975,

A keen tennis enthusiast and amateur photographer, Dr. Adedeji is married and has six children.



Africa Hall

Africa Hall, the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, which also houses the local offices of the UNDP, ILO, FAO and WHO, among other United Nations Agencies, is one of the city's landmarks.

These pictures show (top) the main building, in which the Conference Hall is located and, (below) a view of part of the new extensions.

Africa Hall has been described as "a permanent and inspiring symbol of the noble aspirations of the African people."

ECA: An assessment

Africa's challenge!

The 1950's witnessed an intensification of the struggle for independence which resulted in the beginning of the colonial retreat from Africa.

As it became clear that the struggle for freedom would achieve success in various parts of the continent, African leaders turned their minds to the crucial problems of economic viability. The black man's vigorous and determined thrust for Uhuru had won the day.

It was against this background that the Economic Commission for Africa came into existence on April 29, 1958, under Resolution 671 A(XXV) of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The emergent African countries, afflicted by an educational system designed primarily to supply middle-level personnel for a foreign econ-

Profile

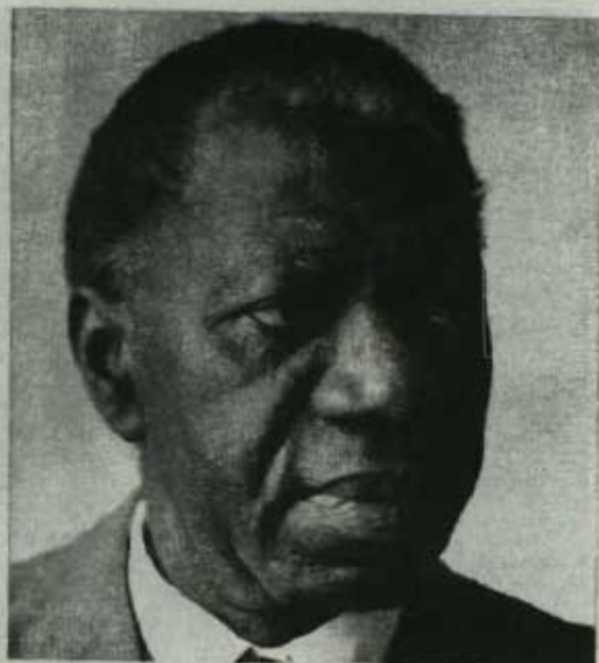
Dr Mekki Abbas

Dr. Mekki Abbas of the Sudan, was educated at the Universities of Oxford and Exeter, and ended his career in the Sudanese Civil Service as Managing Director of the Gezira Cotton Scheme, Africa's largest agricultural project.

He became the first Executive Secretary of the ECA in 1958, and during his term served as Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to the Congo, now Kinshasa.

In 1963, he became Assistant Director-General to the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Profile



Dr Robert Gardiner

Dr. Robert Gardiner, the Grand Old Man of African Economics, obtained degrees at both Oxford and Cambridge. He had a brilliant academic and professional career before he came to the ECA as its second Executive Secretary in 1962.

Among Dr. Gardiner's writings are 'A World of Peoples,' and 'The Development of Social Administration,' the latter co-authored with H.O. Judd.

In 1965, he delivered the Reith Lectures at Oxford on Race Problems.

Dr. Gardiner retired from the ECA in 1975. His leisure interests are golf, reading and music.

omy, were desperately short of skilled manpower.

The import-export trade, was so contrived that its benefits enriched the colonial countries. Trade and transport between the countries of Africa hardly existed.

As producers of raw materials, the African countries were at the mercy of erratic conditions of demand and price variations completely outside their control.

With a money economy that tied them to Europe and its markets, domestic development was too insignificant to justify industrialisation.

Selective colonial development, principally in agriculture and mining, fostered the gain of foreign companies and the colonial powers. Indigenous Africa was left to flounder at subsistence level.

The birth of the ECA came at a time when African leaders were preoccupied with the legacy of problems routed in imbalance and underdevelopment.

From the inception of the Commission, its activities have been focussed on subregional co-operation and integration. The African region was divided into four subregions - North, East, West and Central, and with the emergence of more

liberated states, the eastern subregion was expanded to take in the independent countries of southern Africa.

The ECA's first Executive Secretary was Dr. Mekki Abbas of the Sudan who held office from 1958 to 1962. He was succeeded by Dr. Robert K.A. Gardiner of Ghana whose term extended from 1962 to 1975, from which date the present incumbent, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji of Nigeria assumed control of ECA's affairs.

The ECA gave emergent Africa the assurance of help when it was most needed. When the Organisation of African Unity was formed in 1963 closer collaboration became possible.

The ECA has become a forum in which Africa's leaders can think together, plan together and jointly move forward to the achievement of common development objectives.

One of the major achievements of the Commission was the formulation and adoption of "Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970's". The strategy analysed Africa's acute economic problems within the context of general underdevelopment, international inflation and recession, and the worsening terms of world trade and the lack of assured food supplies.

It called for the integration of African economies as a matter of priority, expansion of markets, the application

of science and technology to development, and the follow-up and operational control of development plans after they had been launched.

Additionally it stipulated development of trade, external financial and technical co-operation, mobilisation of domestic resources, industry, the special problems of the least-developed and land-locked countries, agriculture, rural transformation, human resources development, minerals, water resources, energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism and science and technology.

Under Dr. Adedeji the "Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa for 1976-1981-1986" was implemented under a restructured ECA Secretariat, thus making the Commission more responsive to the changing and growing socio-economic needs of its Member States.

The Commission's quiet uniting role has become one of its most important characteristics, from which it derives great strength. Through the meetings it convenes, including seminars, symposia, workshops, working parties and groups of experts, it has fostered and facilitated a spirit of regional co-operation and unity.

Significantly, whereas only a few years ago matters affecting Africa and its peoples were

determined outside the continent by non-Africans, over the past twenty years Africa's decision making on Africa's problems has shifted back to become once more the pre-occupation of Africans themselves.

Today ECA services are more than just advisory. It has become an operational body responding to requests from Member States for assistance on economic, technological, agricultural, educational and natural resources projects. It was envisaged that this new dimension in the Commission's role would facilitate the achievement of accelerated and sustained economic growth and, with stronger economies, unemployment, underemployment and mass poverty would be eliminated.

Under its extensive programmes the ECA set up a number of centres for the training of staff capable of compiling accurate statistics, and organised seminars and meetings of experts to assess and determine Africa's economic priorities.

Those training and research projects provided a steady stream of published material and completed studies, forming the basis for decisions that set up several institutions thus paving the way for implementation of development programmes in many parts of Africa.

In 1963, Dakar, Senegal,

became the headquarters of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning, (IDEP). Blueprinted by ECA, with the assistance of UNDP, the Institute is now a key centre for training African planners.

The African Development Bank (ADB) was set up in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast, in 1964, to promote and finance development. It was mooted by ECA.

The impetus for international private enterprise to identify and participate in African development was recognised by the ECA, which assisted in the formation of SIFIDA - the Society of International Finance for Investment and Development in Africa. This multinational company is now associated with numerous African ventures.

In 1970, the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) was formed by 14 West African countries to improve rice-breeding and output in the region, which annually imported 450,000 tons of rice at a cost of US \$70 million. WARDA, operating from Monrovia, Liberia, is a joint ECA-FAO-UNDP undertaking.

One of the continent's major projects is the Trans-African Highway, a 7,000-km road link between Kenya's coastal port Mombasa and Nigeria's capital, Lagos, traversing Uganda, Zaire, the Central African

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Policy and Programme Coordination Office



*Thinking together, planning together
and moving forward to common objectives.*

Framework of New Order for Africa

Since the formation of the ECA twenty-one years ago, a combination of events and circumstances have created development needs which have placed an increasingly heavy burden on the Commission.

The launching of the United Nations Development Decade programmes, and the Declaration and Plan of Action for a New International Economic Order made restructuring necessary.

Out of this came the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Office (PPCO), whose principal function is to assist the Executive Secretary in directing and co-ordinating the work of the Commission through closer working relationships with the ECA's Divisions and other offices.

This Office was responsible for drafting the Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa, 1976-1981-1986, which was adopted by the Executive Committee and the Conference of Ministers in 1977. This document outlines the philosophy and strategy behind the programmes towards its new objectives.

It prepares medium-term projects for approval, monitors work programmes and supplies periodic progress reports for the Executive Committee and the Conference of Ministers.

It fulfills a useful role in maintaining contact with projects being implemented in other regions so that collaboration on specific programmes may be possible, and estimates the gap in resources allocated to specific projects, thus calling for the additional resources to enable full implementation of approved programmes.

The Policy and Programme Co-ordination Office takes part in meetings of the United

Nations Trust Fund for African Development, which was set up to provide supplementary resources for work programmes.

The Office has been associated with two important projects. One is the joint United Nations Environment Programme and ECA project Alternative Patterns of Development and Life-styles in Africa; and the second, is the Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.

Africa's challenge

Empire and Cameroon.

Approved in 1971, it has since been decided to connect the Mombasa-Lagos Highway to other networks into Africa's subregions, thus providing access into the Trans-Saharan Highway (Dakar-Ndjemena), the Coastal Highway (Dakar-Lagos), the Trans-Saharan Highway, and the Trans East-African Highway (Cairo-Gaberone).

This development will greatly accelerate intra-African trade and continental co-operation.

These are some of ECA's projects. Over the years it has made available to member governments all over Africa, advisors and technical personnel to plan, initiate and carry through to completion programmes on which ECA's

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Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division



Expanding food production

Shortly after it came into existence, the ECA established a working relationship with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1959.

These joint efforts were concentrated mainly on giving

expert assistance to the newly independent countries, focussing on agricultural planning and setting up the machinery to hasten rural development.

Expanding food and agric-

ultural programmes in co-operation with other United Nations agencies has since broadened the scope of the ECA's activities, and there is now greater emphasis on bringing more people into a money economy, by encouraging a speedy transition from subsistence to commercial farming.

These activities range from formulating a regional food plan to creating organisations such as the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), which is currently carrying out research to improve the

quality and output of rice production in 14 West African countries.

Together with these developments, expert advice is given to governments on the marketing of agricultural commodities, and the setting up of marketing boards and co-operatives.

Diet, too, has occupied the attention of ECA-FAO experts, and this has led to improved production and marketing of

There is increasing emphasis on quality livestock.



animals and animal products. In collaboration with USAID the United States Agency for International Development - studies have been undertaken on livestock farming in many sub-regions.

The ECA's Trade Division and the Economic Co-operation Office have also assisted by advising African countries on how they can expand their trade, in imports and exports, particularly in food commodities.

Modernisation of agricultural production now claims a major share of the activities in this area, and great emphasis has been placed on new methods and techniques to replace traditional practices.

Assistance has been given to governments in improving extension services, reforming agrarian structures and in stimulating integrated rural development.

Several studies on wide-ranging agrarian reforms and rural development policies have been produced, which will become the basis for meaningful discussions on these aspects of African development at the World Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Conference, which is to be held in 1979.

The Agricultural Economics Bulletin for Africa, was started by the ECA to give the African countries the benefit of detailed information prepa-



An experimental rice project in West Africa.

red by Africans or pertaining to African conditions.

The ECA also assisted in the formation of the Association for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA), through which much valuable assistance is available.

Future plans envisage the co-operation of African governments in expanding agricultural development through increased investment and decentralisation, and closer collaboration with the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCS), the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC), to consolidate agricultural development in Africa.

Economic Cooperation Office



Maputo harbour. Many African countries are developing coastal shipping.

Co-ordinating projects

The Centre for Economic Co-operation was set up to advise on economic co-operation schemes in different areas, and to evolve common development and investment policies.

A number of reforms were formulated after studies were undertaken and these were published in the Revised Framework for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa, 1976-1981-1986,

and this led to the formulation in 1976 of the ECA's Economic Co-operation Office, which replaced the Centre for Economic Co-operation.

With the United Nations Development Advisory Teams, (UNDATS), all agencies were urged to intensify efforts to help Member States in planning, implementation, public administration and management, and to provide advisory services where-



Bricks - small scale industries are encouraged.

ver these were needed.

Accordingly UNDATS were set up in Yaounde in 1971 to serve the Cameroon, the Central African Empire, the People's Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad; in Niamey in 1974 to serve Niger, Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Togo and Upper Volta; and in Lusaka in 1974 to serve Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Somalia, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The UNDAT in Yaounde undertook studies on the development of coastal shipping and the transportation of goods in the Central African area, an evaluation of transport infrastructure and flow of trade in Central Africa, production and trade in cereals in Chad, the Central African Empire and North Cameroon, and methodology for the preparation of industrial projects in the UDEAC States and Chad, and trade in livestock and meat in Central Africa.

In Niamey, the UNDAT did studies in the development of tourism, in the profile of a prototype of an irrigation scheme for the Sahel area, and the production and trade in rice in 13 West African states working together in the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), and the strategy for development of co-operatives in rural areas, and a price structure for imported goods.



Co-operatives help with advice and training.

The Lusaka UNDAT completed studies in integrated rural development, inter-State co-operation and multinational industries in the subregion, student exchange among States in the subregion, utilisation of the oil refinery in Maputo, administrative problems hindering trade in the subregion and specialisation in agricultural production and promotion of subregional trade in agricultural commodities.

These UNDATs, working through the Economic Co-operation Office gave valuable service to newly independent states in eastern and southern Africa during their early years.

The UNDATs were to be replaced in 1977 by five Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs).

The MULPOC in Lusaka serves Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The Gisyeni-based MULPOC serves Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire.

The MULPOC in Niamey serves Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Upper Volta.

In Yaounde, the MULPOC serves the Cameroon, the Central African Empire, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

The MULPOC in Tangiers is to be established in 1979 to serve Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

While the UNDATs were advisory bodies, the MULPOCs are units that will be "the operational arms of the ECA," which will help in bringing meaningful benefits to the African States in trade, agriculture, industry, transport, energy, tourism, manpower and social development.

Each MULPOC is run by a Council of Ministers and a team of experts, with the former determining policies, while the latter perform technical functions, all these activities being co-ordinated by the

Economic Co-operation Office.

The Economic Co-operation Office works through the African Development Bank (ADB), the Association of African Development Finance Institutions, the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Association for Training and Development, the African Research and Training Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Mineral Resources Development Centre, and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA).

Through conferences on various important aspects of economic development, resolutions have recommended the withdrawal of Basuto, Swazi, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambiquan immigrant labourers from South African mines, industries and farms; have proposed alternative sources of employment in States supplying South Africa with immigrant labour, and an interim Charter of Rights of Migrant Labourers.

In another conference, 17 eastern and southern African countries agreed to form a Preferential Trade Area (PTA), the countries being Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. The outcome of these negotiations will be an African

regional common market.

A conference on Control of Animal Health and Promotion of Livestock Production is seeking co-operation on the control and eradication of animal diseases like east coast fever, trypanosomiasis, rabies, foot and mouth, rinderpest, pleuropneumonia, sheep scab and African swine fever, proposing that a Zoonosis Centre be established.

A conference on Technical Co-operation has brought together representatives of the Third World with those of the developed nations, and a Plan of Action was adopted that augurs well for the future of millions of people in the Third World.

Co-operation will become closer between the ECA and the

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA).

Agreements have already been signed, and follow-up action will begin on several projects with the sister organisations towards fuller future co-operation.

More funds will have to be found to implement projects, and more professional people will be needed to carry out future assignments in the programme for the coming years, which has already been mapped out.

Dams bring multiple benefits.



Economic Research and Planning Division



Development strategies

Under the first United Nations Development Decade, launched in the 1960's, a major responsibility fell upon the ECA.

This consisted of preparing

an annual economic survey of Africa, analysing the impact of policies and strategies, and of informing African governments on their performance towards set goals. Throughout the 1960's, the ECA

produced the Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa for Member States.

Additionally, the Economic Bulletin for Africa was produced half-yearly, in which contributors frankly assessed topics of crucial importance to African development. This publication was sent to African governments, universities and research institutions.

The Commission established one of its principal policy and legislative organs, the Conference of African Planners and, in co-operation with it, set up the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), in Dakar, Senegal. This Institute provides valuable training for young Africans in economic planning and development. The Conference of African Planners examines and recommends to the Conference of Ministers the priority work programmes formulated by the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division.

The ECA was responsible for an African development strategy, implemented during the 1960's, on the theme of self-reliance.

During the Second United Nations Development Decade of the 1970's, the ECA prepared an assessment in alternative years of the progress achieved by individual African countries of the goals and objectives established under the International Development Strategy, in a world setting and in an

African context.

The survey also focussed on education, employment, inflation, and food supplies in Africa.

The Commission developed new methods and techniques for more effective planning in Africa, working closely with the Geneva-based United Nations Social Research Institute, and the Centre for Development Planning, Policies and Projections, in New York. This led to a most helpful new approach to development planning and analysis in Africa.

During the middle of the 70's, it became clear that the targets for the Second Development Decade of 6 per cent for GDP, 4 per cent for agriculture, and 8 per cent for manufacturing were not being achieved by most countries in the developing world.

Efforts were then made to launch a New International Economic Order emphasising greater exertion by the developing countries and a much larger measure of support from the developed world, with a restructuring of international trade and the monetary system.

The United Nations General Assembly indicated the need for more precise planning in economic projections for the developing countries. The ECA's response was to encourage African countries to deploy greater resources in savings to bolster African economies.

Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division

Industry to boost progress

When delegates attended the first Conference of African Ministers of Industry in Addis Ababa in 1971, they stressed the importance of multinational co-operation as a major instrument of policy for speedy industrialisation in Africa.

In recognition of this aspect of Africa's economic development, the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division was set up. Among its key instruments was the Follow-up Committee on African Industrialisation, which monitors and reviews progress on implementation of



industrialisation programmes.

With the establishment of the Division in 1974, effective promotion of ECA/UNIDO co-operation became possible and a unified programme of industrialisation was adopted for Africa.

This programme aims at assisting African countries in accelerating their industrial development and of promoting closer co-operation in industrial planning and policies, project planning and appraisals, industrial financing, large and small-scale industries, and training for industrialisation.

In 1975, the Division developed a number of priority inter-country industrial projects, and programmes for certain sectors, which were intended to establish national, subregional and regional centres to provide assistance in industrial design, engineering and management consultancy. The finance for pre-investment activities comes from the Industrial Development Fund.

The sectional programmes concentrate on building materials and construction industries, the chemicals, base-metals and engineering industries, food, agro-based and forest-based industries, industrial policies, planning and small-scale and rural industries.

Assistance is given to African countries in the for-

mulation, development and harmonisation of policies and plans, the setting up of operational instruments, the selection and transfer of technology, training and research, and the identification, evaluation and implementation that generate increasing self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Among efforts for joint action, the Ministers for Industry resolved that ECA in collaboration with OAU and UNIDO should organise a symposium on industrial policies and strategies for self-sustaining development and diversification in a programme to extend to the end of this century.

In many areas, advisory services have been made available by the Division on industrial surveys, training in forest industries, and the creation and operation of pulp and paper and food processing industries, while assisting in the identification of other opportunities for small-scale industries.

In its quarterly magazine INVESTMENT AFRICA, the Division provides information on industrial developments that are useful to governments, institutions and business circles in Africa.

With the planned improvements in communications, the Division anticipates a programme of closer contact with Member States, and plans to send out more experts on short-term assignments.



Modern equipment is transforming agriculture.

Removing barriers

The activities of the International Trade and Finance Division are directed at achieving the fullest co-operation between Member States and individual countries outside Africa, and international trade groupings.

The Division's efforts are

centred upon four major categories. These are:

1. To identify barriers and obstacles to improvement and expansion of trade and financial relations;
2. To prepare studies for Member States for implementation of work pro-

grammes approved by the Conference of Ministers, and other recognised bodies;

3. The compilation and dissemination of trade and financial information, and other relevant data, for policy makers and traders;
4. Servicing meetings to assist Member States in harmonising trade and financial relations among themselves, and with non-African countries and groupings.

In intra-African trade, the important constraints have been identified, and specific suggestions have been made for their removal.

ECA has assisted in setting up a number of institutions to foster trade and financial development at regional and sub-regional levels.

Among these institutions are the African Development Bank (ADB), the Association of African Central Banks (AACB), the African Purchasing and Supplies Organisation (AATPO), the West African Clearing House (WACH), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Through its recently established network of MULPOCS, the ECA has intensified its assistance to Member States on specific co-operative programmes between interested governments.

One example of this assist-

ance is the scheme for a Preferential Trade Area (PTA), for the eastern and southern African States now being negotiated within the framework of the Lusaka MULPOC.

In its efforts to diversify trade and financial contacts with centres outside Africa, significant improvements have been made on trading arrangements between the African countries and the developed market economies of the major trading partners.

An area of particular relevance to the ECA lies in the extensive programmes aimed at creating a new International Economic Order, and endeavours to continue to expand the scope and diversity of trade and financial dealings with developing countries and the socialist nations.

Member States are being increasingly encouraged to study the impact of the multinational corporations on their economies so that they can cope effectively with the repercussions.

Natural Resources Division



Water comes to a drought-stricken village.

Exploiting Africa's wealth

The activities of the Natural Resources Division centre on two main areas: the Natural Resources Section, made up of four units covering Minerals, Energy, Water Resources and Cartography; and the Science and Technology Section.

MINERALS

The UNESCO "Survey of the Natural Resources of the Afr-

ican Continent," published in 1960, classified available information as the basis for founding mineral-based industries.

In the 1970's, there was exploration of the possibilities of inter country development of mineral resources, and this led to the East African Mineral Resources Development Centre, which was set up in Dodoma, Tanzania, suitably equipped with laboratory facilities and capable of undertaking sophisticated and costly geological, geochemical, geophysical and hydro-geological projects. Since 1975, UNDP has been associated with the programme.

In a later report, the ECA has detailed mineral deposits in West Africa with maps, and underscores the role of the mining industry in the development of the West African countries. Experts from Finland have been brought in to develop iron and steel industries.

In 1978, ECA made visits to the Central African subregion to determine mineral resources, study personnel and training requirements, and assess needs for future recommendations. A report, now under study, envisages a Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre.

The Division's information has become an invaluable source for reports, especially of the three industrial co-ordination missions to West Africa, East



A telecommunications worker inserts a cable into an underground system.



Apprentices learn about a mechanical drill.

and Central Africa, and North Africa, and this information has been useful to Mauretania, Zambia, Zaire, Ethiopia, Liberia and the Sudan.

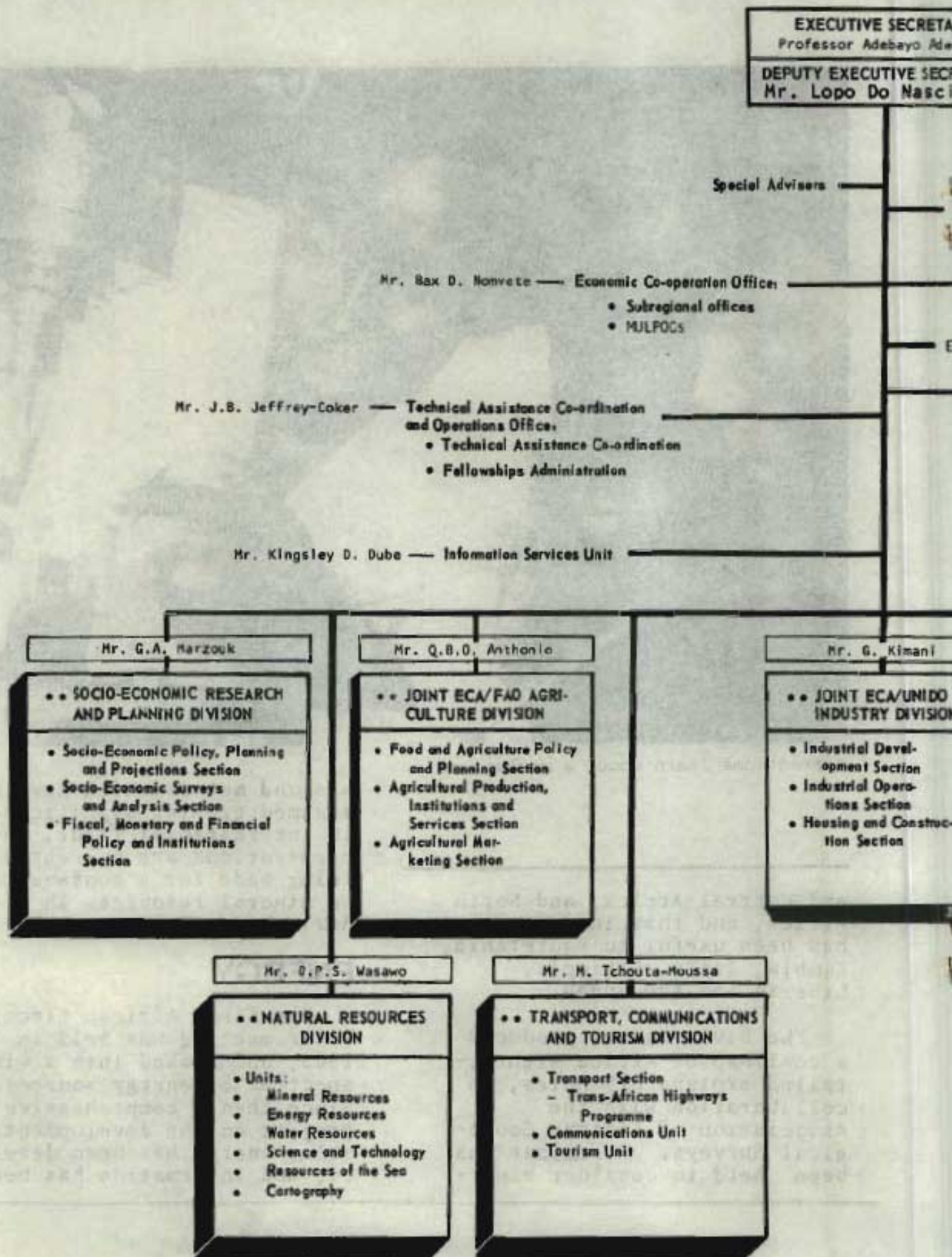
The Division has produced a coal map of Africa with detailed explanatory notes, in collaboration with the Association of African Geological Surveys. A seminar has been held to consider miner-

als and metals which have now assumed greater significance in international trade, and preparations are currently being made for a conference on mineral resources in Africa.

ENERGY

The first African Electric Power meeting was held in 1963, and looked into a wide spectrum of energy sources. Since then a comprehensive project on the development of solar energy has been developed, and information has been

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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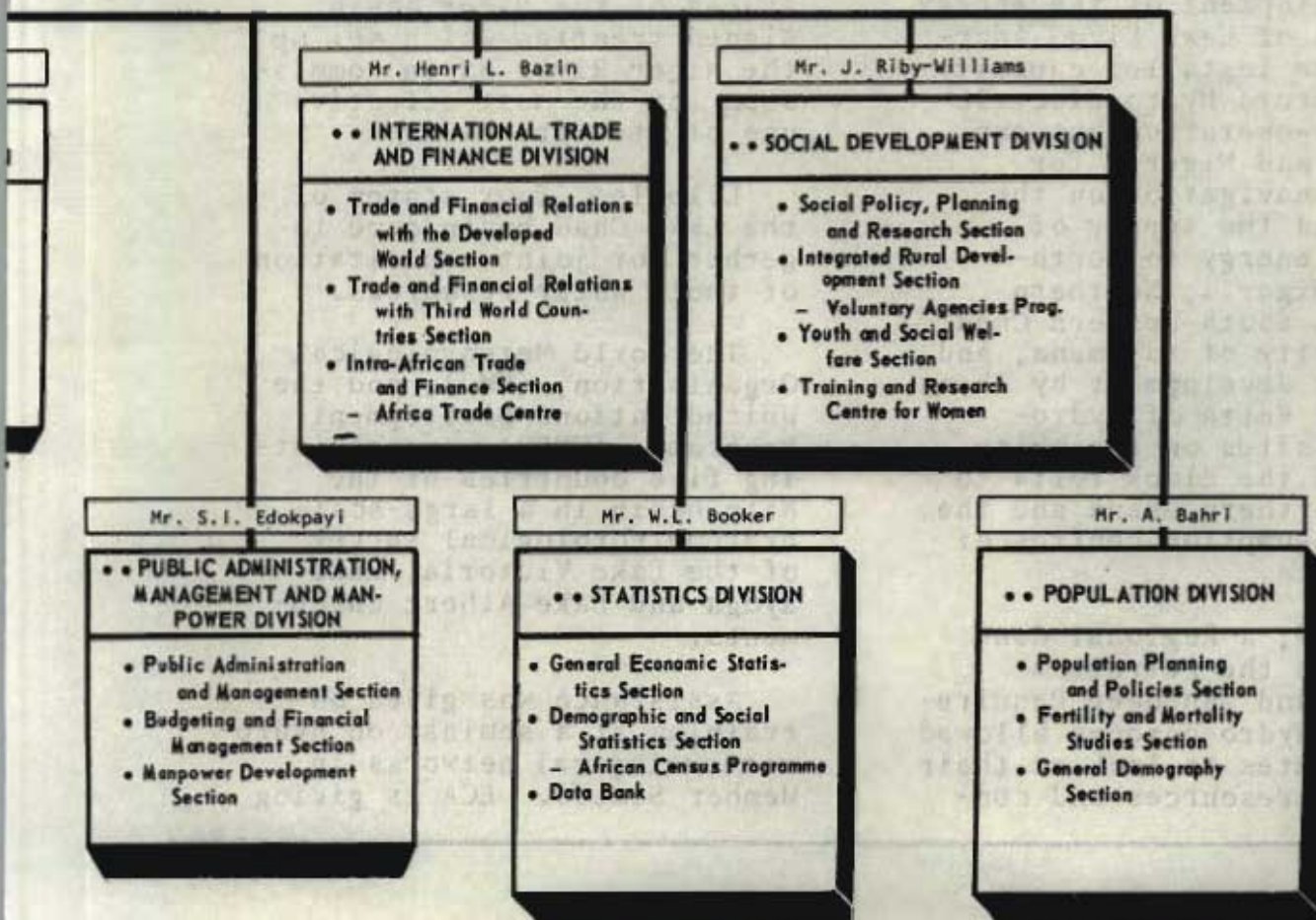
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disseminated to several areas.

Several maps have been produced, one on electrical energy, another on primary energy, and one showing the energy resources of the Lake Tanganyika basin, all of which have proved of much value.

A number of studies have been completed for subregional co-operation on energy and the feasibility of connecting electric power grids, and for the supply of electric power from Akosombo in Ghana to Togo and Benin.

The ECA has presented four energy co-operation projects to the African Development Bank, these deal with Industrial development of the energy resources of Lake Kivu, increasing the installed capacity of the Mururu Hydro-electric plant, co-operation between Cameroun and Nigeria for improved navigation on the Benoue and the supply of electric energy to North-Eastern Nigeria, Northern Cameroon, South-Western Chad and the city of Ndjamena, and the joint development by Ghana and Upper Volta of hydro-electric sites on the White Volta and the Black Volta to supply northern Ghana and the major consumption centres of Upper Volta.

In 1974, a Regional Conference on the Petroleum Industry and Manpower Requirements in Hydro-carbons allowed Member States to look at their petroleum resources and con-

sider future development.

Other meetings have looked at training needs and programmes for the future, and approval has been given to the preparation of an Energy Resources Atlas for Africa. Phases I and II of the Integrated Development of the Liptako Gourma areas have been completed under ECA direction, and work has started on Phase III.

WATER

Four states sharing the Senegal river basin agreed in 1963 to set out common aims for development of the basin, and in 1964 nine riparian states of the Niger basin signed treaties which set up the Niger River Basin Commission for the most effective use of its waters.

Likewise, four states of the Lake Chad basin came together for joint exploitation of their water resources.

The World Meteorological Organisation, (WMO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are assisting five countries of the Nile basin in a large-scale hydrometeorological survey of the Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert catchments.

Assistance was given on training at a seminar on hydrometeorological networks in Member States. ECA is giving



Extracting a 'straw' of semen for use at an artificial insemination centre in Uganda.

help to five riparian states of the Lake Tanganyika basin.

The training has been undertaken of hydrological technicians, engineers and post-graduates, while a survey has been started on the desirability of a water resources development institute for the Eastern Africa subregion.

West Africa's manpower and research needs on water resources development were the subject of a survey in 1968.

The African Regional Meeting on Problems of Water Resources Development considered many problems and agreed on action recommendations, which were put before the World Water Conference in Argentina. These recommendations have since been transformed into concrete projects for the future.

The ECA has assisted members, particularly in the Sahel and other drought-prone areas, in the development of their underground water resources.

CARTOGRAPHY

Under the Cartography Unit, it was decided to launch programmes in three important areas, these being:

- 1) Multinational training centres in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and airborne geophysical surveys.
- 2) Multinational centres for survey and mapping, employing sophisticated techniques.
- 3) A regional centre for research into problems



Timber is an important industry in many African countries.

of aerial survey in Africa.

The first centre for training in aerial surveys in Africa was set up at Ile-Ife in Nigeria in 1973. It is supported financially by Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and Senegal. At present its students come from eleven African countries in East, Central, West and North Africa.

The Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping came into existence in 1975, and in 1977 USAID became host to the Training and User-assistance Centre, which is part of the African Remote Sensing Programme, and provides important specialised services.

The African Association of Cartography, which came into being through the ECA, brings representatives of Member States together for discussing problems and the exchange of information, thus helping



Testing soil samples in a Public Works Laboratory in Bamako.

to improve standards Africa-wide.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

To popularise Science and Technology in Africa, a seminar on Science and the Mass Media was organised with the German Foundation for Developing Countries, and later a special training programme was arranged for selected journalists, which resulted in a pilot project for a regular science editorial section in the DAILY TIMES of Nigeria.

ECA assisted in the setting up of an Institute for Applied Science and Technology in the University of Ibadan in West Africa, and at the University of Dar es Salaam. It also prepared proposals for an Institute of Fuel Science and Technology in Nigeria, and advised the Government of the Ivory Coast on setting up a Ministry of Scientific Research.

In 1975 Member States

decided to set up an African Regional Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO).

Again, at the instigation of ECA, an African Regional Centre for Technology is in the process of being brought into existence. Twenty-six members have signed the constitution, and candidates are now being selected for the posts in the Centre.

The Division is now collaborating closely with the World Industrial Property Office (WIPO), to set up a similar organisation for English-speaking Africa, and acting as a joint secretariat for it. A model law on patents and trade marks has been worked out, and this project should reach finalisation in 1979.

ENVIRONMENT

ECA has also been active in alerting African opinion to the problems of environment in the developing countries, and has been in close touch with members, at their request, on specific aspects of environment programmes. The ECA's Environment Unit has been active in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), and in the African Regional Conference in Desertification.

REMOTE SENSING

The ECA Conference of Ministers in 1977 endorsed the

decision for the creation of a Regional Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Receiving and Data Processing Centre for Africa. Following this, it was agreed to set up two regional receiving and processing stations in Kinshasa and Ouagadougou, and an additional station to cover areas not covered by the Kinshasa and Ouagadougou facilities, and five regional trainer and user-assistance centres in Nairobi, Cairo, Ile-Ife, Kinshasa and Ouagadougou.

There have since been several meetings between ECA and the Governments of Upper Volta, the United States of America, Canada and France to proceed with the development of the Ouagadougou Centre, with contributions of US\$11,770,000 being received from the United States, France and Canada.

In the meantime, consultations have taken place between the US State Department, ECA and the Governing Council of the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping in Nairobi, for a Training and User-assistance Centre to be set up in Nairobi. With agreement on this project, USAID is providing US\$2,440,000 over the next three years, and the first course is expected to start in 1979.



Population Division

More people are becoming aware of the need for family planning.

The impact of numbers

As in other sections of the ECA, work on population problems, although started several years ago under the activities of Demography and Social Statistics Section, did not achieve Division status until 1970.

The new Population Division, the Executive Secretary said at the time, was set up for "creating awareness of the population situation in Africa; helping governments to set up offices for handling population

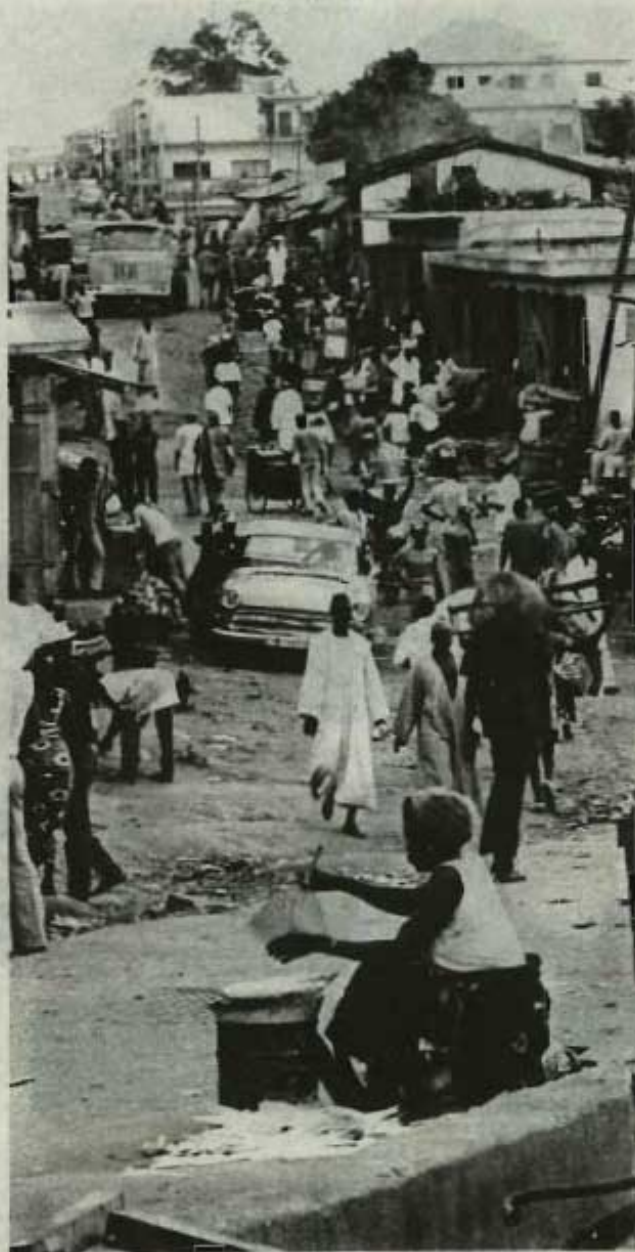
problems; training personnel for these offices, and assisting governments, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of population policies."

The Division concentrated on demographic analysis, the study of relationships between population trends and socio-economic development, formulation and implementation of population policies arising from these trends, and the training of personnel for the centres in the region.

Notable among the achievements of the Division was the setting up of facilities for training demographers. Among the new institutions established in 1972 were the Regional Institute for Population Studies at Accra, Ghana, and the Demographic Training and Research Institute in Yaounde, Cameroon. The ECA was also associated with the Cairo Demographic Centre, started in 1963.

ECA continues to support the programmes of these institutions, which produce about 100 demographers annually at post-graduate and doctorate levels, in addition to supporting programmes of the East African Statistical Training Centre at the National University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

These ECA activities have resulted in a significant awareness of population problems and changing attitudes to population questions in the



With unchecked population growth, the quality of life deteriorates.

region.

Notable among ECA's programmes were the Seminar on the Application of Demographic Data and Analysis in Development Planning (1969), the Division's first population meeting which discussed candidly the question of family planning, and its impact on socio-economic development.

Another was the Seminar on Pilot Studies in Fertility, Infant Mortality and Evaluation of Population Programmes (1970), whose recommendations are currently being implemented through a field survey now being undertaken in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office in Lusaka.

Among others were the African Population Conference held in 1971, sponsored by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, jointly with the International Planned Parenthood Federation. This conference, the largest ever on population problems in Africa, was attended by 400 participants.

The Seminar on the Techniques and Evaluation of Basic Demographic Data took place in 1973, and the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultations (1975), delineated areas in Africa for implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.

Through inter-agency conducted meetings it has been possible to keep all organisations

interested in population problems in Africa aware of current programmes, and to avoid duplication and encourage co-ordination of effort.

On relationships between population and economic and social development, the Division is involved in macro-micro case-studies focussing on population trends, family size, and the social and economic welfare of the family.

The case-studies so far completed are on Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zaire.

Case-studies on family size and welfare have been done on these countries: Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Senegal, and some of the findings have been published in an ECA document on Population Growth and Social and Economic Development in Africa, and Family Sizes and the Social and Economic Welfare.

Follow-up national seminars have been held since 1975 in Mali, Mauritius and Togo.

The Division has published The African Population Newsletter, The African Population Studies Series, The African Directory of Demographers (third edition), and the Demographic Handbook for Africa (fourth edition).

Advisory services have been

provided to Member States in demographic analysis, surveys, studies and formulation of projects for funding by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), which provides more than 90 per cent of required resources.

The Division's activities have contributed substantially towards the changed attitudes to family planning and population, and this is reflected in ECA Resolution 273 (XII) in which African Governments invited the Executive Secretary "to continue the studies in inter-relations of population growth and economic and social development, including a study to define population programm-

es within the context of other desirable and essential services in such fields as maternal and child health, community development, and to study the demographic problems of high fertility and sub-fecundity in those parts of Africa where they exist", urging also that "the governments of Member States give due attention to socio-economic conditions of parents and children in Africa and to ensure that family planning becomes, subject to national sovereignty rights and priorities, an integral part of development, particularly where maternal and child health services, community and rural extension activities and urban development are concerned."

DID YOU KNOW ?

AFRICA is a major supplier of raw materials. 1978 statistics show Africa's percentage of world production in the following commodities:

AGRICULTURE

COCOA BEANS	62.0%
COFFEE GREEN	26.1%
GROUND NUTS IN SHELL	27.8%
NATURAL RUBBER	6.6%
PALM OIL	34.2%

SEED COTTON	7.9%
TEA	11.0%

MINERALS

BAUXITE	15.7%
CHROME ORE	10.2%
COBALT	45.3%
COPPER ORE	17.5%
CRUDE PETROLEUM	10.7%
DIAMONDS	66.0%
IRON ORE	5.4%
MANGANESE ORE	17.0%
PHOSPHATE ROCK	22.9%
URANIUM	15.2%



Structures, procedures, policies

This Division came into existence in 1976. Prior to that date these functions were conducted through the Manpower Training and Public Administration Section then incorporated in the Human Resources Development Division, which included Improvement and Management of Budgetary and Taxation Systems.

The new Division was streamlined into three sections:

Public Administration and Management, Manpower Development, and Budgetary and Financial Management.

This was made necessary by the increasing need of ECA's Member States for consultative assistance in the development of administrative structures, operational procedures, definitive policies and programmes and competent staff to boost productive procedures.

The chief functions of the Management Development Section are:

- i) Development of effective infrastructure for administration, co-ordination and funding, and the evolution of definitive policies for utilisation and development of human resources
- ii) Improvement of instructional capabilities of pre-service and in-service training
- iii) Mobilisation of financial and institutional resources for identification and placement of African scholars for skill-training in critical areas and,
- iv) The promotion and development of more effective policies and strategies for manpower programming and employment.

The Public Administration and Management section deals with:

- i) The review and improve-

ment of structures and operations of central and local government institutions, and public enterprises.

- ii) Appraisal of administrative reform measures, reviewing of programmes and policies, and structures and procedures for improved effectiveness and productivity.
- iii) Harmonising administrative policies and procedures for supporting technical and economic co-operation among African States.
- iv) Enhancing technical competence and the operation of supplies and management to government agencies.

The Budgeting and Financial Management Section is involved in:

- i) Forging the institutional budget into an efficient tool of policy in development planning and plan implementation
- ii) Facilitating reforms, improving taxation systems, and policies and administrative structures.
- iii) Creating improved operational effectiveness of local financial institutions.

To achieve these objectives, the Division conducts studies, publishes the findings, undertakes advisory missions and makes reports to the respective governments and institutions.

It organises high-level seminars, conferences and symposia, and publishes and distributes the conclusions to all interested members and groups.

It also conducts annually at least three skill-oriented national/subregional workshops on training and human resources programming and training techniques, supplies procurement and management, plan/budget harmonisation, and tax policy and administration.

The Division has assisted in the development of professional associations, such as the African Association for Training and Development (AATD), the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), the African Association for Correspondence Educators (AACE), and the African Association for Adult Education (AAAE), as well as a number of consultancy organisations.

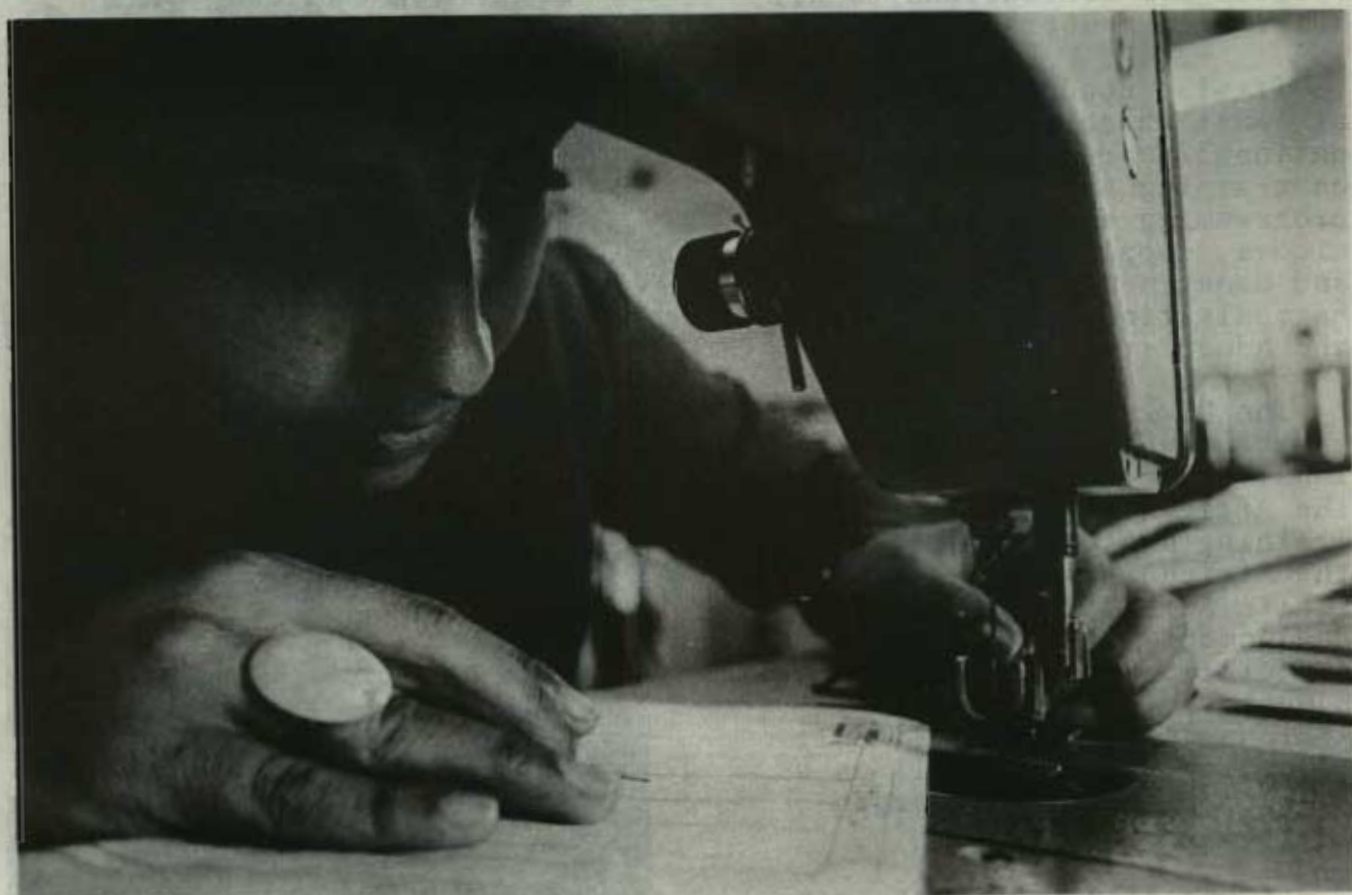
It has also been instrumental in mounting into existence training and research institutions like IDEP, and the proposed Graduate Schools of Management Education, and the Institution of Higher Technical Training and Research.

The Division has been involved in mobilising bilateral and multilateral financial resources annually for urgent training projects in Africa and elsewhere, and has taken action towards developing an African Fellowship Fund by calling in major contributions.



Educate a woman and you educate a family.

Social Development Division



Vocational training centres are helping women to acquire skills, find employment and contribute to the family budget.

Women in the economy

The Social Development Division functions through four sections - Social Policy; Planning and Research; Integrated Rural Development; Youth and Social Welfare; and the African Training and Research Centre for Women.

Social Policy, Planning and Research concerns itself with research and training programmes in social welfare, rural development and social administration.

It produces the Social



Welfare Services in Africa series of publications, which are the Directory of Regional Social Welfare Activities: Patterns of Social Welfare Organisation and Administration in Africa, Training for Social Work in Africa, Social Reconstruction in the Newly Independent Countries of East Africa, Family, Child and Youth Welfare Services in Africa, Youth Employment and National Development in Africa, Rural Organisation, Agricultural Services, Job Opportunities in Agriculture, Development Education and Family Welfare and Development in Africa.

It conducts annual surveys of social trends and major social development problems that make up the Chapter on Africa in the United Nations World Social Situation.

It concentrates on training programmes for Member States in welfare and social development that led to the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, set up in Tripoli in 1977, and the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to be held in Lome, Togo, in 1979.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme is engaged on action projects on socio-economic problems produced by rural development, such as obtaining sufficient land and

In the remotest areas women learn about diet and food preparation.

improvement for better production, finding water for irrigation and domestic use, securing credit for increased production, feeder roads for access to markets and distribution facilities, health and nutrition, rural technology and mass communication.

It makes advisory services available to members for development of rural life and institutions, and suggests suitable projects for rural development.

The Moshi conference in 1969 considered concepts that would overcome specific problems in the Member States, and at the Rural Development Symposium in Addis Ababa in 1971 recommendations led to three subregional workshops in the Sudan, Morocco and Ghana to encourage co-operation in rural development.

Social training seminars were held, some in co-sponsorship with the Danish International Development Agency, and another jointly with the Pan-African Institute for Development (PAID). Later senior rural development personnel met again in Tanzania to discuss common problems, identify weaknesses and develop an integrated rural development policy.

With the accent on women in rural development, the Division started publication of the Rural Development Newsletter and African Women,

both of which were subsequently merged into the quarterly Rural Progress. In 1972, the Division published its first Directory of Activities of International Voluntary Agencies in Rural Development in Africa.

An Inter-Divisional Working Group now considers policy and priority in ECA's involvement in integrated rural development, the formulation, evaluation and implementation of projects, programming, resource allocation, co-ordination and relationship to programmes of the United Nations and voluntary agencies.

The Youth and Social Welfare Section develops programmes that develop youth resources to the benefit of their countries and two studies were helpful, viz., A Study of National Youth Service Programmes and their Impact on National Development, and A Survey of Youth Policies, Programmes and Training Requirement, in Africa.

Two publications, Family Welfare and Development in Africa, and Child Development, Family Life and Nutrition, were prepared for trainers as part of the contribution to the International Year of the Child in 1979.

There is also co-ordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), on refugee problems, while assistance is given to the Association of Social Work

Education in Africa (ASWEA), on national social welfare in-service training.

Since it was formed in 1975, the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW), has made a key contribution to integration of women in national development programmes. This is part of the ECA's strategy towards the New International Economic Order in Africa.

The first conference for the Integration of Women in Development was held in Mauretania in 1977, and ATRCW has helped Member States in their efforts for integration of women in development.

The Technology Unit completed research in Sierra Leone on improved use of traditional technologies in the region, while research was completed on better village water supplies in Ethiopia. Since women are important as food producers, studies have been done on women and technology in agriculture.

Among pilot projects are those which introduced hand-operated grinding mills in 32 villages in Upper Volta, hand-operated oil presses in 26 villages in Sierra Leone, post-harvesting equipment in 10 villages in the Gambia, the testing of technology equipment in selected villages in Senegal, and date pitters for nomadic food preservation in Mauretania.

In 1978 a salt extraction

project was started in Niger, and a pilot project for village technology through women's groups was started in Kenya.

The ECA has published *Appropriate Technology for African Women*, and *The Role of Women in the Utilisation of Science and Technology for Development in Egypt* in 1978.

In 1977 a Volunteer Task Force from Ghana completed a training course in tie-dye for more than 2,000 trainees in Lesotho, and established a demonstration centre there.

Cameroon, Mali, Mauretania and Senegal have all hosted seminars, workshops and study tours on women and co-operatives, population, and family life education.

African women journalists went on a study tour in 1978, and an in-service training programme was started for rural trainers in nutrition and rural development in the French-speaking countries.

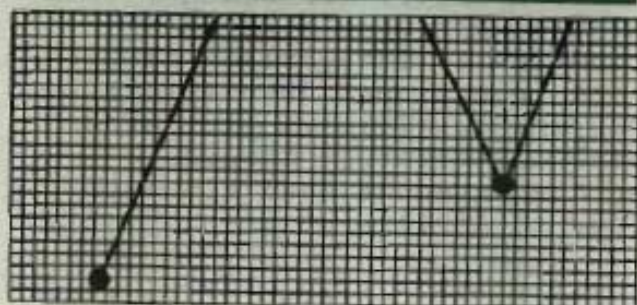
Another training project was conducted through a series of workshops to teach women leaders how to design projects and carry them through to finalisation, while other programmes focus on handicrafts and small-scale industries, which are being financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).



More effective medical services can be planned with accurate population figures.



Statistics Division



Creating a Data Base

Before the ECA could embark on real development programmes, it was essential to have detailed and accurate statistics.

A programme to gather the necessary statistics was started in 1958, with special emphasis on the statistical series for individual countries and territories.

Since that time this vital function has been conducted by the Statistical Division of the ECA and the Conference of African Statisticians.

It set out to establish national statistical services and to encourage the use and need for improved statistics, providing data on the African region as a whole within the overall

framework of the United Nations Data System.

To achieve these objectives effectively, it was necessary to provide assistance to African countries to establish their own statistical organisations and to train their personnel at middle, intermediate and undergraduate levels.

This assistance was made available to cover four main areas: general economic statistics, demographic and Social statistics, changes and surveys, and a data bank.

Assistance has been given to countries to develop their national accounts series, and more recently, to apply the revised system of national accounts, while efforts have been directed towards improvement of public sector, price, energy, industry and other economic statistics.

Methodological studies in demographic and social statistics have been published and disseminated to stimulate improvement in the mechanisms for gathering this type of information.

The development of an African demographic and social statistics data base has been intensified to improve the quantity of this data at regional level to be of greater assistance to individual countries.

The ECA has actively given its support to census projects

and surveys, and this support was given impetus by the African Census Programme (ACP), initiated in 1971.

The aim was to assist 22 African countries to undertake population enumeration as part of the 1970 Population Census programme. With the help of the United Nations Statistical Office, regional advisory services were provided and by mid-1978, 18 of the 22 countries had completed their population census programmes.

The success of the ACP has encouraged an African Household Survey Capability Programme to be launched so that national field survey organisations can provide continuing and integrated data on productive activity, income, consumption, expenditure and related social and demographic characteristics. Regional advisory services under this programme have already been provided.

Apart from assistance in economic, demographic and social statistics for countries within the region, the Division is developing a Statistical Data Base for use by the Commission Secretariat, member governments and regional and other bodies.

When the Data Base has been fully developed, it will provide a useful and comprehensive computerised service for economic and social development planning and policy formulation.

The Regional Statistical



National benefits reach out to the most scattered areas.

Data Base will hold information on these areas: demographic and social Statistics, national accounts, prices and finance, external commodity trade, total external trade, annual commodity production, monthly commodity production, general industrial statistics, industrial production index numbers, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and transport and communications.

Among the publications produced regularly by the ECA Statistical Division are the Statistical Year Book, Statistical Newsletter, African Economic Indicators, Statistical Information Bulletin, and a three-part series titled Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa - Series A: Direction of Trade, Series B: Trade by Commodity, and Series C: Summary Tables.



Technical Assistance Coordination and Operations Office

Help from many sources

The formulation and implementation of technical assistance programmes for the African region fall under the ECA's Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office.

These activities involve the mobilisation of technical, financial and other resources from within the United Nations system, and through bilateral technical co-operation arrangements with donor countries and organisations.

There is also co-ordination between ECA's separate Divisions, Member States and with other developing regions, and close collaboration on administration and finances with training institutions and on fellowship programmes.

Essentially, ECA's Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office covers two main activities, which are:

1. Technical Assistance Co-ordination, and
2. Fellowship Administration.

Technical Assistance Co-ordination embraces the preparation of technical assistance programmes in consultation with ECA's Divisions, United Nations Headquarters, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other agencies.

Those principally involved being the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Assistance, the United Nations Development Programme inter-country projects, MULPOC programmes and projects, African Population and Census Programmes (UNFPA), and Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

The Regional Advisory Serv-

ices involved are United Nations Regular Programme Advisers, ECA/UNIDO Regular Programme Advisers, ECA/FAO Food and Agriculture Advisers, and Population and Census Advisers.

Bilateral Technical
Co-operation arrangements include negotiations with bilateral donor governments and other organisations. mobilisation of financial and other resources, initiating action on the preparation of formal agreements with bilateral donor governments, and other governments, for clearance with United Nations Headquarters.

Financial control and the maintenance of proper records, involves arrangements for effective overall control on funds provided for ECA technical assistance operations, and up-to-date financial and other records on administration and management.

On Fellowship administration, there is collaboration with Public Administration, Management and Manpower, and other ECA Divisions, on processing of relevant documents, arrangements for Fellowship awards under United Nations Technical Assistance programmes through bilateral donor governments and other organisations, and finances through appropriate bodies, with the necessary back-stopping facilities, and the maintenance of complete records.



Work starts on a major road.

Road links across Africa

Africa's transport problems were among the first to engage the attention of the ECA.

Studies revealed that existing transport systems were designed primarily to serve foreign trading interests, and were far from adequate to satisfy local market needs and the demands of the people.

This has led to an examination of the most profitable means of providing transport networks within individual states and of devising complementary transport ramifications through successive meetings between the subregions.

In 1971, the ECA began work on the first Trans-African

Highway, linking Mombasa on the Kenya coast to Lagos, the Nigerian capital, in West Africa. Work was subsequently started on other trans-African highways, large portions of which have since been tarred.

At present, five highway projects cover a total length of 33,089 kms, and feeder roads into this system extend over 4,273 kms.

At the Conference of Ministers in Kinshasa in March 1977, approval was given to the 1978-1988 Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, thus giving impetus to African development as part of the New

World Economic Order.

In the ECA plan, however, provision is made for improved harbour facilities and coastal shipping, better air transportation and railway systems, in addition to road transport and telecommunications.

On telecommunications, the joint ECA-ITU project came into existence in 1966, to set up a Pan-African Telecommunications network (PANAFTEL), and

Radio operators and technicians in training at a Civil Aviation Centre.



since then most African states now share direct communications links.

When completed in 1980, the system will comprise broadband microwave circuits with 18 international switching centres stretching over 24,000 kms in the region.

The full realisation of the PANAFTEL project will enable faster direct communication between African countries, and eliminate the slow and expensive relays routed outside the continent.

PANAFTEL will also link into satellite earth receiving stations operating within the INTELSAT system, and the possibilities of an African satellite system (AFROSAT) for common-carrier and broadcasting communication are under active consideration by ECA.

Tourism was still in its embryonic stage when the ECA was formed in 1958, and its growth in the Commission's member states since the mid-1960's, concurrently with its rapid development worldwide, has shown it to have weathered the deteriorating international economy better than other sectors.

The ECA has been engaged in a number of studies aimed at helping African countries to derive the maximum economic and social benefits from their vast tourist potential, and to promote coherent tourism development.

These studies have concentrated on cost and benefit aspects in countries like Kenya, the Seychelles and Tunisia, where tourism has become an important industry.

The ECA is providing technical assistance to member States, or groups of countries, on tourism development objectives and the type of tourism they wish to attract.

The ECA programme intends to provide a comprehensive tourist strategy, particularly on hotel development, foreign investment, joint promotion and marketing, environment protection - and minimisation of the negative impact of tourism, with the emphasis on promotion of domestic and intra-African tourism.

Africa's challenge

expertise and services have been vital.

While the ECA's experts and project teams continue to research and formulate new plans for economic and social advance in Africa, the Commission is constantly studying recommendations for streamlining the effectiveness of its operations at all levels, and liaising with member states on how best collaboration can be strengthened on joint future endeavours, and to emphasise and avoid the pitfalls of isolated action.

The Future...

The ECA has survived twenty-one years. Can it really be of greater practical service to Member States in the future? Will it play a more effective role as coordinator of African development programmes?

The answer to these questions is in the affirmative. The ECA, like its parent body, the United Nations General Assembly, reflects the will and the ability of its Member States.

It is they who determine the policies the Commission will follow, and the profiles it will assume and maintain.

And these, in turn, will set the level of hard work and ingenuity that the staff of the Commission will demonstrate in giving expression to resolutions, recommendations and policy directives.

The support and co-operation of Member States will provide the inspiration for the ECA in its future endeavours.

The path the Commission has taken so far has proved fruitful, and has helped establish a foundation for rapid growth. The Commission has become the continent's instrument for national and collective economic and social progress.

Member States, under the guidance of the Commission, have made reality of intra-African trade, economic co-operation and integration, and an impressive start has been made through subregional and regional groupings on the multi-pronged war on underdevelopment in Africa.

These institutions will help in devising the infrastructure that will speed improvement and a better quality of life in Africa.

Self-reliance

The ECA has endeavoured to live up to the challenge it accepted with vigour and imagination, and with the active participation of Member States, will continue to expand and improve its activities in the decades ahead.

In efforts to give practical effect to self-reliance, Member States have set up the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, pledging gifts in cash and kind every

two years towards realisation of the Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Order in Africa and the Medium-Term Plan 1976-1981-1986.

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji stated a truism when he said that development was not like instant coffee - it required the right policies, intelligence and hard work to reach fruition.

Interdependence

Member States have acknowledged areas of common interest and have defined broad development strategies - and there is reason to believe that the coming decades will register even more significant achievements than those recorded over the past twenty-one years.

Africa's future, and its limitless potentialities, cannot be considered in isolation. Geopolitics and socio-economics will have a great impact upon this continent, emphasising the need for interdependence between the underdeveloped world and the developed nations.

These will be manifested in balance of payments problems, diminishing food production, unemployment and poverty, high population growth and the influx of people from the depressed rural areas into overcrowded urban centres, the need for development capital, the crying urgency for skilled

manpower, improved transport and communications, - and a solid united approach by the African nations to international issues.

Africa's problems pose a major challenge. But the ECA has shown that in co-operation most problems can be solved. It is our hope that this partnership will strengthen and flourish in the future, with ECA very much in the vanguard.

