

Black American-Led Group Joins African Chamber of Commerce

The Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce USA, a group whose board of directors consists largely of prominent black Americans, has agreed to join a federation of African chambers of commerce to promote trade and economic development between Africa and the United States.

Ohene Darko, president and chief executive officer of the Washington-based Chamber, said the federation of African chambers of commerce will also encourage African governments and businessmen to do business with the black community in the United States.

The initial agreement to form the federation, which will also be called the Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce or CACC, was signed by

Darko and F. N. Macharia, chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce during the recent conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Nairobi in July. The CACC led by Darko in the United States will be an affiliate of the African federation.

Macharia has offered the Kenya Chamber offices as headquarters for the sixteen countries that will make up the East African region of the CACC. According to Darko, founder and chief architect of the federation, the CACC will also establish regions in West Africa, North Africa and South West Africa.

Darko is a native of Ghana, but the Board of Directors of the US-based group consists largely of prominent black Americans, in-

cluding Dr. Asa Spaulding, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Percy Sutton, John Johnson, Malcolm Corrin of the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, Attorney Samuel Jackson, Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit, George Johnson and entertainer Issac Hayes.

At the OAU meeting in Nairobi, where Darko was given unprecedented Observer Status, nine African countries agreed to sponsor proposals on behalf of the CACC, among them a joint resolution calling for OAU member countries to set up a joint committee to meet with black American leaders in the CACC for immediate discussion.

In addition to Darko, the CACC delegation from the U.S. that attended the OAU conference as guests of the Kenya Government in-

cluded Rep. John Conyers, chief congressional advisor of the CACC in the United States; Ms. Anita Goodman, an international trade specialist at the Department of Commerce; and Ms. Verdia Hampton-Goldston, Mayor of Richwood, Louisiana and board member of the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Darko first presented his ideas to the OAU Council of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1974 and has since actively lobbied African governments. "Africa has become politically independent," he said, "now it's time for Africa to become economically independent."

In addition to promoting trade between the United States and Africa, the CACC will also promote inter-regional trade and finances among African countries. The idea, according to Darko, is an attempt to implement what is known as the "Lagos Plan of Action," a concept initiated by the late pan-Africanist Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and approved by African Heads of State and Governments at the OAU meeting in Lagos, Nigeria last year.

Other activities planned by the CACC include coordinating and sponsoring seminars, trade fairs and trade missions, as well as lobbying governments and international forums to reduce tariff barriers to facilitate a free flow of trade. Plans are already underway for the CACC's first Africa-United States International Trade Conference and Exhibition to be held in the United States.

The CACC is a non-profit organization financed through membership fees and through sales.



School Opening Dinner-Assembly

St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia, recently held its annual Faculty/Staff School Opening Dinner-Assembly. St. Paul's trustee Dr. Grady W. Powell was the speaker for the occasion. President Dallas Simmons introduced new faculty and staff. (Top) Dr. Simmons speaks with Trustee Carolyn Tucker, and her husband Dr. James A. Tucker, who is vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. (Bottom) The Reverend Dr. Grady W. Powell, speaker for the occasion, St. Paul's President Dr. Dallas Simmons, and vice-president Edward W. Long compare notes after the dinner.

Bennett Announces New Faculty and Staff

GREENSBORO — Dr. Issac H. Miller, president of Bennett College, recently announced the appointment of a new dean of students, new faculty and staff, and returning faculty.

Appointed to the position of dean of student affairs is Dr. Phyllis Forte Ethridge. Beginning in her new position on September 1, Dr. Ethridge will exercise administrative responsibilities in the areas of student personnel ser-

vices and supervise student programming. A native of Smithfield, she received the undergraduate degree in health education and library science from North Carolina Central University; the

M.S. degree in counselor education and a North Carolina Principal's Certificate from North Carolina A&T State University; and the Ed.D. degree and North Carolina Superintendent's Certificate from Duke University. She earned the doctorate degree in the area of higher education administration with emphasis in student personnel services.

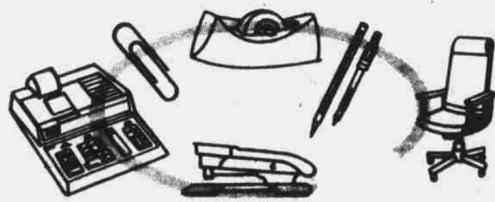
Other appointments included new faculty: Miss Michelle L. Lister, psychology; Fred Mason, Jr., music and college organist; Mrs. Sarah Williamson, home economics; Royal Roberts, mathematics; and Mrs. Shirley Lee, audio visual education. Returning to the faculty after having received the doctorate degree is Dr. Alma S. Adams, associate professor of art. Micheal Gaspeny, instructor of communications and advisor to the student newspaper, also returns to the faculty after a year's leave of absence.

New staff appointments include Melvin R. Huston, assistant to the director of the Computer Center; Mrs. Mollie W. Woods, secretary, Alumnae Office; Miss Judy C. Bowden and Miss LaJoie Turner, corresponding secretary, Word Processing Center; and Miss Barbara Faison, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions. New residence hall directors are Miss Patricia Williams and Miss Carol B. Moore.

Position changes include Dr. Dorinda D. Trader, director, Division of Social Sciences and chairman, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Mrs. Charlotte Barnes, secretary, Division of Education; Mrs. Debraugh G. Holland, assistant, Records Office; Mrs. Charlene Barbee, assistant, Financial Aid Office; and Mrs. Glenda S. Simmons, supervisor, Word Processing and Stenographic Services.

Dr. Frances Schwartzwald, of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, received the Ph.D. degree in the area of special education from Texas Woman's University.

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