

Nigerian Recovery Still Tentative

[AN] Nigeria is taking steps toward economic recovery following the serious slump in oil sales earlier this year, but caution is still the watchword as President Shagari's government gears up for the 1983 election.

Through most of the summer, Nigeria has maintained its OPEC production quota of 1.3 million barrels a day, nearly double the frighteningly low April production level.

Nigerian banks, meanwhile, have been in a better position to release foreign exchange needed to pay overdue bills from suppliers overseas. By some accounts, Nigerian payments for imported goods had been running eight to ten weeks behind schedule, but the gap is gradually being narrowed.

The improved cash position results from a variety of austerity measures enacted in April as part of President Shagari's Economic Stabilization Act. Nigeria restricted imports of luxury items such as Mercedes-Benz cars and curbed purchases of industrial items that are produced domestically; officials also cracked down on smuggling and set a requirement that all import license applications be accompanied by a deposit.

Prior to the Stabilization Act, Nigeria had been spending roughly \$2 billion each month on imports, and as oil revenues slumped the nation barely had enough cash reserves to cover purchases for a two-week period. The cost of imports has now been trimmed by several hundred million dollars and may be cut further to \$1.2 billion, thus allowing an increase in reserves.

With the signs of improvement earlier this summer, the government gave the go-ahead for certain development projects that had been suspended, but officials are currently faced with tough decisions about just how far they can move in the direction of easing the austerity program. On one side there is continuing uncertainty about the oil market and the nation's credit position; on the other, serious political pressure from a relaxation prior to the 1983 election.

The new import regulations — particularly the need for deposits to accompany import applications — have been unpopular with Nigerian businessmen. Many analysts, consequently, are predicting that the advance deposit scheme will be modified later this fall when the government announces the fiscal 1983 budget.

There is also pressure for the government to move ahead on prestige development projects such as the new federal capital at Abuja in the center of the country. Abuja is one of the administration's showpieces, and President Shagari has pledged to move into his new residence there well before year's end. But, partly because of the import curbs, much work remains to be done, and contractors are furious about the difficulty in getting the materials they need.

"If the presidential jet lands this fall (in Abuja airport)," one contractor told the *Wall Street Journal* recently, "it will be with the benefit of the construction tower."

While the Nigerian public would like to see development funds flowing freely again, however, Nigeria's international standing might be bolstered by more conservative policies. According to the *Africa Economic Digest*, most international banks are reluctant to increase their short-term credit lines as yet.

Oil sales slipped slightly — to approximately

one million barrels a day — in August, and there are rumors of a coming discount on North Sea oil, which is generally competitive with Nigeria's low-sulfur crude.

In order to preserve the goodwill of the major oil firms operating in Nigeria, consequently, the government has recently increased the profitability of their operations. The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has agreed to let companies charge more for production costs and to double their margin on each barrel of oil as well. The NNPC has also dropped its demand that the oil firms supply crude to the Nigerian market at concessionary rates.

Human Rights Violations In Uganda

[AN] Amnesty International has released its second report in five months, describing systematic torture of prisoners and mass arbitrary executions of civilians in Uganda by the army and security forces. Violations cited in the September 1 report include arbitrary arrests, extra-legal executions, torture, "disappearances" and deaths of detainees, and harsh prison conditions.

Although many of the civilians killed are suspected of being anti-government guerrillas or guerrilla supporters, AI claims innocent men, women, and children in the areas of armed con-



ST. AUG.'S INSTALLS SGA OFFICERS — The elected officials of the student government association took their oath of office on last week during an SGA installation ceremony held in the Fine Arts building. L-R: Dr. Thelma J. Roundtree, vice president for Academic Affairs, conducts the ceremony during the absence of President Pezell R.

Robinson; Jerold Lewis, president, from Brooklyn, N.Y.; Ms. Mildred McLean, "Miss Saint Augustine's College," from Fayetteville, and Michael Scantling, vice president, from Philadelphia. In absentia, Anthony Matts, chief justice.

licts have died as well. Many of the violations, says the report, are perpetrated "deliberately and with apparent impunity, sometimes with clear indications of government responsibility."

The government of Milton Obote has in the past denied that the army detains, tortures, or executes prisoners, but Kampala has not commented on the latest AI report short of confirming that it had been read.

In a related story late last month, the Ugandan government released nearly 1100 detainees, many of whom were former soldiers in the army of Idi Amin. The release came by a general pardon issued by President Obote. A number of political prisoners were also freed.

Economy Dips

[AN] Blaming the effect of the coup attempt upon its already shaky economy, the Kenyan government announced last month that the prices of basic foods such as

maize and bread would increase 20 to 25%. In addition, crude oil imports would be cut by 10% and conservation measures would soon be introduced due to the country's dwindling foreign exchange.

Softening the message was the announcement that the adult minimum monthly wage would increase from \$40 to \$43 in the major industrial centers of Mombasa and Nairobi.

Increasing Isolation

[AN] The World Alliance of Reformed Churches, meeting in Ottawa late last month, suspended two of South Africa's white Dutch Reformed churches from membership in the body, which groups 149 Presbyterian and other churches of the Reformed tradition from around the world. The two churches, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) and the Nederduitse Hervormde

Kerk (NHK), will only be permitted to return to the movement if they repudiate their support of the apartheid system and no longer exclude blacks from services or communion.

Most members of the South African government are members of one of the two denominations, which have in the past provided theological justifications for apartheid.

Dr. Allan Boesak, a leading South African black theologian, was elected chairman of the World Alliance at the Ottawa meeting. Boesak has been chairman of the Broederkring, an alliance of the three black "daughter churches" which resulted from the missionary efforts of the NGK, and which have in recent years strongly accused the "parent" body of racism.

NCCU To Host High School, 2 Year Students Oct. 23

North Carolina Central University will welcome high school students and students from two-year colleges at its annual Student Visitation Day sponsored by the NCCU Office of Admissions.

Mrs. Nancy R. Rowland, director of admissions, said the event will include tours of the campus guided by NCCU students, a luncheon for all students attending, and passes for the students to the football game between NCCU and Elizabeth City State University.

Invitations to the event have been extended to students through the guidance counselors in all North Carolina high schools, through officials of junior and community colleges, and through other organizations and agencies.

In addition to activities for high school students and students at two-year colleges, the program will also include

offerings for mature adults interested in NCCU's programs and for parents, teachers, and counselors.

Registration for the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 23, in the university's B.N. Duke Auditorium. The football game will begin at 1:30 p.m. Between those hours, prospective students may meet and discuss NCCU programs with the institution's administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Teachers and counselors at high schools and two-year colleges will make reservations for students and parents. Reservations may also be made by contacting the NCCU Office of Admissions, or

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