

Charles Nixon and Herbert Weiss, under the direction of a political economist, Mr. Arnold Rivkin, are spending about eighteen months, beginning in November 1959, in Nigeria, Guinea, the Belgian Congo, and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland doing field research. The research will emphasize the patterns and direction of economic growth, the physical, political, and social limitations on growth, the allocation and use of resources, and the interaction of changing political relationships, institutions, and processes, on the one hand, and economic growth, on the other. Consideration will also be given to the newly evolving political and economic relationships between Africa and other areas of the world, the impact of external factors on African political and economic development, and the significance of developments in Africa for other areas of the world. An attempt will also be made to do some comparative analysis and theorizing on growth and change in Africa South of the Sahara, drawing on the four country studies and other Project research.

Each economist and political scientist, working on an interdisciplinary basis, will spend, on an average, nine months in each of two of the areas to be studied. The entire group will convene at the end of the eighteen months of fieldwork at M.I.T. for a period of discussion, analysis, and writing. It is contemplated that the Project will result in a series of monographs and books which will be interrelated by Mr. Rivkin in an overall volume on African change and development.

[Communicated by Mr. Arnold Rivkin]

### *Silver Jubilee of Western Nigerian Co-operative Movement*

It was in 1935 that Nigeria passed the first law giving official encouragement to the establishment of co-operative businesses. Since then co-operatives have ranged from farm marketing types to consumer self-service grocery stores. Even handicraft workers are organized into co-operative marketing associations and in Oyo there are wood-carving, leather-working, and calabash-carving co-operatives. One of the outstanding successes in the Western Region has been the establishment of more than 600 farm marketing co-operatives, which, according to the Government's Registry, handle 20 per cent. of all agricultural products exported from Western Nigeria. The annual turnover is approximately £4,000,000.

The Co-operative Bank of Ibadan, which was formed in 1953 with the help of an interest-free loan of £1 million from the Western Regional government, has more than doubled its assets and has built the city's most modern skyscraper. The bank is operated along traditional co-operative lines of one member one vote. It lends money at comparatively low interest rates to farm marketing co-operatives during the peak marketing season, often entering the commercial market itself to borrow funds for its members. There is a Registry of co-operatives and a team of inspectors which calls periodically on the co-operatives to check their operations, advise on administrative problems, and, if necessary, conduct feasibility surveys. The education and information side of the movement, 'Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria' (CUWN), serves as public relations consultant to the more than 1,000 co-operatives in the Western Region, and broadcasts a fortnightly programme in Yoruba, English, and other dialects if necessary. It also publishes a quarterly and supplies informative material. One of its main current projects is the establishment of credit unions, and it is also considering a co-operative printing plant and a mutual life and property insurance company.

### *The Historical Society of Nigeria, Fifth Annual Congress*

As reported briefly in the January number of *Africa*, the Fifth Annual Congress of the Historical Society of Nigeria was held in the Nigerian College of Arts, Science, and Technology at Enugu from 20 to 22 December.