

Mondouli, Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), or Mr. John M. Jansen, c/o Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

(Abridged from a communication by Mr. John M. Janzen)

*First African Population Conference, Ibadan, Nigeria, January 1966*

THE conference was sponsored and made possible by the Population Council of New York and excellently organized by Dr. Okonjo of the Centre of Population Studies, University of Ibadan, and Dr. Caldwell of the Australian National University. It provided the opportunity for some one hundred persons concerned with African population studies—demographers, sociologists, medicals, geographers, and others—to meet for inter-disciplinary discussion in this broad field. Representatives from eleven English-speaking countries and from twelve universities in tropical Africa were present, together with a number of students of African population from overseas. Preparatory to the conference more than fifty papers were submitted and these were circulated to participants. At the conference itself it was thus possible to apportion the major amount of time to discussion. This was always lively and valuable, and covered a wide range of topics—problems of census and planning for the next round of censuses, the need for vital statistics, and accelerating rates of population change to receive greater attention in development plans, being among the more important. Several visits of demographic interest were arranged in and around Ibadan. A most useful opportunity was provided for the interchange of ideas and information and in conclusion the conference passed a number of resolutions. These concerned the importance of reprinting Kuczynski's classic *Demographic Survey of the British Empire* with comments on this work in the light of current information, making available data with a central library of deposit for these in each African country, forming an association of statisticians and publishing a journal, and the urgent need for improving conditions for demographers and statisticians in government service in Africa. Papers submitted for the conference, together with the discussions, are being edited for publication, it is hoped, in 1967.

(Communicated by Dr. R. Mansell Prothero)

*'The Small Brave City-State'*

WE have received the following comments on the review by G. I. Jones of *The Small Brave City-State: a History of Nembe-Brass in the Niger Delta*, by Ebiegberi Joe Alagoa (*Africa*, xxxvi. 3, 1966, pp. 339-40):

Dr. E. J. Alagoa (Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan) writes:

'Allow me to make a few comments about Mr. G. I. Jones's review of my book, *The Small Brave City-State: a History of Nembe-Brass in the Niger Delta*.

'Mr. Jones strikes me as a man trying to stake out claims to territory, and therefore intolerant of trespassers. He has treated other contributors to Niger Delta history with similar intolerance. In a previous review of Dr. K. O. Dike's *Trade and Politics in the Niger Delta* (*Africa*, vol. xxvii, no. 1, pp. 83-85), he had insisted that certain sections of the book needed to be "revised" and unless that was done, the book would be unfair to the Bonny people! In the final paragraph of his present review, he goes beyond attack of my alleged unfairness to the Nembe state to impugn the scholarly integrity of all who had dared to encourage my first efforts.

'Mr. Jones's claims to be an authority on Niger Delta history are based on a number of years in the Nigerian administration (none of which seem to have been spent in the delta),