

ISSUE

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF OPINION

3(2)1973



PUBLISHED BY THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note

When the Committee on Current Issues was formed in the Spring of 1971, this journal was established as a medium for the statement of opinion on issues concerned with Africa. Since its first appearance in November of that year, *Issue* — in accordance with the Committee's directive — has been largely devoted to subjects involving the racial, colonial and neo-colonial domination of Africa with particular attention to the role and responsibilities of the United States and American interests. Two articles in this issue — "The South African Connection: From Polaroid to Oppenheimer" by Ruth First, and "Business As Usual - Transactions Violating Rhodesian Sanctions" by Stephen Park and Anthony Lake — are current responses to the continuing need for research into American support of white supremacy in Southern Africa.

In its discussion of political developments in Zambia during the decade following independence, the article by James Scarritt is a relevant departure from topics which have previously appeared in *Issue*. Professor Scarritt outlines the adjustments made by Europeans in Zambia to roles which are politically insignificant and indicates that European interest associations are now the major source of conflict between Africans and Europeans in Zambia.

Commentary on the Nigerian civil war completes this *Issue* and introduces another theme from several different perspectives. Morris Davis focuses on the little discussed events of June 1967 — events which were bypassed in the press as the violence erupted, but which are directly related to the economic causes of the war. The reaction within the United States to issues which consumed the press in 1968 (mainly questions surrounding Biafran relief) is the subject of an essay by Roy Melbourne. Pressures for change in official U.S. policy were offset by the non-interventionist stance of many black Americans who were deeply suspicious of various elements supporting Biafra. Angela Stent also refers to the irony of the international alignment in the Nigerian conflict in her article on the highly pragmatic response of the Soviet Union. The interest of the West in Biafra's oil (emphasized by Professor Davis), only lent credence to the Soviet analysis that developments which led to the secession of the Eastern Region in 1967 were nationalist in form but imperialist in content. The fact that the USSR was the only non-African state to give all-out support to the Federal Military Government has worked to Moscow's favor as, increasingly, Africans have begun to view Russian policies as "less colonial and more businesslike."

The effects of the war on writers and oral performers of Ibo origin are discussed by Ernest Emenyonu in his article on post-war writing in Nigeria. Reacting in a truly human way to the suffering caused by the conflict, many authors have produced works which designate the real heroes as "the masses who were menaced by the Nigerian aggression and defrauded by corrupt Biafran officials." Professor Emenyonu views the civil war as literarily productive and predicts that much of the fiction yet to be published in Nigeria will contain deep social criticism.

I regret that a series of unfortunate circumstances has delayed the publication in Issue of material from the several sessions organized by the Committee on Current Issues at the 1972 Annual Meeting. It will appear in Issue 3.

P.S.B.

ISSUE

A Quarterly Journal of Africanist Opinion

VOLUME III, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1973

Paula Stapleton Barker, *Editor*

The following members of the Committee on Current Issues have individually agreed to serve as Editorial Advisors:

Barbara Dubins	Wolf Rodger
Mlahleni Njisane	Richard Sklar
Maxwell Owusu	C. Sylvester Whitaker

Contents

- 2 **The South African Connection: From Polaroid to Oppenheimer**
 RUTH FIRST
- 7 **Business as Usual - Transactions Violating Rhodesian Sanctions**
 STEPHEN PARK and ANTHONY LAKE
- 18 **European Adjustment to Economic Reforms and**
 Political Consolidation in Zambia
 JAMES R. SCARRITT
- 23 **Negotiating About Biafran Oil**
 MORRIS DAVIS
- 33 **The American Response to the Nigerian Conflict, 1968**
 ROY M. MELBOURNE
- 43 **The Soviet Union and the Nigerian Civil War:**
 A Triumph of Realism
 ANGELA STENT
- 49 **Post-War Writing in Nigeria**
 ERNEST N. EMENYONU

Articles in *Issue, A Quarterly Journal of Opinion* represent neither the views of the African Studies Association nor those of its officers. The Editor is responsible for the final selection of the content of *Issue* and reserves the right to reject any material deemed inappropriate for publication. Responsibility for opinions expressed and for the accuracy of facts published in articles rests solely with the individual authors.

Copyright© 1973 by the AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION INC

Any author has the right to republish his article in whole or in part without requesting permission from the Association. Others desiring permission to republish material should apply to the Editor.