

Free Ghana—Free Africa

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I HAVE JUST recently returned from a trip to Ghana and saw the formal opening of the Volta River Dam. I think I should make known to you the progress of Ghana in the five or six years under an African President, progress that the British and ruling Chiefs did not do in the hundreds of years they ruled.

First there are State and Co-operative Farms, that did increase food production, in spite of lies of the press and radio. Chicken farms and cattle ranches at Pong-Tamale with over 700 herds, sheep ranches at Demon near Yende. In the North where the climate favours cereal farming, rice, ground nuts, and tubers are grown. In the South palm oil, cashew nuts, citrus fruits, tubers and vegetables are grown. In the Brong-Ahafo and Ashanti regions colanuts, fruits and vegetables grow. In farms in the Central, Western and Eastern regions tobacco, coffee, tubers and other crops grow. Cotton and sorghum are exclusively grown on state farms in the Volta region. None of this was there under British rule and the rule of the Chiefs. Most of the food was imported, especially beef.

To supply the country of Ghana with sufficient protein, the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, replaced traditional canoes with modern fishing boats, stepping up the development of fresh water fisheries and improving training facilities for fishermen, but the economic advisers to the new regime in Ghana say this should be cancelled because 'the fishing complex appeared to be an unviable project'. *Chicago Sun Times*, March 3rd, 1966.

There's a 1,740 acre Ghana Agricultural Milk Station at Nungua near Accra, that produces pasteurized milk. Fresh milk for the people was unknown under British rule and the rule of the Chiefs.

HEALTH CENTRES

Many health centres, hospitals and institutes have been added for the health and welfare of the people, in villages as well as cities. None of these were there under the rule of Britain. There are nearly 500 medical practitioners and dentists serving the 3,300 Government and Government-affiliated hospitals in the country. There are about fifty health centres in the country with medical officers attached to them. An important aspect of the expansion and improvement of the country's health services is the modernization of the existing hospitals. The Korle Bu hospital in Accra has been modernized. There are children and

maternity hospitals; surgical wards; an operating theatre; and modern operating centres. The mental hospital in Accra has a patient population of about 2,000; it is proposed to build five more mental hospitals in the region. A Malaria Unit is engaged in association with the World Health Organization on a Malaria Eradication Project which forms part of the world campaign to eradicate malaria. A Medical School has been established. A large number of Ghanaians are also studying medicine and hospital administration abroad.

INDUSTRIES

Before Ghana became independent, the country was almost without a single industry. Her economy depended largely on her agricultural resources, chiefly cocoa.

The price of cocoa was dropped at an alarming rate by the Western countries after the independence of Ghana, to impair the economy, but now Ghana has a candy factory at Tema that makes their own chocolate, called the 'Golden Tree'.

Formerly a great deal of money was spent on imported commodities like safety matches, shoes, nails, meat and fish, and luxuries like sweets, alcoholic drinks and cigarettes. Today, there are some ninety or more industries established throughout the length and breadth of the country. The progress so far made, has been the result of the Government's comprehensive industrial and economic programme.

Ghana now produces her own safety matches, paints, nails, biscuits, spirits, cooking utensils, roofing materials, canned fruits, meat and fish and has its own chemical factory for producing insecticides and other chemicals. There is also a steel works at Tema twenty miles from Accra.

Other factories in operation at the moment include two breweries, a milk processing plant, mattress, lorry and bicycle assembly plants and oil refinery.

Oil drilling was begun at Atiavi and Angola in the Volta region. High grade bauxite has been discovered in the Kibi area in the Eastern region and a twenty-mile strip of gold ore deposit was found along the Offin River. Various types of granite rocks in many regions could be used for putting up massive buildings. Some of the other minerals discovered are talc for toothpaste and vim, chromite, from which high tensile steel can be manufactured, and bauxite which abounds in almost all regions for producing aluminium. All this leads the *Chicago Daily News*, February 24th, 1966, to say 'Ghana potentially is one of the wealthiest states of West Africa'.

A factory to produce pre-fabricated houses for between 220 and 250 people per week was started full scale in December 1965. Now the new

Government will scrap this project says the *Sun Times*, March 3rd, 1966. The Nkrumah Government had decided to provide workers' houses in two residential areas, one at Odorkor in Accra, for 22,000 persons and the other at Community No. 3 at Tema for 11,000. During the four-year period of building the Volta River Dam over 80,000 persons were relocated into better housing. All of this was done since the British left Ghana.

The State Textile Manufacturing Corporation at Tema is now producing large quantities of material of different designs and colours, which formerly had to be imported from European countries.

EDUCATION

Again, look at the picture regarding education since the British left. In 1957 there were 3,372 primary schools with an enrolment of 455,749 and 931 middle schools with an enrolment of 115,831; by 1963 this had grown to 6,034 primary and 1,252 middle schools with an enrolment of 700,980 and 160,000 pupils respectively. There were 23,000 pupils at High Schools in 1963 as against 9,860 in 1957.

Primary and middle schools are entirely free and compulsory. Parents pay no fees and buy no books. Secondary school students are also supplied free books. From this you can see the tremendous advance of education in the six or seven years that Ghana has had its independence.

Now why am I telling you this? Because I am sure that most of you have no knowledge of what has been going on in Ghana other than the poison press of the West. I plan to show by facts and figures that under the guidance of President Nkrumah, the people did receive benefits and the label of 'Despot' is a lie by the very people that had him deposed. Under the British the people had nothing, but the same press has not made it known to you.

There was great jubilation among the Western powers and their hirelings over the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah, but let us keep a cool head and a clear mind, because Ghana has a long way to go to find out that it requires brains and much hard work to run a country. What has happened in Ghana in the past six years has infuriated the power structure and Kwame Nkrumah wasn't their 'boy' so they had to get rid of him.

I was in Ghana in 1957, 1960, 1962 and 1966. I took many pictures of the building and other improvements as positive proof of what the Government was doing for the people. I saw none of these things in 1957 and I was all over the country. Mud huts were the order of the day. Today some of the villages have electricity, prefabricated houses and running water. I made pictures of Tema in 1957 which was a small

mud hut village. Today it is a shining city of 50,000 or more population, with sidewalks, electricity, pre-fabricated houses and modern conveniences. This proves that the Ghana Government was not spending the money on themselves and sending it out of the country. On the contrary the reason they couldn't find any money that Nkrumah had in foreign banks is that he never sent any out to put in there in the first place.

WHY THEY HATE NKROMAH

The power structure hates Nkrumah because he is a man. And as William R. Frye, writing in the *Sun Times*, February 27th, 1966, said, 'What is involved, and what makes the problem so explosive, is a profoundly compulsive drive by black men to prove—and force white men to acknowledge—that they are the equal of whites in every field of endeavour: political, economic, cultural, spiritual'.

The structure also fears Nkrumah because he is fearless and smart. This is one thing a white racist cannot forgive in a black man. William H. Stoneman reporting from London for the *Daily News*, February 24th, 1966, stated, 'Nkrumah is regarded by the British as one of the most dangerous figures in Africa'. Yes, Nkrumah is the most 'dangerous' figure in Africa today, because he is a man who knows the enemy, and does not hesitate to name names, quote phrases that the enemy has stated and speak out fearlessly on issues that affect Africa and people of African descent wherever they may be. He well realizes that Africa must be for the Africans, all Africans, not just a select few and in his words 'the so-called little man, the bent-backed exploited, malnourished, blood-covered fighter for independence, the African that lives in the mud huts, not only in Africa, and kept there by generations of British rule and condoned by the Chiefs'.

He realizes that as long as the West has rule over the economy of Africa, freedom is meaningless. He is not for tokenism or a small number of privileges, while his brother still suffers the same indignities that was meted out under colonial rule.

Those mad men in power, who think that Africa belongs to a select few and not to all the people are flirting with death. That day died when Britain pulled out and it will never return. I am a descendant of Africa and it was men like these who have taken over Ghana, that deprived me of my birthright. These same kind of mad men helped the Europeans and Americans to send their own brothers into slavery across the seas, because of greed, selfishness and ignorance. So, I too, have a share in Africa, it is my homeland even if I never see it again, and I'll fight to set it free and drive the intruders out.

THE SHAME OF AFRICA

The shame of Africa and people of African descent is that we still have people that will sell out to the enemy for privileges and the thought of prestige and money. All Africans and people of African descent everywhere should be ashamed of the fact, that as the *Tribune* editorial of February 26th, 1966, points out 'Two African Governments overthrown by revolution in 1964; four overthrown in all of 1965, and already four overthrown in the first seven weeks of 1966. Who is behind the seizure by the armies of these Governments?' The *Tribune* doesn't say, but we know who instigated the overthrows and who acted as puppets to carry out the orders of their neo-colonial masters, and we know that the *Tribune* knows.

'Neo-colonialism,' says Nkrumah, 'is based upon the principle of breaking up former large united colonial territories into a number of small non-viable states which are incapable of independent development and must rely upon the former imperial power for defence and even internal security. Their economic and financial systems are linked, as in colonial days, with those of the former colonial ruler.'

In Lagos, Nigeria, Ghanaian lackey exiles promised to call on Britain and America if Nkrumah tried to regain control. And yet the *Tribune* doesn't know who was behind the overthrow of the different Governments. The lackeys of these governments wish again to live under the rule of the British and imperialist America, they are boys with no hope of ever becoming men.

The colonial powers are worried about the image of Nkrumah. They're out to end the Nkrumah myth. Says the *Tribune*, February 26th, 1966, 'Putting an end to the Nkrumah myth will not be an easy task. Dozens of schools, streets, squares, stadiums and other public places will have to be renamed. Text books will have to be rewritten and the youth of Ghana will have to be re-educated to see the former President in true perspective.'

Whose image do they want the children to have—Queen Elizabeth or L. B. Johnson? At any rate the image should be white. The names of the streets, public places, etc., should be British or American, then the children of black Ghana will get the right perspective. Before Nkrumah came the images were all white. The children read all about *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Ten Little Niggers* by Agatha Christie (who changed the title for America to *Ten Little Indians*), the white Queen of England, little golden-haired-white-faced boys and girls of England playing in snow. All foreign to a child that lives all its life in the tropics, grows up and dies and if he never leaves home, which thousands don't, never actually sees snow. The thought of

losing his image infuriates the colonial master and he gets brainless stooges to carry out a senseless coup.

LET'S FREE AFRICA

Must we continue to glorify and deify the white image? When are we going to become Freedom Fighters in the true sense? Have you asked yourself why we still cringe and crawl after the white image? The writing of books has been well advanced in Ghana, because Nkrumah finally made the people see that the African must have a personality and that personality must be black. He has often stated 'I live not for myself but for the good of the whole people. The socialist ideals which we pursue, must imbue all with a spirit of selfless devotion to the cause of the nation, to the cause of Africa and to the cause of the world'. I heard him say the same thing in a different setting nearly thirty years ago and I know that he is dedicated to the complete, unselfish redemption of Africa.

Yes, Ghana has been taken over by misguided men, Nkrumah has been ousted, but only for a little while. He did his work too well for the people of Ghana not to fight for the ideas he has instilled into them.

Let Rhodesia and Ian Smith rejoice; let there be dancing in the street, breaking of statues, burning of books; but let all listen and beware, there is a wind of change blowing throughout the world and men will be free. All men will be free. Let the United States send soldiers to be killed 'freeing' the people of South Vietnam, while the Indians live in poverty and hunger in America on reservations and the African-American lives in slums in the North and tents in the South. They can't push time back; the wretched of the earth will be free.

Each and everyone seem to think that he can run his affairs, and be a carbon copy of his colonial masters. What they don't realize is that the way of life the colonial masters had, is gone forever. Each and everyone will share in the wealth of this earth, or no one will share in peace. So to the rulers of Ghana, Nkrumah has gone, but he left an imprint and image on the hearts and minds of each and every man, woman and child in Ghana and throughout the world. What is needed now is for each and every one of us to bring, not only Ghana, but all of Africa into the plan of Africa for the Africans at home and abroad.

Long live Nkrumah! Let's free Africa, thereby freeing ourselves.