



Highlights of Development —

a Pictorial Overview.....	4
Architects of a Decade of Achievement.....	10
Ten Years of Progress and Development.....	11
1968 (April-December).....	12
1969.....	14
1970.....	16
1971.....	18
1972.....	20
1973.....	22
1974.....	24
1975.....	26
1976.....	28
1977.....	30
1978 (January-April).....	32
The Way Ahead.....	34

Photographic Black and white by the Photographic Division, Government Information Services, and Christine Osborne (pp 6-7, 2-5, 11); p93 no 11; p24 no 1, 3; p33 nos 9, 121. Edited by Christine Osborne and the Photographic Division Government Information Services (not no 1). Issued by bundles.

PUBLISHED BY
THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

By the beginning of April 1988, after nearly seven years of Independence, both Africa and the world had almost lost faith in the ability of Sierra Leone governments to rule the country and meet their responsibilities at home and abroad. The great expectations raised at the time of Independence had failed to materialize. While many African countries were surging forward under the impact of political and economic liberation, the economy of Sierra Leone remained stagnant and shackled. In a backward world in which no one could have predicted the oil crisis and recession of the early 70s, living standards in Sierra Leone reached their lowest level with shortages and hardships affecting almost every household. Foreign companies still retained a controlling interest in the country's main natural resources and a handful of privileged Sierra Leoneans shared among themselves land which out of the country's much of what the foreigners did not take. A growing number of Sierra Leoneans felt that colonial rule had merely given way to the more oppressive rule of local minority.

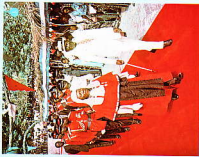
Albroad, the country was rapidly acquiring the reputation of a banana republic subject to coups and counter-coups — a situation which inspired little confidence in its future and drastically limited the level of foreign aid and credits at a time when the economic boom in the more developed countries would have allowed a far larger measure of internationalism in Sierra Leone than has been economically possible in more recent years.

When the era of misses opportunities finally came to an end and the will of the people, clearly expressed in a general election, eventually triumphed with the advent to power of the All People's Congress, headed by its founder, Dr. Sanku Siereem, some foreigners remained sceptical. Underestimating the

APC's nationwide grassroots popularity and its ability to exercise with devotion, resistance and firmness the mandate it had received from the people, the critics assessed the life expectancy of the APC government as under two years, and speculated that another coup was almost inevitable. Little did they understand or appreciate the support enjoyed by the APC and Dr. Stoku Stevens among all sections of the population throughout the country, including, of course, the rank and file of the army. And sporadic disturbances and riots engineered by a few disgruntled individuals craving for their lost privileges attracted much publicity abroad and further delayed the establishment of confidence in the country and legitimate sovereignty.

Today, a full decade of broken APC rule and all-round achievement have given the lie to the cynics of the late 40s and frustrated the vain hopes of the neo-colonial-makers. Thanks to the record of integrity, patriotism and achievement of the APC leadership and the personal prestige of President Sika Stevens, the Sierra Leone government commands the loyalty and support of the overwhelming majority of the population, as well as the confidence of Africa and the world.

As we stand on the threshold of a new era of progress and development — now hopefully unshackled by strife at home and lack of confidence abroad — it is fitting to recall, however briefly, the highlights of a decade of extraordinary effort, sacrifice and fulfilment — a decade which has not only proved the mettle of the APC and brought about lasting, significant and unprecedented achievements, but which has also laid the foundation for a much faster rate of development, opening new vistas of social and economic advancement for the mass of the long suffering people of Sierra Leone.



POLITICAL STABILITY

With the advent to power of the APC in April 1968, a Parliamentary form of government was established in Sierra Leone. Despite attempts by constitutional groups to overthrow by force the constitutional order, legality and stability have prevailed for over a decade. During this period some aspects of the British system, inherited from the colonial era, have been blended with African traditions or adapted to modern conditions; and a Republican Presidential system was introduced in March 1971.

On March 26, 1976, Parliament elected Dr. Siaka Stevens to serve a second term of office as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and he was inaugurated on April 20, 1976.

President Siaka Stevens shortly after his inauguration. He is accompanied by the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice C. O. E. Cole, who administered the oath of office.

AGRICULTURE

Taking into account the country's great agricultural potential and the farming background of the majority of the population, the APC Government has made it its major task to transform the relatively primitive agriculture of a decade ago into a modern, highly productive and diversified system. Adapted to fit into the traditional way of life of the rural people, the system is based on cooperatives as well as individual farms and provides for integrated social, agricultural and agro-industrial

development designed to ensure appreciably higher living standards for farmers and their families.

Moreover, government subsidies and incentives prompt farmers to increase yields and try new crops and techniques. As a result, the Government's primary goal of self-sufficiency in rice and other staple foodstuffs is close to realization; rubber and sugar cane farms have been started; and growing agro-industries include mills processing palm products, coffee and benintened used to produce low-cost high-protein baby food. The "protein gap" is also being filled by the livestock development programme which includes a widespread animal disease control scheme and the import of cattle to upgrade the existing genetic stock.

The Opao demonstration farm begun by experts from People's China in 1974 and now managed by Sierra Leoneans as a productive unit.

MINING

Heavily dependent on its mineral resources for its export earnings, Sierra Leone faced time-banking at the end of the 1960s with the impending closure of the iron ore and rutile mines, and a high level of diamond smuggling.

President Stevens and the APC Government faced the formidable task of restoring the confidence of foreign investors while at the same time ensuring that Sierra Leone received a higher proportion of earnings from mining activities and increasing the participation of nationals in the industry.



The realisation of these goals is now in sight, and much has already been achieved. Increased investments in bauxite mining have resulted in production rising from an average of 16,000 tons p.a. in the mid-1960s to some 700,000 tons today, and rutile mining is being resumed on a much larger scale than in the past. The reopening of iron ore mines is projected and a geological survey now underway has already shown promising possibilities including indications of oilfield oil.

At the same time, a growing number of Sierra Leoneans occupy middle and top management posts in the mining industry, the Government has acquired a controlling interest in all major mining ventures, and the policy of allowing free competition among authorised diamond dealers to ensure higher prices for alluvial miners has considerably reduced diamond smuggling.

- Alluvial miners are now able to afford for diamonds.
- Diamond miners return from a shift.

INDUSTRY

The advances made by Sierra Leonean industry since 1968 offer a sharp contrast to the stagnation of the early 1960s. Yet the ANC's National Development Plan seeks to ensure that the growth of industry should not be at the expense of other sectors of the economy and emphasises industries based on the country's own natural and human resources, especially agro-based and labour-intensive processes.

The many projects set up recently have more than doubled the labour force in the modern areas of industry



and have considerably increased export earnings while reducing the need for imports. Food, timber, diamonds, tobacco and oil palm fruit and kernels are among materials processed, and manufactured items include textiles and clothing, beverages, household goods, bricks, motor vehicles and a variety of chemicals.

- A mill at the Worthington Paper Oil Factory.
- Oil-removal at the Worthington Factory.

SELF-HELP

In promoting the self-help concept, President Sierras has successfully tapped the enthusiasm, abilities and initiative of the nation. With a measure of assistance from the Government, in the form of funds, materials and expertise, local self-help brigades have constructed roads, bridges, hospitals and schools and brought under cultivation many acres of virgin land.

Prominent among self-help projects has been the Mulford scheme, personally inspired and sponsored by the Vice-President, Mr. S. I. Karoma, in his home Chiefdom — a scheme which resulted in a 34-bed extension to the Port Loko Hospital, a secondary school for 300 pupils, and an impressive community building.

In addition to spending infrastructural development, self-help projects have brought Sierra Leoneans together in building for the common good, helping to create a greater unity which transcends social and tribal distinctions.

- A self-help brigade building a school at Port Loko.
- Many roads have been built by self-help.



FISHING

Aware of the rich potential of Sierra Leone's marine resources, the Government is working to establish the necessary infrastructure for the successful development of the fishing industry. Investment in fisheries through joint ventures by both the public and private sectors is encouraged, and training facilities have been set up to impart fisheries in modern methods of fishing, fish handling and processing.

Several studies of marine and freshwater fish stocks and fishing techniques include the Sardisella project, aimed at locating the breeding areas and populations of marine fish with a view to their rational exploitation over the long term.

Though much fishing still follows traditional methods, mechanisation and modern trawling techniques are progressively raising the fish yield. As a result, the past 10 years has seen a doubling of the per capita fish consumption, the establishment of a fish canning plant, growing exports of lobster and shrimp.

● Fishing is rapidly becoming modernized.

WORK

The past decade has seen a dramatic increase in the per capita income in Sierra Leone, at times as much as 35% annually. Though suffering both from world economic recession and from the employment difficulties inevitable

in the transition to an industrial economy, the employment situation is steadily improving. Today, there are over 100,000 wage earners, and Sierra Leoneans, benefitting from their greatly expanded educational opportunities, are rapidly moving into the technical and managerial posts formerly largely held by foreigners.

In its drive to improve job opportunities, the Government offers vigorous encouragement not only to the major industries but also to the country's many small businesses, and has been making every effort to upgrade the quality of technical and specialized training, including the establishment of an apprenticeship scheme.

Harmonious labour relations and good working conditions have now been achieved through Government mediation between different trade union interests, and preliminary steps have been taken towards the establishment of a Social Security Scheme to supplement the private savings facilities offered by the National Insurance Company set up by the present administration.

● Roadbuilding schemes provide employment.

● Skilled work in a modern factory.

HOUSING

Recognising that investment in housing is an investment in human beings, the APC Government has encouraged housing programmes while working to integrate these into Sierra Leone's overall development structure and giving priority to the improvement of traditional materials and methods. The Ministry of Housing offers loans for home



improvements and ensures the orderly growth of towns and villages, while low-income groups are assisted by Government house-building projects. A Housing Finance Company, to assist those wishing to buy or build their own homes, is shortly to be established.

- ① A Government two-car housing scheme at Kiny.
- ② Old and new housing in Freetown.

BUILDING

Though retaining much of the old-world charm so captivating to the tourist, over the past 10 years Freetown has been enhanced by an ever-increasing number of attractive new public and commercial buildings. City Hall, the New Printing Complex, the Nurses' Training School, the Kingston Power Station, the APC Building, and Electricity House are only some of the recently constructed buildings which are modernising the skyline of Freetown.

- ③ The ultra-modern J. F. Kennedy Memorial Building houses Freetown University's Faculty of Economics.
- ④ Freetown's new Town Hall.

BRIDGES

In their drive to improve the infrastructure and establish an efficient transport network, the APC Government has undertaken a major bridgebuilding programme which has revitalised several areas formerly held back by poor communications and is thus contributing to the

consolidation of national unity as well as to economic growth.

The new Mano River, Kambia and Minge bridges are instrumental in improving economic relations between Sierra Leone and the neighbouring States of Liberia and Guinea, as well as fulfilling Sierra Leone's commitments to the Trans-African Highway system. Among other important bridges recently completed are the Sufina, Sandia and Congo Cross bridges; a number of others are in the course of construction.

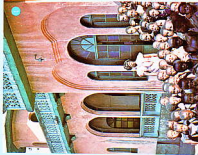
- ⑤ New bridges at Congo Cross and Oyoja.

ROADS

For much of the past 10 years, road-building has received the largest share of the National Development Budget, and the social and economic benefits of improved communications are now becoming apparent. Among the more than 300 miles of paved road built since the APC took office are the Freetown-Waitafree, Tortelli-Kono, Baura-Yomatima, Talansa-Su and Lunari Makutu roads. Many more miles of secondary feeder and access roads have also been constructed, often through self-help projects, giving Sierra Leone a total of over 4,300 miles of road and allowing the operation of a coastside bus service. Traffic systems in urban areas have also been greatly improved.

- ⑥ The new Freetown-Lane road.
- ⑦ A roadster bus in Freetown.





EDUCATION

Over the past decade, Sierra Leone has made great strides toward President Stevens's goal of universal free primary education. Throughout this period, the Government has allocated over a fifth of the national budget to education. Partly as a result of this, the number of children at school has doubled since 1960, and the number in secondary education has risen sixfold.

Agricultural training, formerly neglected, is now stressed throughout the school system as part of the President's policy of educational relevance. Practical courses in such subjects as telecommunications, refrigeration and plumbing are now offered by the Freeport Technical Institute and the Magboraka Trade Centre, while other vocational schools teach the skills needed by industry and commerce and the teacher-training colleges are expanding rapidly.

The University of Sierra Leone (which incorporates the 150-year-old Fourah Bay College, for many years Africa's only institution of higher education south of the Sahara) has been enriched, with Government support and encouragement, and a new campus added.

- The Islamic School at Mawadiga Mosque.
- Pupils at Freeport's Roosevelt Girls' School.

CULTURE

Cultural activities in Sierra Leone have blossomed under the encouragement of the APC Government and its

concern both for the preservation of the traditional forces in cultural life and for the institution of the new.

The development of the Press and Broadcasting has been a prime target over the past decade and has achieved a radio audience of well over half the population, while the television service will soon be nationwide. A number of part-time and mobile libraries, in addition to the major libraries in Freetown and the provincial centres, are now bringing culture as well as education to schools and rural areas.

The traditional cultural heritage of Sierra Leone is most fully expressed in the National Dance Troupe, who won accolades at the 2nd World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture resulting in many requests to appear abroad.

The richness of the Krio language has also gained international recognition and Britain's prestigious Oxford University Press is now publishing a multi-volume Krio dictionary.

- The National Dance Troupe.
- Dancer in a traditional mask.

TOURISM

Sierra Leone is achieving considerable success in exploiting her many attractions for the tourist, and employment in this sector is growing rapidly.

Lunley Beach, with its untapped silver sands only 10 miles from Freetown, now offers greatly improved tourist facilities and luxury air-conditioned accommodation.



Eighty chalets have been added to the modern Cape Sierra Hotel, with its swimming pool, restaurant, sports club and shopping arcade, while the newly completed five-star Biltmore Hotel has accommodation for 300 guests and an international conference centre catering for 600.

Freetown offers modern hotels and restaurants, a spectacular setting at the foot of Lion Mountain (from which the country takes its name), and a glimpse into traditional African culture with its African Museum, spectacular dance troupes, and the craft centre where valuable artifacts may be purchased. Other attractions, increasingly accessible as the road network improves, include the magnificent scenery of the Binti Muli mountain, the "port water cave" at York village and the caves on Buntol Island. Plans are underway to form the Bumbali and Koinadaga areas, with their rich and varied wildlife, into game reserves.

● The new Biltmore Hotel at Aberdeen.

SPORT

Football, cricket, boxing, tennis and golf have always been popular in Sierra Leone, and standards are rising as the Government drive to improve sports training and facilities takes effect.

The new Freetown Stadium and Sports Complex, built with Chinese assistance, illustrates the importance attached to sporting activity of every type. Seating 30,000, its up-to-date facilities include a bond accommodating 200, three swimming pools, a modern lorry truck for



athletics, and an electronic scoreboard. Facilities on similar lines are projected for provincial centres.

● Freetown's new sports stadium.

HEALTH

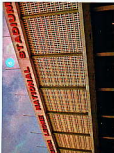
Deeply concerned for the improvement of the nation's health, President Siarra and the APC have made every effort to raise the standard of medicine and health care throughout Sierra Leone. Their goal of a Health Centre in every chiefdom of over 20,000 population is now close to being reached.

Country-wide efforts, backed by the World Health Organization, have brought several once-prevalent endemic diseases under control, eradicated smallpox, and mitigated the effects of leprosy. An extended and active programme of immunisation for children and would-be mothers is in progress, as is the provision of under-five clinics.

The hospital building and expansion programme has also greatly increased both the capacity, and the quality, of the hospital services.

Much has also been achieved in the field of medical training. The Coraught Hospital now offers internships to trainee doctors, the first step towards becoming a fully-fledged medical school, while the National School of Nursing, opened in 1969, is graduating a steady flow of qualified nurses who are supplemented by Government-sponsored nursing aides and other paramedical staff.

● Nursing care at Freetown's General Hospital.



●



**The President
Dr. Siaka Stevens**

His Excellency Dr. Siaka Prebyn Stevens, whose first 10 years of office are celebrated here, showed early evidence of the qualities of leadership to which Sierra Leone owes so much.

Born in the Moyamba district of the Protectorate on August 24, 1905, he was educated at the Albert Academy in Freetown. After joining the Sierra Leone police force at 18, he soon rose to the rank of sergeant. He left the police for railway work in 1930, becoming a station master.

His long association with the trade union movement, which makes him today the doyen of trade unionism in Sierra Leone, began in 1943 when

he helped found the United Mineworkers Union, of which he later became General Secretary.

He served as a district and city councillor and in 1945 became a member of the Protectorate Assembly, where he represented workers' interests. Two years later he won a British Council scholarship and went to England to study industrial relations at Keeble College, Oxford.

Elected to the Legislative Council by the Protectorate Assembly in 1951, he became Minister of Mines, Lands and Labour but left this post in 1957 to join the People's National Party as Deputy Leader.

He was a member of the United National Front Delegation formed by all the political parties to negotiate an independence constitution with the British Government at the 1960 conference in London. Disagreeing sharply with some of the Conference decisions, Dr. Stevens displayed the courage of his convictions in refusing to sign the agreements, and was soon afterwards expelled from membership of the People's National Party.

He then formed his own All People's Congress Party in 1960, campaigning strongly for his policies. Demonstrations of popular support for his stand brought trouble with the authorities, who sentenced him to imprisonment in June 1961. The sentence was quashed on appeal, however, and his party contested the 1962 post-independence election in alliance with the progressive independence movement.

Continuing to play a leading role even while in opposition, Dr. Stevens devoted his energies, industry and leadership to ensuring the success of the APC in the historic General Election of 1967.

Dr. Stevens's attempt to form a government after winning this election was disrupted by a military coup which gave short-lived power to a group of army officers. Before long, however, the rank and file of the army overthrew its self-appointed leaders and thus made it possible for Dr. Stevens to form a civilian government and ensure order, legality and stability in the country.

The decade that has elapsed since has been one of

achievement and progress for the nation and of growing prestige, both nationally and internationally, for President Siaka Stevens. The following pages present a pictorial record of some landmarks in Sierra Leone's steady advance on the paths of unity, stability and development, under the guidance of President Siaka Stevens and the APC Government.



**The Vice-President
Mr. S. I. Koroma**

Mr. Sorie Ibrahim Koroma has been closely associated with President Stevens in the task of Sierra Leone's development for almost 20 years.

Born in Port Loko on April 27 1927, he joined the Sierra Leone Civil Service in 1951 and worked in the Co-operative Department in many Districts. In 1958 he undertook studies at the Co-operative College in Ibadan, Nigeria, but his hopes of studying further in England were rendered impossible by lack of funds. To augment his savings, he began working in transport and was instrumental in forming the motor Transport Drivers Union, whose first General Secretary he became.

One of the founders of the APC, he was detained with Dr. Stevens in 1960 and after his release was elected City Councillor of Freetown. In 1962 he was elected to the House of Representatives as a member of Dr. Stevens's opposition. His political career led

UNDER THE APC AND PRESIDENT SIAKA STEVENS

to a series of confrontations with the then ruling party and he was imprisoned for 18 months. Reintegrated, he continued to play an active part on the opposition front bench and also, in 1964, was appointed an alderman of the Freetown City Council under Dr. Stevens as Mayor, later acting as Mayor himself.

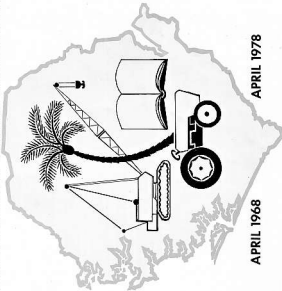
Mr. Koroma was organizing secretary for the successful 1967 elections. After holding two Ministries in the APC Government, he became the first Vice-President of the new Republic in 1971.



The Prime Minister

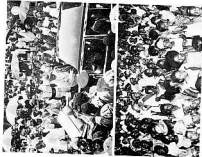
Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor

Christian Alusine Kamara-Taylor has been Prime Minister of Sierra Leone since 1975 and was for many years Secretary-General of the APC Party. Born in Freetown in 1917, he was educated at the London School of Accountancy and served in Burma during World War II. He was first elected to Parliament in 1962 and re-elected in the historic General Election of 1967. In the first APC government he was Minister of Lands, Mines and Labour but became Minister of Finance in the first Republican Government, combining this office, after becoming Prime Minister, with the two other Ministries. In 1977 he was re-appointed as Prime Minister and continues also as Minister of Housing and Country Planning.



APRIL 1968

APRIL 1978



April 19 — Sierra Leone makes history in Africa by being the first country in which the army overthrows its self-appointed leaders and hands over the reins of government to the constitutionally elected civilian.

April 26 — Dr. Siaka Stevens, founder and President of the All People's Congress (APC) — the party which had won the last general election, but had been prevented by force from forming a government — is re-appointed Prime Minister by the then Acting Governor-General. Commentators note that in the re-appointment of Dr. Stevens, on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the country's independence, Sierra Leone regains the glory of stability and the constitutional order she had lost some 13 months earlier when a group of army officers failed to force the will of the people and usurped power.

Dr. Siaka Stevens, returning to the capital after 13 months of exile, is elected through the streets.

Addressing the country on radio and television, the Prime Minister calls upon the people to "forget the past, work for the present and look forward to the future" so that Sierra Leone would be able to take "her rightful place amongst the nations of Africa and the world". He adds: "There is not much we can celebrate today. The kitty is empty and I think you will agree with me that what is necessary at this time is that we should grid our belts and prepare ourselves for the onerous tasks that lie ahead to put this country on a sound financial basis. Our political independence will not mean much if our economy is railed..."



April 28 — Prime Minister Stevens appoints his first 10-man Cabinet which includes (from left) Mr. S. I. Karoma, as Minister of Trade and Industry, and (7th from left) Mr. C. A. Karmura-Taylor.

April 29 — The Prime Minister receives delegations representing the Sierra Leone Labour Congress and university students from Nigeria who congratulate him and pledge their support.

May 7 — Heads of diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone call on the Prime Minister to convey the felicitations of their respective Heads of State and Government on his recent appointment and assure him of the full cooperation of their governments. Dr. Stevens also receives representatives of youth organizations and calls on them to take an active part in the country's affairs.

Others who call on the Prime Minister to congratulate him and assure him of their support include representatives of Christian churches, Freetown Chiefs and Allajias and Allajias from all over Sierra Leone.

June 4 — Thousands of people from all walks of life assemble round the Prime Minister's private residence at Brookfield to express their joy and sing hymns. The Daily Mail notes that never before in the history of Sierra Leone has a Prime Minister been so acclaimed by a jubilant crowd. Ladies organize a splendid picnic and later their leaders drink a toast to the Prime Minister.

June 5 — Parliament meets for the first time after more than 13 months of military rule. Members elect a new

Speaker and take an oath of allegiance. The meeting, at which the Prime Minister makes a statement, is attended by 67 out of 78 members. The approaches to Parliament are packed with dancing and cheering crowds.

July 1 — Parliament approves the budget for 1968/69 — a budget in which education becomes the largest area of government spending with an allocation of Le7 million out of a total of Le11.5 million, with health in second place.

July 4 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, is elected and posed by Chief Motor Driver of Sierra Leone as a mass meeting of public and taxi drivers in Freetown.

July 11 — The people of Sierra Leone demonstrate their confidence in the future and in government policies by over-subscribing the proposed share capital of the newly established Development Bank. Opening the Bank, the Prime Minister says it is significant that Sierra Leoneans are participating for the first time in the capital structure of a banking institution in their country.

August 2 — The Sierra Leone Electricity Corporation obtains a \$3.9 million loan from the World Bank to improve the power supply in several parts of the country. The Government assumes financial control of the Corporation.

August 14 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, receives thousands of telegrams and messages from individuals and organizations in all parts of the country and abroad congratulating him on his 64th birthday and wishing him success in his endeavours.



October 27 — The APC wins a landslide victory in the by-election for Members of the House of Representatives in the Kono and Koinadugu constituencies.

October 31 — Sierra Leone acquires its first oil refinery and begins to import crude oil instead of petrol.

November 2 — The biggest diamond ever found in Sierra Leone — a 790-carat industrial stone — is brought to the District office where it is examined by the Prime Minister.

November 8 — The APC and the SLPP win four seats each in by-elections held in constituencies in Kallabat, Bointhe and Moyamba. This brings the state of the parties in Parliament to APC 42, SLPP 10, Independents 6 and Paramount Chiefs 12.

December 3 — The Government signs a new agreement with the Diamond Corp. West Africa Ltd. under which revenue from alluvial diamond mining is increased and the Corporation forgives its 1% service charge fee.

December 17 — Nineteen army officers, who were detained when the country returned to civilian rule in April, are released and reintegrated into the military forces.

December 19 — Parliament unanimously decides to end the National Government which came into existence in April and to revert to the party system.

December 29 — Dr. Siaka Stevens flies to Liberia for talks with President W. V. S. Tubman — his second visit abroad since his reappointment as Prime Minister, the first, to Guinea, having taken place earlier in the month.





January 1 — The Governments and five major oil companies (Shell, BP, Mobil, Texaco and Agip) form a joint company to operate the newly completed state-owned Sierra Leone oil refinery. The Government holds 50% of the equity of the new operating company.

January 4 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, flies to London to lead the Sierra Leone delegation at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

January 26 — Sierra Leoneans turn out in force to pay their last respects to Sir Henry Fofah Lightfoot Boston, the first indigenous Governor General, whose body has been flown from London for a state funeral in Freetown. Thousands, including the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet, attend the funeral service.

January 28 — No. 12 Plant — the second modern diamond recovery unit — is installed at the Sierra Leone Selection Trust Vengema mine — is officially opened by Mr. C. A. Kamara-Taylor, the Minister of Lands, Mines and Labour.

February 1 — The Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, Mr. S. B. Nicol, announces that Sierra Leone's external reserves doubled in a year from Le12.7 million in January 1968 to Le23 million at the end of the year.

February 12 — The University of Sierra Leone is inaugurated with academic pomp and pageantry. Sir Samuel Bankole Jones is installed as the first Chancellor by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S. T. Maitani.



February 21 — The Government takes the first official step towards the establishment of a Sierra Leone Republic by appointing a committee of 30 members to examine proposals for a Republican Constitution.

March 2 — The President's Water Supply scheme, incorporating a reservoir of 11,000 gallons, is commissioned, bringing to 13 the number of provincial towns recently provided with clean, piped water. The work was carried out by a specialized French firm in cooperation with the Sierra Leone Construction Company and the Ministry of Works. Eight more towns are to be supplied with piped water under the agreement concluded with the French firm.

April 24 — Sierra Leone's International Airport at Lungi, modernized and extended at a cost of Le4.8 million to meet international civil aviation requirements, is officially opened by the Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, at a ceremony during which traditional dances demonstrate their own flying techniques. Plans for the further development of the airport are under consideration.

April 27 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, broadcasts to the nation on the eve of the 8th anniversary of independence and declares that "there are visible signs of improvement in the economy of Sierra Leone."

May 18 — The Prime Minister confers with President Richard Nixon in Washington and later tells the press that Sierra Leone needs financial and technical help from richer nations to build up her economy.

June 6 — Parliament responds and is told in the speech from the Throne that social services are to be improved, including the provision of better health care and low-cost housing. The Speech also pledges the Government to accord the highest priority to development aid, in particular, to intensify construction, open more airports, and improve internal and external telecommunications.

June 28 — The Government announces a substantial reduction in school and boarding fees while the price of beer is increased by 2 cents. The new budget provides at the same time for more primary schools, such as ☐. It also reveals that foreign exchange reserves are up by Le12 million and that greater incentives are to be offered to investors.

June 28 — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia arrives for talks with Prime Minister Stevens and congratulates the Sierra Leone armed forces for allowing Parliament to resume its normal responsibilities.

July 16 — Parliament approves Le10,300,000 for two agricultural projects and slaughterhouses, including the Gambia Oil Palm and Cocoa Project.

July 19 — The Government appoints a national committee on the Africanization of commerce and industry with particular reference to the training of Sierra Leoneans and their employment in positions of responsibility in companies and firms operating in Sierra Leone.

August 8 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens,

officially opens an extension of the Connaught Hospital where he visits a new children's ward ☐.

August 18 — A threatened nationwide strike by electricity workers, which would have resulted in a total blackout of the whole country, is averted at the last minute by the personal intervention of the Prime Minister.

August 21 — On the eve of his birthday, Prime Minister Siaka Stevens gives an interview to the *Freetown Daily Mail* in which he declares that "the Government will be able to devote more resources to development and economic progress than it has in the past."

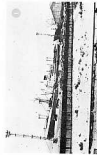
November 3 — The state-owned Gambia Valley Water Company embarks on an extensive programme to improve the water supply in Freetown and environs. The project also involves upgrading the output of the treatment works at the Gambia Valley dam ☐ to 12 million gallons a day.

November 15 — It is announced that Sierra Leone is to receive a Le3 million loan to renovate schools.

December 13 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Siaka Stevens, announces that by March 1979 the Government is to have a 50% share in mining companies as well as a majority of directors in each company.

December 19 — The loading capacity of the port of Pepel, used mainly for iron ore shipments, is doubled as a result of using concrete platforms ☐ which also allow for bulk carriers of up to 100,000 tons to berth at the port, which previously could accommodate only 15,000-ton vessels.





January 8 — It was announced that the value of the diamonds bought by the Government Diamond Office (GDO) under the alluvial diamond mining scheme in 1969 totalled L44,689,751 — an all-time record.

January 10 — Sierra Leone taken her seat for the first time as a full non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

January 10 — The Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, Mr. S. B. Nicolle-Cole, announces that the net assets of the banking system, including IMF drawing rights, soared from L415.4 million in 1968 to L425 million at the end of 1969. The Governor adds that the country's balance of payments remains healthy.

February 3 — A 2,325 ft. extension to the Queen Elizabeth II Quay at Freetown, Freetown, is opened by the Prime Minister. The L414 million extension provides berths for four ships, trebling the port's capacity. The depth of water at low tide is now 33 ft., enabling some of the largest cargo vessels to berth alongside. Two additional sheds providing 53,000 sq. ft. of storage each were also built. Spanking at the economy, the Prime Minister announces that in 1968/69 the port handled nearly 300,000 tons of cargo as against under 200,000 tons in 1955/56.

February 24 — The Joint Industrial Council (JIC) approved pay increases for industrial and commercial workers in Sierra Leone.

March 13 — A new industrial era is heralded as a Joint Agreement incorporating an Industrial Relations Charter

and a Code of Conduct applicable to both unions and employers is signed in Freetown.

April 4 — The APC wins a landslide victory in the first Freetown municipal election since the military coup, taking all 24 seats on the Council. The two parties — APC and SLPP — had fielded 24 candidates each.

April 9 — The Daily Meat Trade Fair and Basketing opens at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields in Freetown, drawing large crowds. The exhibitors include 30 local firms.

April 19 — The Prime Minister and Mrs. Saka Siereva leave Freetown for an official 7-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

May 6 — The Sierra Leone Oil Refinery is officially opened by the Prime Minister. Processing some 430,000 tons of crude oil yearly, the refinery can meet all the country's basic needs for petroleum products.

May 22 — The Prime Minister, Dr. Saka Siereva, arrives in Gambia for an official visit.

May 29 — The new L480,000 YWCA Vocational Institute complex opens at Brookfields.

June 9 — It is announced that bauxite production at the Sierra Leone Ore Metal Co. rose to 45,000 tons in 1969, 7% more than in 1968.

June 23 — A new factory manufacturing tissues, toilet rolls and other paper products is established in Freetown.



July 1 — The Government decides on the establishment of an Agricultural and Cooperative Development Bank, intended to provide credit at reasonable interest to the agricultural sector — especially to cooperative farmers.

July 13 — A contract for the construction of a tanker jetty in the Kiway area is awarded to a local firm. The jetty is intended to take ships of up to 300,000 tons. The Prime Minister inspects the old jetty and the site of the new one.

July 21 — Development estimates approved by Parliament include 146,463,208 for roads and bridges — by far the largest sum ever devoted to this item.

July 21 — It is announced in Parliament that just under 50% of the debts incurred by Sierra Leone since independence and up to March 1963 have been repaid.

July 31 — It is announced in Parliament that some secondary schools, such as (1), are to operate a two-shift system to accommodate pupils who passed the Selective Entrance Examination but have not been admitted to secondary schools because of the shortage of places.

August 11 — The Prime Minister returns from an official visit to Jamaica to a rousing welcome.

August 24 — The Government secures loans totalling Le18 million for road development.

August 31 — Radical changes in educational policies and structure are announced, giving priority to primary education and teachers' training colleges.



September 1 — The Non-Citizens (Trade and Business) Act, which prohibits foreign traders from engaging in the small trade of certain goods, becomes effective.

September 11 — Following successful negotiations, the Government secures a controlling interest of 51% in the mining operations of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust. The company's assets are to be transferred to a new company, to be known as "The National Diamond Co. (Sierra Leone) Ltd.", in which 51% of the equity will be owned by the Government and 49% by the SLSST. The board of the new company is to consist of 11 directors of whom six (including the Chairman) are to be appointed by the Government. The Government is to pay S.L.C. £2,550,000 for its share of the fixed assets and the new company is to pay Sierra Leone taxes on profits at the rate of 70%.

September 14 — The Prime Minister leaves Freetown on an official visit to Zambia.

October 11 — A first consignment of 40 tractors, ploughs, harrows and trailers, ordered by the Government for nationwide distribution to farmers as part of a major scheme to improve rice production, arrives in Freetown.

November 9 — The Bayer-Pearson Mining Group from Germany announce the beginning of their rutile mining operations in Sierra Leone.

December 18 — Opening the annual Kereba Trade Fair (1), the Prime Minister announces that the Government will accord the highest priority to agriculture, aiming to achieve self-sufficiency in staple foods.





January 2 — The National Confectionery Co. begins to export products to West African countries.

January 14 — A spokesman for the Sierra Leone Co-operative Society announces that the Society has lent Le1.3 million to some 10,000 members, with no defaults in a decade.

January 25 — A new Le500,000 highway opens at China Town.

February 19 — The Prime Minister calls on DISMINCO to give high priority to the training and employment of local personnel at all levels, with the ultimate aim of complete Sierra Leoneanization.

March 1 — A smooth change-over from left to right-hand traffic brings Sierra Leone in line with other African countries.

March 3 — Unemployment fell by 9% during 1970, it is announced.

March 24 — A senior officer goes on the air, after a few disaffected soldiers attempt a coup, to announce that most army men disassociate themselves from the attempt and are loyal to their legitimate Government.

April 14 — A National Trading Co. intended to import selected essential items for retail distribution is officially incorporated. 75% of the share capital being reserved for Sierra Leoneans through the National Development Bank.

April 19 — Sierra Leone becomes a Republic shortly after

Parliament approves the Republican Bill, introduced by the Prime Minister, and passes the Republican Constitution into law by a majority of 53 in favour with 10 against. There is singing and dancing in the streets as the news spreads round the city.

April 27 — Dr. Siaka Stevens becomes the first Executive President of Sierra Leone in a dignified ceremony at Parliament Building. The oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, Mr. Justice C. O. E. Cole, who has been acting as Governor-General. The tradition to elect Dr. Stevens as President was passed unanimously.

April 24 — Mr. S. I. Koroima, Minister of Agriculture and National Resources, is appointed First Vice-President and Prime Minister of the Republic.

May 17 — The first session of the High Court of Sierra Leone is conventionally opened.

May 25 — After receiving a delegation of Paramount Chiefs, President Stevens declares that his Government will protect the position of Paramount Chiefs in the country so long as they treat their people in the proper way.

May 29 — It is announced that Sierra Leone Airways, owned jointly by the Government and British Colonial Airways, made a profit of Le164,325 during 1970; an increase of 12½% over the 1969 profit.

June 11 — The President, Dr. Siaka Stevens, arrives for



the State Opening of the first session of Parliament since the establishment of the Republic.

July 27 — A 74-mile stretch of road from Makali in Tonkoloni to Serandu in Kono is officially opened. The road, phases I and II of the Tonkoloni-Kono road, has a 32 ft. carriageway and 6 ft. footpaths on either side.

July 31 — A National Co-operative Development Bank, owned by cooperative societies, opens for business.

July 2 — It is announced that eight new health centres such as  were established in 1970 bringing their total number from 79 in 1965 to 107 — a 35% increase in five years.

July 29 — Sierra Leone recognizes the People's Republic of China and diplomatic relations are established between the two countries. Diplomatic relations are also to be established with the People's Republic of Korea.

August 5 — It is announced that the World Bank is to finance an integrated agricultural development project estimated to cost Le6.2 million and including the production of rice, cocoa, oil palm, timber and the establishment of an oil mill.

August 17 — Nearly 17,000 bottles of "Afrikoko", a liquor produced in Sierra Leone from coconuts and chocolate, are exported to the U.S.

September 6 — A Ministry of Education report shows that in 1969/70 nearly 155,000 pupils had attended 1023 primary schools staffed by 2011 teachers. The country's 81

secondary schools had a total enrolment of 28,085 pupils while the four technical and vocational institutes accounted for 800 pupils. Nine Teachers' Training Colleges were attended by 839 students and the country's two university colleges had a student population of 1,116.

September 8 — The new Le80,000 building of the Ministry of Education is officially opened in Freetown.

September 20 — Over 20 students for Sierra Leone export goods, including skin carpets, wicker xylophones, gaza cloth, , wood carvings and "Afrikoko" liquor, are received at the Berlin Import Fair.

September 20 — Former army officer Andrew Jastons-Smith who had headed the illegal military regime and was later convicted of treason and sentenced to death, is freed by the Court of Appeal which quashes the conviction.

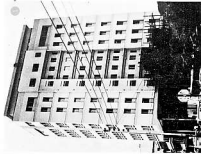
October 1 — The Electricity Corporation's new Le1 million headquarters  is officially opened in Freetown.

October 20 — The Cape Sierra Hotel  is officially opened at Alibon. The 300-room beachside hotel  is increased to 300 and a tourist industry in Sierra Leone.

November 14 — Government announces a further reduction in school fees. Annual primary school fees, hitherto up to Le16.50 yearly, are now to exceed Le2.

December 13 — It is announced that the National Diamond Co., DIMINCO, made a net profit of over Le7 million, of which the Government is to receive 70%.





January 2 — The birth-rate in Freetown increased by 13% in 1971 while the death-rate fell by 5% with infant mortality dropping by 7% during the year, from 1942 to 1967, according to a Ministry of Health announcement.

January 27 — The first indigenous insurance company — the National Insurance Co. — is officially opened by Vice-President S. I. Koroma. He describes the event as a milestone in the economic history of Sierra Leone and says the new company would make it possible to mobilize funds for development purposes.

February 2 — The Government gives seven tractors to the Kambia District to further its agricultural development programme, and later Finance Minister C. A. Kamara-Taylor visits the area and inspects one of the machines.

February 4 — An agreement for the resumption of rutile mining in Sierra Leone is concluded between the Government and the Sierra Rutile Co.

February 25 — The Bonthe Water Supply system, designed to meet the requirements of the Bonthe district for the next 15 years, is officially opened by President Stevens. The system, incorporating a Treatment Plant and a 165,000 gallon reservoir, is the 17th completed in two years.

February 26 — A \$16.9 carat diamond is found in the Yergema lease, the third largest gem in the world. It is named "Star of Sierra Leone" by President Stevens amid worldwide publicity.

March 16 — The Government introduces a countryside

self-help housing programme with a 100-unit pilot scheme in Kono. The completed houses are to belong to families involved in the construction, selected as being among workers earning under Le1000 p.a.

March 16 — The first of three Le600,000, air-conditioned ferries arrives from Germany to improve the service between the Kono and Tagrin terminals. The new ferries take 260 passengers as well as 23 vehicles.

March 20 — Secondary school fees throughout the country are to be reduced to Le14.60 p.a. and standardized, according to an official announcement.

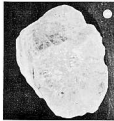
March 25 — The Government Diamond Office (DGO) purchased an all-time record of 4,046,348 carats costing Le110,345,371 in the four-year period to December 31, 1971, according to a GDO announcement.

May 7 — The Noyya bridge, providing access from Njalathun to the bulk of the Kailashan District, is officially opened.

May 12 — The Sierra Leone Forest Industries Corp. begins to export timber to Argentina, an early success for the timber industry.

June 13 — The Sierra Leone National Shipping Company is established. The Government holds 60% of the shares.

June 17 — High quality microwave circuits are commissioned linking Freetown with Njala University College as well as with the mining areas of Mookam and Chagbama.



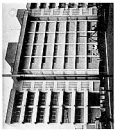
June 26 — The President, Dr. Siaka Stevens, announces at the State Opening of Parliament that the rice harvest for 1971/72 is expected to reach a record of 295,000 tons, an increase against an estimated 230,000 tons in 1970/71. He adds that the Government will continue to accord priority to the cultivation of rice, the country's staple food. Profits from the sale of imported rice were being used to subsidize farmers and to encourage them to increase yields.

It is also announced in Parliament that in 1971/72:

- Government scholarships for advanced studies at home or abroad were given to 2,600 students, 400 more than in the previous year; and that over 100 adult literacy classes (like the one on picture 1) were started.
- Two new power stations and supporting distribution systems were completed at Koina and Kenema, while a third 6.6 megawatt generator was installed at the Kingdom Power Station in Freetown.
- Seven new health and treatment centres were opened; a training school for nurses 2 began to train out qualified paramedical personnel; the Kallabass Hospital 3 was virtually completed; the Redbank Hospital was handed over to the Government; and a new children's ward was opened at the Makuti Hospital.

July 16 — The Temsa Central Mosque — Jarai-al Jall — renovated at a cost of Le175,000, is officially opened at Oldfields Street, Freetown, by the President.

July 21 — A National Council for Social Services is set up to co-ordinate the efforts of voluntary organizations engaged in social welfare.



July 26 — Parliament approves development estimates totalling Le14,867,000, including Le2.5 million for agriculture, as against Le685,000 at the time of the last session government.

September 20 — Parliament approves the establishment of three new airstrips — at Aburdien, Kabala and Kallabass.

September 22 — A government model secondary school is officially opened in Circular Road, Freetown, by Mr. J. Barthelemy Wilson, Minister of Education.

October 21 — Sierra Leone begins to export salmon to Gambia and Liberia; a first consignment of 1,000 has been shipped.

October 23 — A 2,200 horse-power harbour and salvage tug 4, described as the "best in West Africa", is commissioned. It was built by a Dutch firm at a cost of Le1 million.

November 9 — A Central Planning Unit is established in the Ministry of Development, and also a National Development Council headed by the President. The Council is to provide overall direction on the goals, objectives, priorities and strategies of the national development plan.

November 24 — It is announced that the National Diamond Mining Co. (NDMICO) made a profit of over Le6 million before tax, in the year ending June 30, 1972, on which the tax due is Le4,462,000.





January 8 — A nationwide campaign for the control and eradication of leprosy is launched by J. C. O. Haddison-Taylor, Minister of Health, who hands over the keys of nine Landrovers and a lorry to health experts.

January 28 — The 42-mile Lamsar-Maheni road is formally opened by the Vice-President, Mr. S. I. Kossoma.  Completed a year ahead of schedule, the road cost Le4.56 million.

February 3 — A spokesman for 120 pilgrims returning from Mecca says that the Government aided pilgrims to the extent of over Le550 each.

February 12 — The Wellington Palm Kernel Oil Mill  capable of an annual yield of 14,000 tons of palm kernel and almost 16,000 tons of oil cake, is brought into service. Providing employment for 150, the mill forms the basis of the country's projected agricultural processing complex.

February 15 — The country's first national commercial bank, the government-owned Sierra Leone Bank, is formally opened by the President.

March 16 — The Songo Water Supply system comes into operation . The source is underground and the 66,000-gallon reservoir will fully meet local needs.

March 21 — The first road in the Government feeder road system, a 36-mile road, which includes six bridges, linking Yousibana and Baaya is officially opened to traffic . Built at a cost of Le480,000, it was financed by the Sierra Leonean and British Governments.



May 9 — Figures are published revealing considerable economic improvement since the APC took office. National income has risen by 30% from Le260.6 million to Le340 million, while foreign trade is up by over 50% to Le177 million, exports having increased by more than 60%. External assets, only Le14.7 million in 1967, were Le37 million early in 1972. Foreign capital assets rose from Le5.7 million in 1967/68 to Le7.7 million in 1972/73.

The statistics also demonstrate marked improvement in educational and health facilities. The number of primary schools is now 1137, an against 983 in 1968, with 46,400 more pupils. The secondary school population has risen from 22,000 in 1968 to 36,000, 37 new secondary schools having opened during this period. 37 Health Centres have also opened since 1968, bringing the total to 117 out of the 145 planned.

May 15 — The African Development Bank approves a \$3.1 million loan for the Gambia-Munro oil palm project, which comprises a 400-acre industrial oil palm plantation, a 4500-acre oilgrove scheme, and an oil mill.

June 22 — President Siaka Stevens opens the first Session of the 2nd Republican Parliament. In his address, the President pledges the APC to continue low-cost housing and to improve employment conditions.

He further announces that:

- Additions to the nation's health facilities in the past 12 months include a wing for the Kiny Mental Hospital, the new Department of Clinical Studies and an Intensive unit at the Connaught Hospital, a hospital at Kallahun, a

children's ward at Magburaka Hospital, three under-five clinics and an ante-natal clinic at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital.

• Among improvements to telecommunications are the provision of full subscriber trunk dialling facilities at Bw, Kwenema and Makera, and the extension of the national telecommunication network to Konde and Magburaka by microwave links.

July 8 — With a shoefield of legumes, the President officially launches the Malindi self-help scheme before an attentive audience. The project, inspired by the initiative and example of Vice-President S. I. Koroona in his home Chiefdom as a pilot for similar schemes elsewhere, begins with major extensions to the Port Loko Hospital and rapidly spreads to embrace many other underlings.

July 9 — Two paired boats arrive from China for use in the harbor and on the waterfront. Together with several helicopters and fixed-wing planes, they form the nucleus of the country's air and sea defenses. A number of Sierra Leoneans are being trained in their operation.

August 26 — The recently formed National Shipping Co. acquires its first cargo vessel, the M. V. Nimbhona.

September 4 — The President leaves for Algeria to lead Sierra Leone's delegation at the fourth Summit Conference of non-aligned nations.

September 11 — Finance Minister Mr. C. A. Kanarua-Taylor announces that the country's external reserves now stand at Le18.6 million.

October 1 — President Stevens and President William R. Tolbert Jr. of Liberia sign the historic Mano River Declaration, which seeks to establish a firm economic union between their two countries, at Mairna, Sero Ghana Chiefdom, Pujehun District.

October 4 — Parliament is given details of steps taken by the Minister of Education to encourage the teaching of agricultural science in secondary schools, including a new three-year teacher training course to produce teachers of the subject.

October 5 — Another 300 tractors are ordered to further the development of agriculture.

November 12 — The President returns from a State visit to China, where he held talks with Premier Chou En Lai and Chairman Mao Tse Tung, and concluded the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

December 9 — The President announces that the Government will be subsidizing petroleum products to the extent of Le2,494,000 over the next 12 months, owing to the rise in the cost of oil.

December 11 — A Le6.5 million agreement is signed with an Italian firm for the rehabilitation of the Dedy Nedi and Gwarama piling jetties.

December 18 — The Government Secretariat for the implementation of the Mano River Union is set up in Freetown.





January 1 — A new piped water system, installed through local self-help, is inaugurated in Kerema District.

January 4 — The Saka Savaas Community and Health Centre is opened at Savaas Village.

January 5 — The Sierra Leone Rubber Mining Company contracts for the installation of new rubber mining equipment.

January 7 — Oqao Demonstration farm is inaugurated to produce 100,000 lbs. of vegetables and 80,000 lbs. of rice annually in set up near Freetown with Chinese assistance. The farm also offers training facilities.

February 28 — President Stevens opens a new physiotherapy and rehabilitation unit in Mansaraga Leprosy Hospital.

March 4 — Parliament approves the Factories Act, which provides for the welfare and safety of employees.

April 9 — A new pact is signed with the Diamond Corporation, facilitating the marketing of diamonds produced under the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme.

April 16 — The Le1 million Congo Cross Bridge is officially opened by President Stevens who has just returned from a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on raw materials in New York. The 300 ft. long bridge has four motor lanes and two footpaths.

April 19 — Presenting new colours in the Army at a ceremony watched by thousands, President Stevens



announced that members of the armed forces will now receive pensions after 10 years of service.

April 22 — Both the 12-mile Bo-Tamara Road and the new Makessi-Matoka link road are inaugurated.

April 25 — Large orders for Sierra Leone handkerchiefs are announced, following the country's participation in the Milan Trade Fair.

May 17 — President Stevens opens the new All People's Congress Headquarters building in Freetown, recalling in his address the historic events associated with the old APC building.

May 21 — President Stevens launches a district-wide self-help programme in Kono.

June 11 — Attending the Heads of State meeting of the OAU at Mogadishu, Somalia, President Stevens is elected one of the OAU's eight Vice-Presidents.

June 19 — Net profits of Le153,994 are announced by the Sierra Leone National Shipping Company after its first 18 months of operation. With a staff of 300, the company has already trained many Sierra Leoneans in shipping.

June 21 — Addressing the State Opening of Parliament, the President announces good progress in the agricultural sector. Forest reserves have been increased by 7,000 acres and 4,000 acres of rubber plantations have also been established; an integrated agricultural development project has been set up in the Gambija-Matru area. The President further announces that:

• **DIMINCO** has had yet another successful year with a record profit of Le15.8 million before tax.

- Four major towns have received treated water supplies during the year, as have a number of small towns.
- Communications have been improved with the introduction of a Sunday telephone service and direct air mail services to eight more countries.

June 21 — Salaries of daily wage workers employed by local authorities throughout the country are increased by 11 cents per day.

June 22 — At the first convocation of the Sierra Leone Islamic Council, it is resolved to launch a wide-wide appeal to facilitate the building of schools and other amenities needed to accelerate the spread of Islam.

June 28 — The Islamic Cultural Centre is opened with an address by Minister of Social Welfare Alhaji A. B. S. Jusuuf.

July 16 — The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board announces a net profit of more than Le150,000.

July 17 — Wages for agricultural workers rise by 14 cents a day.

August 8 — President Sierras inspects the Army's newly acquired modern troop-carrying vehicles ①.

August 12 — A new Le275,000 tele-exchange, making possible direct dialling to all parts of the world, is commissioned at the Sierra Leone External Telecommunications (SLET).



August 12 — More than 5,000 Muslims attend the inauguration in Bo of the Southern Province branch of the Supreme Islamic Council of Sierra Leone.

August 24 — As part of his birthday celebrations, President Sierras turns the soil at the site of the new Freetown Town Hall ② and gives an interview to SLEBS Director Mr. J. W. O. Findlay ③.

September 18 — The first chalk to be manufactured in Sierra Leone is produced.

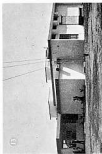
October 4 — With President Tolbert of Liberia, President Sierras breaks the ground for construction of the Mano River Bridge.

October 12 — President Sierras opens the Le100,000 SGB Children's Village at Lunsay, near Freetown.

October 15 — The Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service's new 250kw shorewave transmitter is inaugurated at Kinytown, outside Freetown, making it possible for the voice of Sierra Leone to be heard worldwide. ④

November 26 — Bananas are now exported at the rate of 700,000 tons p.a. and the industry employs 1,200 people, according to an assessment from the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company.

December 8 — An important 8-mile feeder road built by self-help brigades in the Koinema District opens. The project is typical of many undertaken by self-help teams during the course of the year.





January 24 — It is announced that the rice crop in 1974 was about 915,000 tons, an increase of 30% over the previous year and evidence of the success of Government policies to encourage and assist swamp rice cultivation.

January 27 — President and Mrs. Stevens watch a performance of the play *I Drove Rick Town (W Is Town)* presented by *Lekowide Dore* at State House. The play was written and produced by Juliana Rowe at President Stevens's own suggestion with a view to promoting national unity.

February 24 — The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. S. A. T. Karoma, expects a bumper harvest in parts of the country and increases in the area under cultivation.

March 4 — Work begins on the Le500,000 extension to the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital.

March 5 — President Stevens announces sweeping pay rises for civil servants, ranging from 15% at the top to 40% for lowest paid workers. The rises apply to the administrative and judiciary services, law officers, military and police forces, doctors, engineers and teachers.

March 26 — President Stevens opens the first Bo Agricultural Show at which over 50 participants exhibit their produce.

April 4 — The Matorki Hospital extension in Port Loko District, Sierra Leone's first self-help project built by local volunteers, is opened by President Stevens, who stresses

the importance of self-reliance in the country's development.

April 17 — The first National Festival of Arts and Culture begins in Freetown. The programme includes a dabar of chiefs, a fashion show, an exhibition of arts and crafts and performances by traditional dancers such as those from the Moina Chiefs of Port Loko District.

April 22 — The country's first solar salt factory is opened by President Stevens.

May 14 — An interest-free loan of Le11 million from the International Development Agency is announced for agricultural development in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

May 16 — President Stevens opens the single-lane, 200 ft. Moss Bridge at Dura, a former railway bridge converted through self-help, which links the Chiefdoms of Tawi and Nalashan.

May 27 — President Stevens is among the 25 Heads of State who sign the treaty establishing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

June 14 — Proven bauxite reserves in the Makeniji and Goodena areas total 27 million tons while probable reserves in these two areas and Chonge Hills exceed 72 million tons, according to an announcement from the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Co. which adds that these figures compare very favourably with earlier estimates.

June 20 — In his annual address at the opening of



Pulliamon, President Stevens reports encouraging prospects for rubber raising. The recently commissioned pilot plant **1** is now in full operation and major foreign companies are expressing interest in an association with Sierra Leone. He also announces that:

- A nationwide campaign for the control, treatment and eventual eradication of TB has been launched with assistance from WHO while sleeping sickness, yaws and leprosy are now under control.

- In primary education, there are now 1,080 schools and 200 feeder schools with a teaching force of about 6,000.

- The Kambia airstrip is now complete **2** and 14 international airlines operate at Lungi airport, where the volume of passenger exceeds 100,000 a year.

- A 52-bed extension built by self-help at the Pelehan Hospital at a cost of some Le60,000 is officially opened by President Stevens.

- August 1 — The World Bank grants a Le7 million loan for Sierra Leone's second major educational project.

- August 7 — DIMINCO announces increased diamond production. In June of the current year 72,000 carats have been produced as compared to 45,000 in the previous June.

- August 12 — President Stevens sets an example by making a cash donation to the Madfira Secondary School project, one of the many self-help projects now in progress.

- August 25 — Prime Minister Mr. Kanaris-Taylor opens a Le11,000 citizens' co-operative store in Freetown.

owned by the Sierra Leone Labor Congress. The store will provide workers with goods at fair prices.

- September 22 — Barkers from 12 countries choose Sierra Leone as the location for the West African Clothing House.

- November 3 — On a three-day visit to Makem, President Stevens inspects the Army Farm at Mohal where about 150 soldiers are engaged in growing rice **3**, and a farm at Kodaluh where a team of Chinese demonstrate their methods to local farmers.

- December 3 — The Teko Bridge, linking the Sifroko Limba and Faki Mansabong Chieftdoms, and the Binkolo Secondary school — both built through the self-help efforts of the Sifroko Limba people — are officially opened by President Siaka Stevens.

- December 4 — Three projects to which the people of Kambia have been looking forward for a long time are inaugurated on the same day by President Stevens — the Le1 million Kambia piped water supply system **4**; a 4,000 ft. long airfield for domestic flights; and the Kambia Hospital Extension, built through self-help work. The President also opens the 5th Koteadaga Show at Kambia.

- December 11 — The Bo-Kemema road, which shortens the journey between the two provincial centers by at least two hours, is opened to traffic **5**. Completed at a cost of Le4.7 million, the new road has involved building a second bridge over the Sierra river.





January 8 — The President, Dr. Siaka Stevens, signs an L\$11 million contract with a Swiss firm for the installation of a fourth generator at the Kpong Power Station ① to meet the demands of light industry in the area.

January 12 — Sierra Leone becomes the first West African country to research and produce a nutritious baby food using indigenous materials, as *benzonia*, a vitamin-enriched mixture of rice, hominised and beans, comes onto the market.

January 14 — An automatic telephone exchange for Cline Town is installed and tested.

January 17 — Vice-President S. L. Kossava launches the Mafonki self-help brigade on the construction of a Port Loko headquarters building for the APC party. The brigade have already built a hospital and Presidential rest house and are also engaged in an agricultural project and the construction of a mosque.

February 3 — It is announced that 760,000 tons of bauxite was produced in 1976, 635,000 tons of which was exported to Europe, with some still awaiting shipment ②.

February 18 — Over 40,000 tons of agricultural produce was exported in 1975 earning more than L\$20 million, it is announced.

February 21 — The Aurcol Tobacco Co. announces a L\$95,000 expansion scheme from which more than 2,000 farmers will benefit.

February 24 — Under an agreement signed with the



People's Republic of China, a small hydroelectric power station is to be built at Gema to supply electricity to nine areas in the Kono district.

February 27 — The 380 ft. Manso River Bridge, which provides a road link between Liberia and Sierra Leone, is officially opened by President Siaka Stevens and President William R. Tolbert, Jr., of Liberia who exchange warm greetings as they meet on the new bridge ④. The \$2.5 million bridge symbolises the new spirit of regional cooperation expressed in the Manso River Union between the two countries.

March 19 — The official opening of the Mange Bridge ⑤ takes place. Built in only 18 months, the 1170 ft. long bridge is the first to be completed of three major projects undertaken in collaboration with the People's Republic of China.

March 24 — Parliament passes the Constitution Amendment Act, 1976, under which a President is to be elected by a majority of Members of Parliament whenever the office becomes vacant. Another Act passed at the same time provides that the election shall be by secret ballot and that a President shall not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

March 26 — Parliament elects Dr. Siaka Stevens as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone for a further five-year term. Eighty-four ordinary Members of the House and 11 Paramount Chiefs cast their ballots for the Leader of the APC party.



April 20 — Dr. Saka Probyn Stevens is inaugurated as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone at an impressive ceremony attended by foreign guests, including President William R. Tolbert of Liberia and Prime Minister Lansana Koussougi of Guinea. The oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice C. O. E. Cole, as tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans rejoice in the streets and a regatta is held to mark the event.

April 20 — The President opens the Stevens Community Centre, which is also to serve as a Health Centre and a Magistrates' Court, at Bunsell Village. He also opens a new secondary school at York Village.

May 12 — The Road Transport Corporation buys 10 new buses for intercity services, bringing its fleet to 46, following a Le50,000 soft loan from the West German Bank for Reconstruction.

May 14 — The President opens the Madina Secondary School in the Kambia District. The curriculum will emphasize agriculture, metalwork and woodwork.

May 21 — Four completed agricultural stations, at Lunsley, Mingo, Maketi and Bo, are handed over by the Chinese agro-technical team who have already completed four others. Work on five more is underway.

July 9 — The President returns from a visit to Liberia to sign agreements establishing the Customs Union between Sierra Leone and Liberia as part of the fulfilment of the Mano River Union.



July 20 — The country's first modern automatic oil palm mill is opened at Dony. Capable of processing whole fruit branches and kernels in one operation, the Le2.2 million plant can process 15 tons of fruit per hour.

September 7 — Sierra Leone's first occupational health clinic opens in Freetown.

October 7 — A jetty satellite demonstration between Liberia and Sierra Leone is held under the auspices of the Mano River Union.

December 5 — Extensive deposits of high-grade bauxite are discovered at Gaudama, a few miles from the reserves already being exploited at Mokuji. The new deposits are large enough to keep the Sierra Leone Mining Co. in production for 20 years. A Government spokesman estimates that there are about 100 million tons of bauxite in the Port Loko area.

December 7 — The rehabilitation of a 35-mile stretch of paved road from Zintani in the Pujehun district to Krenema is completed, as is that of a stretch of road in Liberia, allowing the Freetown-Monrovia bus service to resume.

December 12 — A new fishing company goes into operation, 80% Sierra Leonean owned, it has an authorized share capital of Le1 million.

December 22 — The Male bridge at Salama, Pujehun district, is opened by President Stevens. 120 ft. long, the bridge provides another road link between Sierra Leone and Liberia.



January 4 — A five-man team of French geologists reports that there is a possibility of offshore oil deposits in Sierra Leone.

January 10 — The Kambari self-help 400-bed hospital project is formally launched. Facilities at the new hospital will include an operating theatre and an X-ray unit.

February 19 — The Bai Bureh Memorial Hall, built by self-help at Port Loko, is opened by the President. The new building will house the APC party's local headquarters and also offers conference facilities for over 600 delegates.

February 19 — President Stevens visits the Klayi low-cost housing estate where he inspects newly completed malnutrition and flats.

February 21 — A new Le7 million clay brick factory will shortly be in full production, it is announced. Output is already 20,000 bricks a day.

March 27 — Work starts on the construction of a health centre at Bumbeth town, near Bo. Built jointly by the Government and the Chieftain people, the centre will include a dispensary, an ante-natal clinic and an outpatients department.

April 1 — Harmonized common customs tariffs for Sierra Leone and Liberia become effective under the Mano River Union.

April 4 — Parliament is dissolved and the stage set for a general election in May.

April 5 — Work starts on a Le500,000 community, crafts and education centre in Pajuhut District.

April 18 — A major X-ray unit donated by President Siaka Stevens is installed at the Connaught Hospital.

April 28 — A leprosy control programme official announces that the mass vaccination for leprosy of the 10 to 15 age group has been completed.

May 3 — Over 2,000,000 Sierra Leoneans go to the polls to elect the Members of a new Parliament. All some of the 2,600 polling stations voters form long queues to cast their ballots. The seats are contested by three parties — the All People's Congress (APC), the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the Democratic National Party (DNP) — as well as 41 Independents.

May 6 — Amid countryside rejoicing the preliminary results of the general election are announced. The APC have won 34 seats, the SLPP 15 and other 3.

May 13 — President Stevens appoints his new cabinet of 28 Ministers, of whom 11 are holding cabinet posts for the first time.

May 22 — The Pusuimbi Pilot Primary School Project, estimated to cost Le1 million, is launched with UNDP assistance. The project includes 20 primary schools catering for 6000 pupils.

June 2 — In his address at the State opening of Parliament, President Siaka Stevens pledges the Government to increase the tempo of economic growth



and also stresses the APC's commitment to good housing. An £11 million Housing Finance Company, he announced, would be set up to enable Sierra Leoneans to build their own homes.

June 5 — A new 30-bed ward, constructed by army engineers, is opened to extend the Military Surgical Ward at Withersford.

June 12 — A statement by the National Leprosy Programme reveals that Sierra Leone has become an international centre for the production of orthopaedic shoes for leprosy patients.

July 1 — A major sugar cane project undertaken with Chinese assistance is nearing completion. It is announced.

July 3 — The Southern Province's first Vocational Training Institute is opened in Bo. Over 2000 prospective students have already applied for the building course.

July 26 — Sierra Leone is to receive £1.2 million from the World Bank for further improvements at Kingston Power Station.

August 12 — Bauxite reports from Makenji and other mines are expected to exceed 800,000 tons in 1977, according to a Sierra Leone Mining Co. assessment.

August 17 — Work starts on extensions to the Koidu Government Hospital in Kono, to be built by self-help.

August 18 — The Government approves the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunications

network scheme proposed by the OAU. The network will link Sierra Leone with Liberia and Guinea.

September 17 — New electronic equipment for civil aviation is installed.

October 17 — President Tolbert of Liberia visits Freetown to sign new protocols to the Mano River Declaration and declares that its terms "cannot be overemphasised".

November 8 — Development plans are heralded as an EEC aid agreement is signed. Credits become available to finance small and medium industries, to add to health equipment and to extend training facilities.

December 3 — With the acquisition of its new printing press, the Daily Mail gets off the ground.

December 9 — As the process of Sierra Leoneanisation advances, one company nears the goal. The 300 staff of John Michael Motors are almost 100% Sierra Leoneans. It is reported, and the firm imports only the engines of the several types of vehicle it manufactures.

December 14 — President Siawars opens the annual Kenema Agricultural Show, where an especially wide range of livestock exhibits illustrates the progress of the Government's drive to improve poultry and pig production and increase the vigour of the native cattle by cross-breeding.

December 18 — A Standards Bureau is set up under the aegis of the Mano River Union, to control the quality of locally manufactured goods.





January 1 — The IBEC approves a Le1.5 million grant for the massive Kotonagari integrated agricultural development project. The balance of the estimated cost of Le11.5 million is to be provided by the Sierra Leone Government. The project will increase the production of rice and onions for the home market, as well as that of tomatoes, groundnuts, coffee ☉ and citrus which will be cultivated mainly for export. Beef production ☉ in the district's savannah area will also be expanded.

January 4 — The newly completed, four-lane Freetown-Worcester motorway ☉ is opened to traffic.

January 11 — A Le1 million bridge over the Bullfinch River providing another link between Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, as well as between parts of the northern Province, is to be built through aid-jump in the Kono District, between Teleja and Yambala, it is reported.

January 18 — A Le20 million Danish loan is made available to finance the construction of slaughterhouses and to assist the development of the fishing industry which, despite increasing mechanisation and modernization in some sectors, is still largely based on traditional techniques ☉ of comparatively low efficiency.

January 21 — Opening the 18th annual conference of West African surgeons in Freetown, President Siaka Stevens announced that the University of Sierra Leone is shortly to have an integrated medical education programme, an Institute of Health Science and a Department of Community Medicine.

January 24 — The first Primary Health Care Project in Sierra Leone is inaugurated at Mapoko, Paki Manabong Chiefdom.

February 17 — The new Kumbia Bridge, linking Sierra Leone with Guinea, opens to traffic ☉. The bridge, built with extensive Chinese assistance, forms part of the Trans-Africa Highway system.

February 18 — A company offering medical insurance is set up in Sierra Leone.

February 20 — The newly completed United Methodist Church building ☉ — a modern office block providing much needed accommodation for various administrative services, as well as commercial and industrial firms — is dedicated.

February 22 — Sierra Leone's first colour television station is inaugurated by President Stevens ☉. Located at Leicester Park, 2,000 ft. above sea level, on the outskirts of Freetown, the new 10 Kilowatt transmitter makes it possible for the first time for viewers in Moaamba, parts of Bo, Tonkolili, Kumbia and Port Loko to watch national television programmes.

February 24 — President Siaka Stevens performs the turning of the soil ceremony for a fruit processing plant at Kumbia, near the Makoko River.

February 28 — Parliament passes a new Public Health Act, outlawing leucocyanous contact. The Act is designed to make Sierra Leone healthier.

March 7 — A satellite ground station is to be built and commissioned in Sierra Leone by mid-1978, then fulfilling the country's commitment to the Pan-African telephone plan. The station will appreciably improve telecommunications with the rest of the world and will also make it possible for television programmes from neighbouring and other countries to be received and retransmitted live in Sierra Leone.

March 9 — Sierra Leone's first nationwide registration of all inhabitants — a programme designed to assist development planning and prevent crime or fraud by providing all inhabitants with identity cards — begins. President Stevens becomes the first citizen to register and be issued with an identity card under the programme.

March 4 — After five years of operation, the National Leprosy Control Programme has achieved considerable success in curing and greatly reducing the incidence of the disease, it is announced. The programme has now widened its scope to include preventive measures against tuberculosis.

March 6 — It is announced that the Arab Bank for International Development and Investment is to provide finance for a number of development projects in Sierra Leone. These are expected to include the Freetown hydro-electric scheme and the reactivation of the Marunpa iron ore mines.

March 10 — The 150-room, Le5.3 million ultra-modern Bitumani hotel — Sierra Leone's biggest investment

to date in the tourist industry — is officially opened by President Stevens. The air-conditioned hotel complex, built by Sierra Leone Construction Co., includes a swimming pool and conference facilities for 600. In his opening address, the President reveals plans to extend the Cape Sierra Hotel and to open a scheme for the training of hotel and catering staff.

March 28 — The annual Daily Mail Trade Fair opens in Freetown with a record number of participants, reflecting the growth of the economy. The numerous Sierra Leone exhibitors include wood-working industries, vehicle and metal furniture manufacturers, as well as producers of traditional arts and crafts, such as the increasingly popular garra cloth.

April 5 — The Le 6.5 million Government printing complex is nearing completion with finishing touches being put to the building and most of the equipment having already arrived in the country, it is reported.

April 16 — What has long been a dream of the inhabitants of the Freetown suburb of Aberdeen — a safe motor bridge to replace the antiquated single-lane Juba bridge, originally intended mainly for pedestrians and animals — is about to come true. It is reported that work is well underway on a self-help project to build a modern bridge with government assistance.

April 26 — Sierra Leone celebrates the 10th anniversary of the day when Dr. Siaka Stevens effectively assumed the responsibility of Government as leader of the APC party.



The haldoscopic image of Sierra Leone's development in the past 10 years, presented in the foregoing pages, shows how rapidly a vision of the future becomes a reality of the present when an efficient and determined government, overwhelmingly supported by a united people, is pledged to achieve change and development.

Thus, so long ago as June 1969 (p. 14) the Government announced its intention to build more airstrips and to improve internal and external telecommunications. A number of series for subsequent years report the step-by-step implementation of the Government's declared intention — the commissioning of high quality microwave circuits linking Freetown with Njala University and with the mining town of Makeni and Chagaboma in June 1972 (p. 20); the provision of full subscriber trunk dialling facilities at Ba, Kambia and Makoni, and the extension of the microwave telecommunications network to Koidu and Magburaka in June 1973 (p. 23); the installation of an automatic sales exchange making possible direct dialling to all parts of the world in August 1974 (p. 25); and finally the decision in March 1978 (p. 32) to build a satellite ground station making telephone communications with the neighbouring countries and the rest of the world as easy and as clear as within Freetown. Similarly, the declared intention in 1969 to build more airstrips is transformed into reality with the opening, for example, of the Kambia airstrip on December 4, 1975 (p. 27).

Translating Policies into Action

Numerous other entries and pictures record how, almost throughout the decade under review, government policies have been translated into action: the blueprints into reality; the long unfulfilled aspirations of a local community into facts of everyday life, too often taken for granted. Some of the children who now go to school are hardly conscious of the fact that their fathers, indeed their elder brothers, were often deprived of the privilege of education; some of the sick who now find relief or cure at clinics and hospitals find it hard to realise that not too long ago they would have been doomed to endure with

an agonising the pain and disability caused by curable afflictions.

Some entries in the foregoing pages also show how the people themselves, inspired and motivated by the APC Government and its leaders, have succeeded through self-help in making age-long dreams come true, like safe concrete bridges over rivers which, since time immemorial, have claimed a heavy toll of lives from among those who attempted to cross them in boats.

Investments in the Future

By the same token, the future conjured up in some of the preceding pages will become the reality of tomorrow, but at a faster rate than hitherto. For even though some preliminary dividends have been regularly paid to the people of Sierra Leone over the past 10 years in the form of higher living standards and improved amenities, much of the effort and achievement of the past decade consists of longer-term investments on which growing dividends are bound to be declared in the years to come.

In due course, the roads completed in recent years will attract agricultural and industrial development. The realisations that produce can be cheaply transported to markets at ports; that fertilisers and tools for the farmer, and raw materials and equipment for the manufacturer, can be safely brought from the cities, will inevitably induce the farmer to grow more and the inventor, whether Government or private, to produce local produce where it is grown, bringing further employment and higher living standards to the area.

The rubber seedling planted today needs care for seven years before it yields the first pound of marketable latex. Similarly, productive investments must be preceded by costly infrastructural development to ensure their viability and, later, their profitability for all concerned.

In the highly developed countries of today, the time lag between investment and its yield often ran into centuries and major infrastructural projects were seldom completed within the lifespan of one generation. Today, the rate of development is generally faster, but the stages of

development remain the same, as is their sequence. The first decade of competition, and far-sighted government in Sierra Leone — a decade brought about by the APC — had to be devoted largely to basic and essential infrastructural development — the foundation on which a brighter future can be rapidly built. President Siaka Stevens, his close associates-in-arms in the struggle for development — Vice-President S. J. Koroma, Prime Minister C. A. Karama-Taylor — and other APC leaders, have proved that they can tackle successfully the formidable task of making up for centuries of colonialism and years of stagnation under previous governments. Their record in solving to a large extent the key problems arising from lack of infrastructure, confidence and political stability argue well for the next stage of development — the generation of greater wealth through productive activities.

Fore sight vindicated

As the roads, bridges and ports built during the past decade begin to carry a growing traffic of goods, and produce, as the pilot projects, the experimental plants and the demonstration farms are turned into fully productive units; as the children who benefited from the rapid expansion of education join the growing ranks of the skilled workforce in agriculture, industry, commerce and the professions; as the vigour of an enthusiastic and united nation is no longer sapped by debilitating endemic diseases; as the confidence of other countries is no longer shaken by political strife, as the APC's policy of close cooperation with neighbouring and other African states becomes fully effective within the framework of the Mano River Union, ECOWAS and OAU — new dividends from the sacrificial investments made during the first decade of APC rule will begin to accrue to the nation on an ever increasing scale.

As we move into the second decade of progress under President Siaka Stevens and the APC, the wisdom and foresight of the people of Sierra Leone who first elected the APC Government in 1967 and have consistently supported it since then, will have been fully vindicated.

