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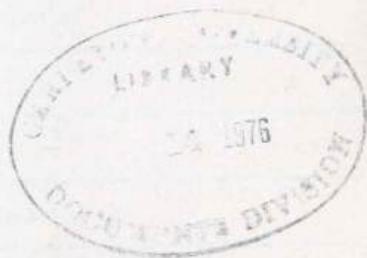
SIOMALIA



FIVE YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY PROGRESS

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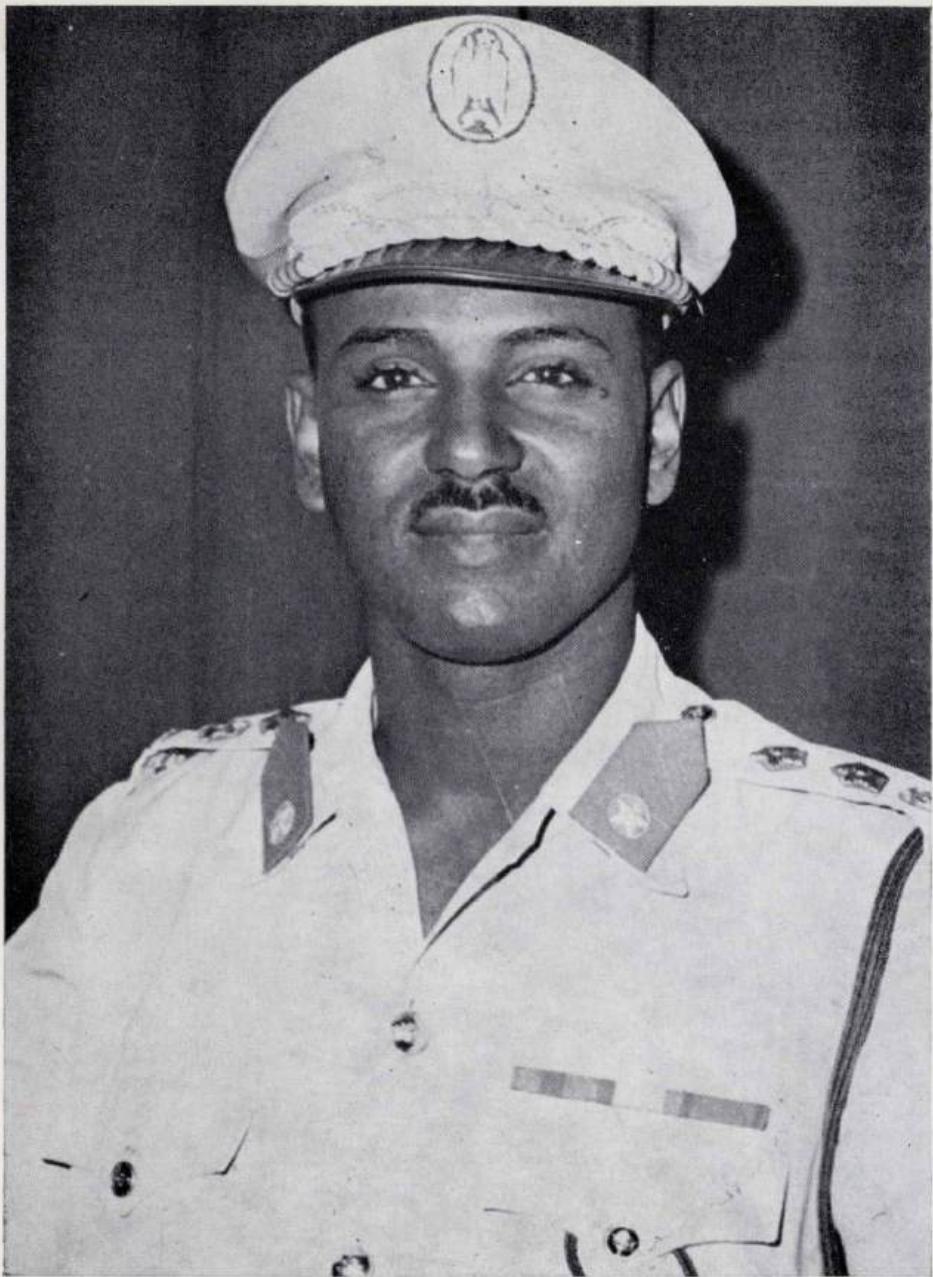
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Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre
President
of the Supreme Revolutionary Council,
Somali Democratic Republic





Colonel Ismail Ali Aboker

Vice President and Secretary of State



SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Information and National Guidance
Mogadishu

1 June 1974

Since the Revolution of October 1969 the Ministry of Information & National Guidance has been responsible for a sizeable number of publications designed to present the achievements of the Government and People of Somalia to our own people and to those outside our country.

This series of publications has been extremely well received in many parts of the world; it is an interesting observation that in the post-independence period since 1960 this was the first time that any such attempt had been made to acquaint those in other countries of the very real progress taking place within Somalia.

Since the Revolution of October 1969 the Government of Somalia has made strenuous efforts to give a proper account of the country's achievements from one year to the next in the various sectors of national development we are tackling. It is a fact that the Somali Democratic Republic, though in itself a fascinating country, was until recently very little known or understood in the outside world.

Nineteen seventy-four is the fifth year of our Revolution. Anyone acquainted with Somalia before 1969 can bear witness to the tremendous developments that have taken place in the country. To bring the record up to date and present a snapshot view of what is happening in Somalia today we thought it useful to publish the present edition 'Somalia - Five Years of Revolutionary Progress' which combines in one volume a thorough picture of many different facets of the country's progress.

We hope the book's readers will find it useful and instructive and through it will come to have a better knowledge of our country.

Colonel Ismail Ali Aboker

Vice President and Secretary of State

Introduction

A sense of lethargy, despondency and gloom gradually settled on the Somali people in the years following independence in 1960 when it was realised that the country's leaders were anxious only to serve their own interests rather than those of the nation. Admittedly the country's laws and constitution guaranteed, technically at any rate, the people's right to change their government through the electoral process. But the constitution was abused; force and political trickery became the order of the day and people realised that their so-called leaders were determined to cling to power come what may.

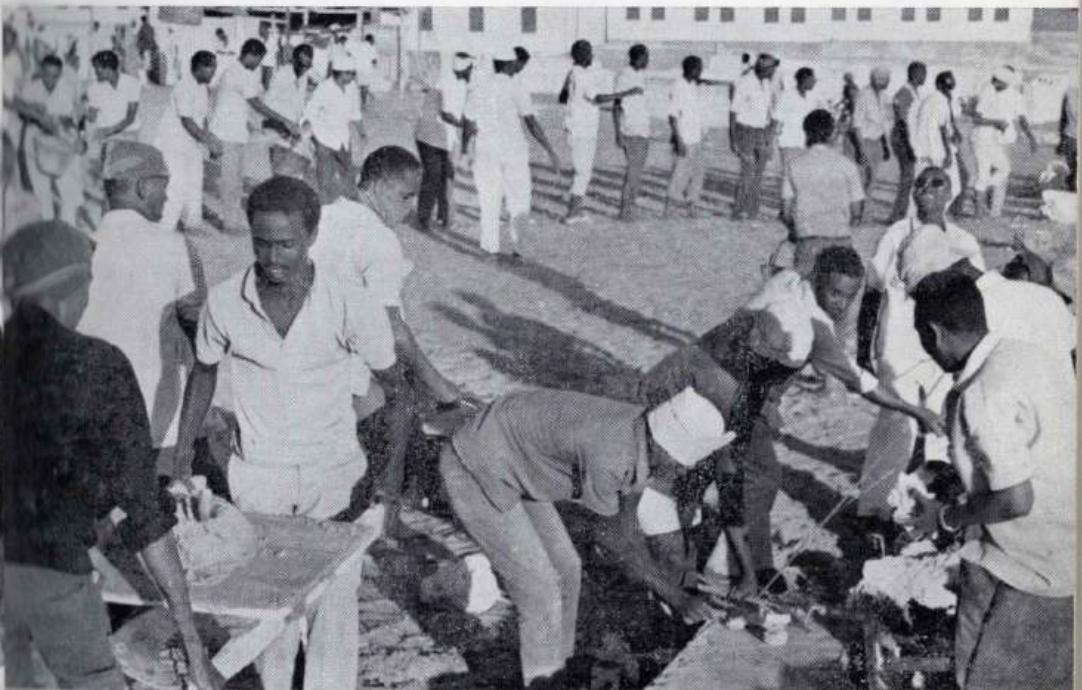
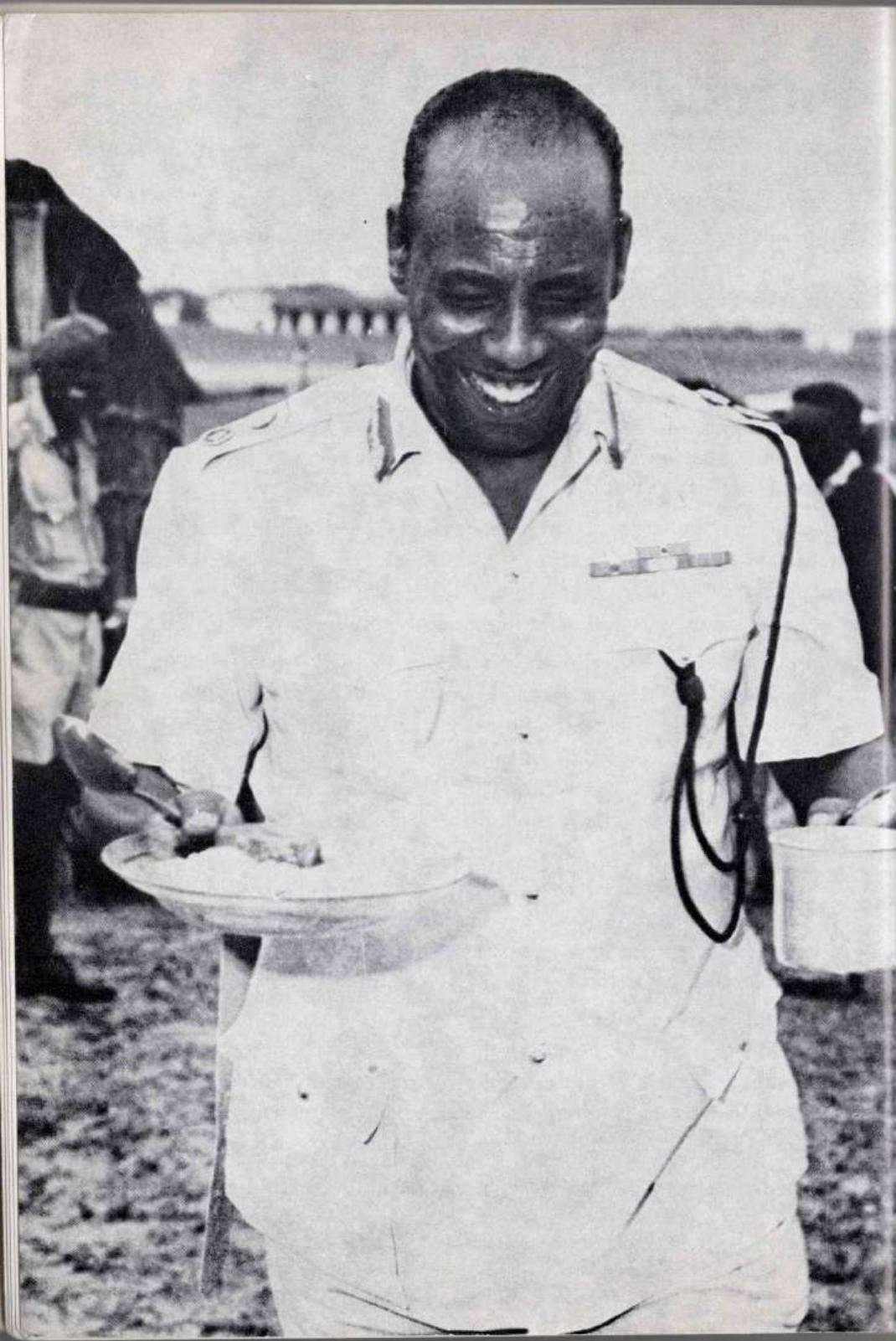
It was in such a context of widespread injustice, profiteering and the embezzlement of public funds by a number of individuals that the nation awoke, on 21 October 1969, to find that the armed forces had intervened to save the country from further humiliation and despair.

From the outset the Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC) took measures which inspired confidence in a bright and orderly future. The Council's declarations entailed the restoration of justice, equality before the law of the land, the right to work, the people's right to run their own affairs, fair distribution of the nation's income, the eradication of hunger, disease and ignorance and the elimination of the insidious but prevalent system of tribalism.

These were pronouncements of which the Somali people had hitherto only been able to dream. Now they saw their dreams translated into reality for it did not take them long to realise that the SRC was sincere in its declarations and was determined to carry out exactly what it said it would do.

The effect was inspiring. People threw off their apathy and despair and gave willingly of their enthusiasm, vitality and ingenuity in the making of a new and better society. From this awakening a popular revolution was born in Somalia – a revolution by the people and for the people.

The story of the past five years has been that of the continuous striving of



Crash Programmes and Self Help Schemes have changed the face of Somalia since the Revolution.

a nation that has turned itself from what the Western press once dubbed as 'The Graveyard of Foreign Aid' into a country that can stand today on its own feet relying not on scraps of others' assistance but on its own resources and ingenuity.

The decision to stand on one's own feet was spontaneous; no one needed to be persuaded to embrace it. This decision gave birth to a concept that has sustained the Somali nation ever since – the principle of self-reliance. This started as a simple idea. The SRC did not promise the people gifts from heaven or from anywhere else. Their message was direct and straightforward – whatever you wish to achieve, they told the people, you



Somalis, wherever they are, can take pride in the conspicuous achievements of the Revolution.



The whole nation is represented at the spectacular parade and celebrations which each year mark the anniversary of the Revolution of 21 October 1969.

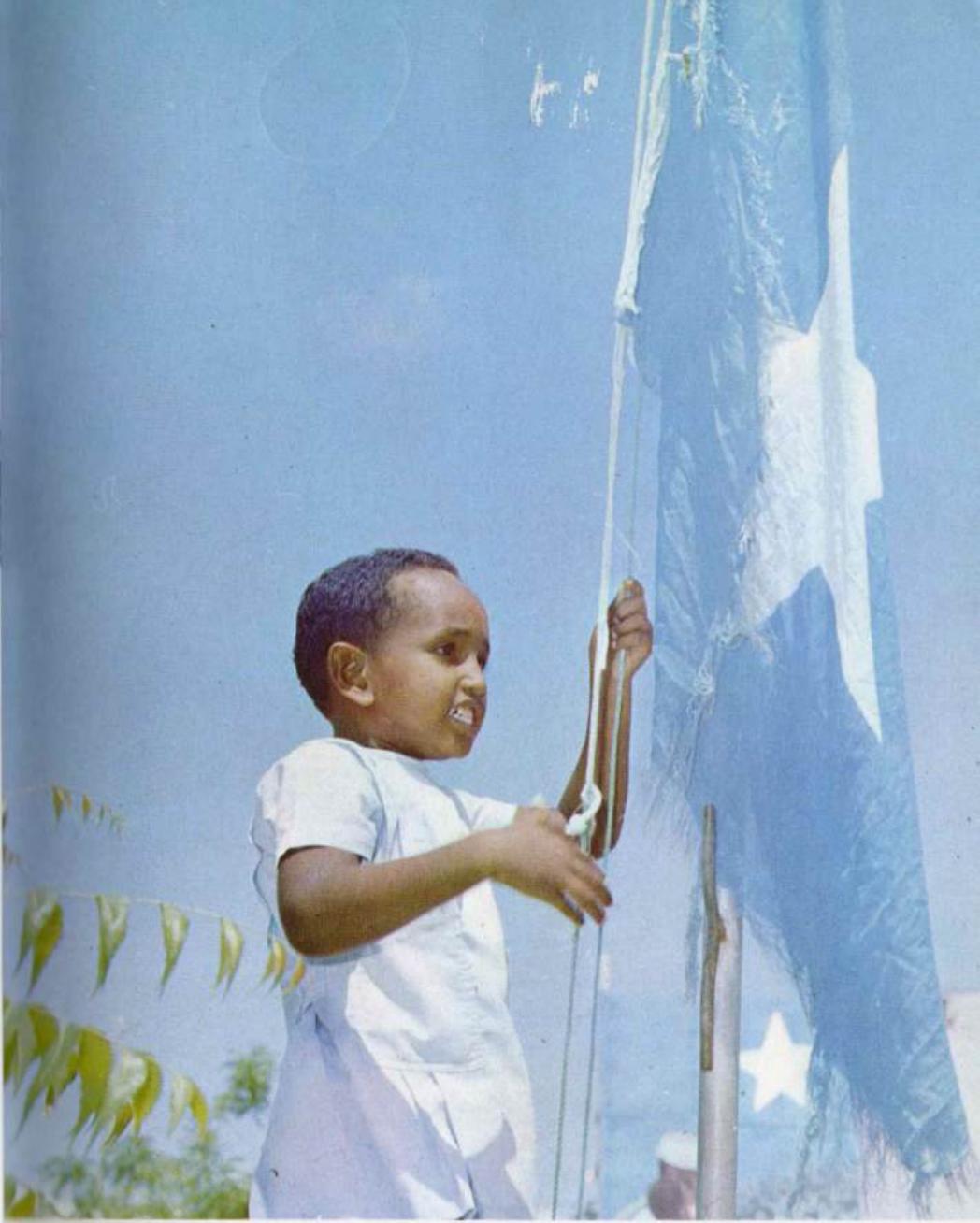




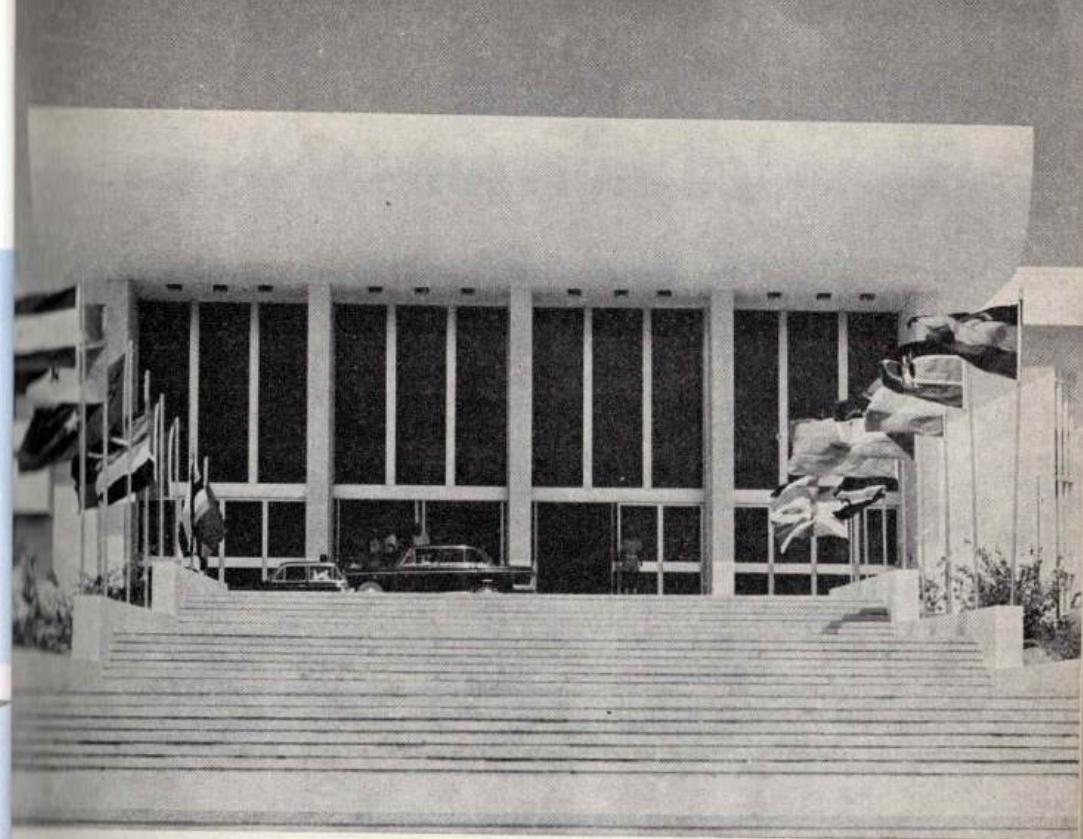
The President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre, is seen here on the site of the reclamation scheme near Merka where moving sand dunes were threatening access to roads, buildings and valuable agricultural land.

have to do it yourselves. So it came about that whatever it was that had to be done, whether it was building schools, hospitals, roads and so on, it had to be done by 'self-help' schemes. The idea grew in scope and intensity and it was not long before people saw what was meant by self-reliance and what could really be achieved by it.

This book is an attempt to highlight what the Revolution has achieved in the first five years of its existence. A great deal has been achieved in this short time as the reader will see from the record of progress contained in this book. There is still much to be done. To recount everything that the Revolution has achieved would mean giving a detailed account of all that has been done in the individual villages, farm settlements, towns and cities throughout the country. Instead the book concentrates on the country's major achievements and attempts to point a comparison between what existed in the country before the Revolution of October 1969 and what has been achieved subsequently.



A bright future awaits Somalia's youth.



The Peoples' Hall – a fine building set in attractive landscaped grounds and venue of the 1974 Conference of Heads of State of the Organisation of African Unity.

Foreign Affairs - expanded horizons

Our Foreign Policy before the Revolution

The success or failure of any particular country's foreign policies is fundamentally determined by two factors. Firstly, the soundness of its internal policies and the range of progress made in the economic field. Secondly, the extent of popularity and enthusiastic support that the general public gives to the political and economic policies of its Government.

These two factors are particularly true of the developing world where only through unity of purpose and action can national aspirations be realised. In this respect, the people of Somalia experienced two distinct periods during their fourteen years of national independence.

During the first nine years that followed independence in July 1960, successive civilian Governments played havoc with the internal affairs of the country and despite occasionally rhetorical pronouncements and sometimes seemingly progressive political statements were only paying lip-service to the outside world or were talking for local consumption to appease the Somali public whenever the naturally progressive attitude of the masses seemed to threaten the positions of those politicians in power.

Our Foreign Policy since the Revolution

The second five years' period that started with the birth of the Revolution in October 1969 was in complete contrast with what the nation experienced during the years to this date. Here we witnessed the rebirth of a nation-state and for the first time a people working hand in hand with its Government emerged.

All the actions and policies that followed the First Declaration of the Supreme Revolutionary Council were consistently kept to the letter and spirit of that Declaration.

Our first Charter provided the necessary Foreign Policy guidelines as follows:

- 1 To support international solidarity and national liberation movements;
- 2 To oppose and fight all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism;
- 3 To struggle to maintain Somali National Unity;
- 4 To continue and preserve a policy of positive neutrality;
- 5 To recognise strongly the principle of Peaceful Coexistence between all peoples;
- 6 To respect and recognise all legal international commitments undertaken by the Somali Republic.

We chose Socialism

The nation unanimously welcomed the long sought after decision that *Socialism* was the only way to economic prosperity.

In a solemn political statement, the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Jaalle Mohamed Siyad Barre said, 'We chose Scientific Socialism because it is the only way for the rapid transformation of the country into a developed and economically advanced nation'.

In fact, the decision was more of a national choice rather than a mere Government policy declaration.

The consequences of this decisive declaration were far-reaching and, with the responsive attitude of the people, it has effectively transformed the entire nation within a short period of time. Economic achievement, achieved through the hard work of a determined people, became nothing short of a miracle and the nationally declared war against poverty, disease and ignorance is still waged with the same degree of will and determination. Socialism meant the elimination of inequalities, mass participation in productive work and a fair distribution of output. It also meant a drastic change in a number of fundamentally traditional life patterns such as tribal and nepotic practices.

A New outlook

With the advent of the Revolution, the declaration of new foreign and internal policies and the adoption of socialism as a way of life all contributed to heralding a new outlook on our relations with the outside world, thus bidding farewell to a period of stagnation and national frustration. Once the ball started rolling shortly after these principles were made public, a number of main issues presented themselves as 'priority issues' as regards the reshaping of our national image in the field of foreign relations. These 'priority issues' were summarised in the First Charter under the heading 'Foreign Policy'.

Within the first few years of the Revolution, the active and sincere implementation of these principles was effective in taking Somalia out of the political and diplomatic isolation which the nation endured for nearly nine years. It was followed by a period of relentless efforts which served to redress this appalling situation and restore the nation's respect and dignity.

As a result, our relations with the African countries, the Arab World, the Muslim World, the Socialist World, the Non-Aligned World, the Liberation Movements and the peace-loving peoples of the world at large were considerably consolidated and cemented. The internal Socialist system we adopted further helped to achieve this consolidation.

Sons and daughters of the New Somalia of today have every reason to be proud of what their blessed Revolution, through its determined and patriotic people, has already achieved in less than five years. This pride in their dynamic policy has also contributed to an unlimited confidence in their future prosperity.

Somalia and the OAU

In describing the post-independence years of Somalia's role in the African arena and especially in regard to the OAU, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had this to say in one of the Ministry's political pamphlets:

'Although the Somali Democratic Republic is one of the original signatories of the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, yet previous civilian regimes have hardly contributed to the realization of the objectives of this continental organisation. These regimes only paid lip-service to even the most noble ideals of the organisation. Co-operation with African independent states at the economic, social and communications levels was limited. Even at the international level previous civilian regimes did not bother to co-ordinate their stand with other independent African states and were thus no more than an interested onlooker.'

Today Somalia is no more an onlooker. Instead there were more positive activities. The principles which are in conformity with the Charter of the OAU formed the basis of the policy of the Somali Democratic Republic towards the African continent. This naturally necessitated a closer co-operation with the OAU and independent African States at all levels. In the short span of just over four years since the birth of the October Revolution, the Somali Democratic Republic has emerged from its position of obscurity and isolation into the mainstream of African politics. Within these four years, the Somali Democratic Republic strengthened its bilateral relations with many African countries while proving to be the champion of the African cause in the OAU. As a result Mogadishu has played host to many African Heads of State, Government and other high ranking African personalities and has acted as the venue for various African Conferences. Today we are at last able to find the courage and enthusiasm to play host to the rest of independent Africa.

These activities have varied from the political to the economic and cultural. At one time Somalia displayed its sincere intention to participate in the economic links that always characterised a number of East African countries and which still remain as an urge to be implemented. Somalia submitted an application for membership of the East African Community which was at that time composed only of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Other East and Central African countries

interested to join the Community along with Somalia were Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi and Zambia. In this respect negotiations for joining the community started before the October Revolution, yet the rate of progress has been very slow. Aware of the vital role that regional economic integration could play in transforming the economies of independent African States, the Revolutionary Government despatched a special mission to Arusha to reaffirm our determination to join the Community and to hold talks on ways and means of effecting this quickly. Since then, regular contacts have been kept up between the Somali Democratic Republic and the Community ending with the visit to Mogadishu of a two-man delegation from the negotiating team of the partner States in 1972. This good-will and sincere effort still remain. Nevertheless, certain unfortunate events in the area have rather prolonged ultimate economic association. Owing to the existing goodwill and an all round determination to establish an economic community, there is every reason to believe that the few remaining obstacles will be removed in the next few years and thus open the way for final integration.

In the cultural field Somalia acted as host to the Seminar on African Folklore, Music and Dance in October 1970. The desire for Somalia to entertain this important cultural event in its capital, Mogadishu, was described as follows:

'For centuries the colonial powers destroyed African Culture and misrepresented its history. We were told that the African peoples had no culture of their own before the arrival of the white man in spite of the fact that Africa has a very rich cultural heritage. European cultures and civilisation were taught at schools while no mention was made of that of Africa.'

'In a situation like this, it was only natural that soon after independence African countries had to start a programme of cultural revival. Today member states of the OAU are paying closer attention to the cultures found within their boundaries as well as in other African countries. This general concern to give a priority to African cultures led the OAU to hold a seminar on African folklore, dance and music.'

'In response to the convening notes of the OAU, the Somali Democratic Republic with its rich culture invited the OAU to hold the seminar in Mogadishu on 21 October 1971 to coincide with the Second Anniversary Celebrations of the 21st October Revolution.'

'During the seminar, the Somali Democratic Republic presented a comprehensive document on Somali folklore, music and dance which indicated the main sources of Somali folklore and its distinctive aspects.'

'At the end of its deliberations, the seminar which was chaired by the Director

General of the Ministry of Education took important decisions and submitted concrete recommendations aimed at promoting African culture. Needless to say, the recommendations were later adopted by the OAU and are now in the implementation process.'

In addition to this active participation in both the economic and cultural fields, Somalia's part in African politics has been more responsive and alert. We may cite here only a few occasions where Somalia's foreign policy actions were not only thanked and appreciated, but further urged by other African sister states to play similar parts. Examples are:

(a) Aggression against Guinea

Portuguese colonialists and foreign mercenaries with the help of all the might of imperialism staged a naked aggression against the State of Guinea. Somalia was one of the first African independent countries to respond and condemn in the strongest words all the sources of aggression. In an immediate telegram sent to President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Jaalle Mohamed Siyad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council said in part:

'I am extremely aggrieved to hear of colonial invasion of Guinean territory by Portuguese forces reinforced by mercenary troops from Portuguese held Guinea Bissau stop This is a serious threat to the hard won independence of African States and a fatal blow to our organisation stop We hail your courageous repulse of these evil forces who are the enemies of peace and progress stop We also hail your brave and proud people who have vigilantly defended their country with faith and determination stop I have the honour to assure you of our full solidarity and support to the government and to the valiant people of Guinea including military support if need be stop Please rest assured that you will always triumph as long as you have on the side of you the African people stop Highest consideration stop.'

This was further followed by the despatch of a strong delegation to attend the 7th Extraordinary Session of the Organization of African Unity's Council of Ministers and the Defence Commission which were convened in Lagos from 9-12 December 1970. In that Session the African states examined the situation and recommended ways and means of safeguarding the Republic of Guinea against future aggression.

When that Extraordinary Session ended in Lagos, the Somali delegation proceeded to the Republic of Guinea to convey the following on behalf of the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Jaalle Mohamed Siyad Barre:

(i) To convey to President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the Government and people

of the Republic of Guinea the unreserved support and solidarity of the President of the SRC, the Government and people of the Somali Democratic Republic in the courageous struggle against the invasion;

(ii) To offer to that sister nation military and material assistance. It should be recalled that the 16th Ordinary Session of the OAU unanimously elected the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as Chairman of the Session in recognition of the dynamic role played by revolutionary Somalia in the affairs of the OAU. The task of the Chairman was complicated by the crisis which arose even before the Council could consider the first item on the agenda. This concerned Uganda's representation in the Session since there were two Uganda delegations contending for the Uganda representation. The problem was, therefore, which of these delegations could legitimately represent Uganda. In the course of the discussions that ensued, the Uganda problem gave rise to a heated debate which showed that member states were deeply divided on the issue. Indeed this division endangered the very existence of the OAU.

This issue no doubt posed a real challenge to the Chairman of the Session, Jaalle Omer Arteh Ghalib who guided the discussion with patience, tact and resoluteness. The Chairman opposed the view that the problem should be voted upon since he rightly felt that this was not conducive to the maintenance of unity and cohesion in the Organization. Instead the Foreign Secretary carried out intensive consultations with Heads of delegations so as to reach a compromise solution without a vote. In the end there was a consensus that the session be adjourned and this compromise solution was adopted unanimously by the Council.

Because of consultations carried out in the following months, the Uganda issue was solved by the time the 16th Ordinary Session was resumed in June 1971. While the session was in suspense, President Amin and his Foreign Minister, Kibedi, his government and people proved to Africa and to the peace and progress-loving world that the Revolution in Uganda was an African Revolution destined to regain the lost dignity of its people and take them out of the poverty, disease and ignorance that were deliberately perpetrated by the imperialists in a country which was later described by President Siyad as a Paradise. In a matter of four days, the resumed session concluded its deliberations. Thus despite the expectations of the enemies of Africa, Africa had once again demonstrated its faith in the OAU. If anything the 16th Session will go down in history as the session which proved to the world beyond any doubt that Africa can stand up and close its ranks in the face of imperialist intrigues and designs. Africa had indeed come out more united and more forceful than ever before.

Because of the weighty consequences of the challenge and the seriousness it presented to all Africa further OAU consultations and meetings were convened in various parts of Africa.

The response of the outside peace-loving world was no less important and the part played by the Somali Democratic Republic was always hailed and respected.

(b) The question of dialogue with southern Africa

It was the first time in the history of white racist southern Africa that after successive apartheid regimes they showed signs of an outward looking attitude in their relations with the rest of the independent African countries.

This so-called outward-looking attitude on the part of minority white rule in South Africa was so deceptive both in form and origin that certain African leaders were wrongly led to believe that such an outlook which was expressed in the form of an open dialogue could either help the political struggle waged by the African people in that country or even ultimately help in solving the entire problem.

It was necessary here for the independent African countries either to take for preference a united stand within the OAU or if that failed express their unilateral policies. Since the issue meant more than solving a discord in the African ranks, the Somali Democratic Republic together with most of the African countries completely rejected the issue. In doing so these countries realised the danger inherent in the dialogue as proposed by the South African racist regime which in spirit and letter aimed to destroy hard won African unity in the OAU. The nature of that dialogue was also planned to destroy once and for all the Liberation Movements and render their men and leaders liable to endless ruthless persecutions at the hands of their own enemy.

The Somali Democratic Republic maintained along with those African countries who took a similar stand that such dialogue on the part of Southern Africa lacked in the first place all principles relating to human dignity and the equality of all men regardless of their colour or creed.

The Somali Democratic Republic proposed that South Africa should first open direct negotiations with the leaders of the Liberation Movements. Any useful results reached in such negotiations might be considered important bases for any future talks with the OAU.

The issue was further rejected in the Seventh East and Central African Summit Conference held here in Mogadishu in 1971 where the famous 'Mogadishu Declaration' says:

'The leaders of independent Africa intended, through the Lusaka manifesto, to dispel any misunderstanding by the international community of Africa's reasons for its united opposition to the racist policies of the Government of South Africa. It was also intended to reaffirm their conviction of the equality of all men and women and of their inalienable right to human dignity and respect without regard to colour, race, religion or sex.'

The Lusaka Manifesto was presented to the United Nations Organization at the twenty-fourth Session of the General Assembly by the President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, H. E. Ahmadou Ahidjo as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. After its discussion and debate it was adopted and made a United Nations document. The voting at the United Nations was overwhelmingly in favour of the document with only South Africa and Portugal voting against. In other words, out of one hundred and twenty six members of the United Nations these were the only two countries whose policies were under scrutiny and attack who opposed the contents of the Lusaka Manifesto.

Having defined the objectives of the liberation of Southern Africa, the leaders of independent Africa made it known to the whole world and in particular to the Republic of South Africa and Portugal that there could be no compromise or concession regarding the freedom, dignity and respect of the oppressed peoples of Southern Africa. Consequently, the only alternative left to Africa is to use all means available to them to change the abominable and hateful policies of apartheid, colonialism and racism.

(c) Somalia: the host country

For the first time since independence in July 1960, the Somali Democratic Republic had the chance to initiate new policies and act as host country to a number of African gatherings.

Mogadishu, the capital city, received a number of prominent leaders while Jaaalle Siyad paid similar visits to a number of African countries. Views exchanged were useful in planning the future relations of Somalia with its African sister states.

(d) OAU Conferences

Ever since the birth of the October Revolution, the Somali Democratic Republic has made an effective contribution to all the conferences of the Organization of Unity and the dynamic part it has played on most issues, especially on decolonization questions, has earned the Somali people the respect and dignity of their African brothers.

Somalia was further honoured when the Rabat Summit unanimously agreed to hold this present Summit in Mogadishu.

The official visits made by Jaalle Mohamed Siyad Barre, President of the SRC and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jaalle Omar Arteh Ghalib, have not only ensured co-operation with other African States as envisaged in the OAU Charter, but also paved the way for the conclusion of a number of bilateral agreements on economic, political and cultural matters.

(e) The Seventh Summit Conference of East and Central African States

The Seventh Summit Conference of East and Central African Heads of State and Government and the Conference of Foreign Ministers were convened in Mogadishu in October 1971.

The two conferences dealt with questions of co-operation between the East and Central African States in the political, economic and social fields as well as with questions of African and international importance.

In the political field, the two conferences gave priority to the promotion of good neighbourly relations and the total emancipation of African territories still under colonial domination. To this end, the Seventh Summit adopted the Mogadishu Declaration.

(f) The Ugandan/Tanzanian crisis

The crisis which flared between the two sister states of Uganda and Tanzania was the concern of every African. If allowed to develop, it could have endangered the peace and security not only of East Africa but of the whole of the African continent. Realising this, the Somali Democratic Republic immediately decided to intervene and offered its good offices to the two sister states. The reasons which led the Somali Democratic Republic to take this line of action are the following:

- 1 The fraternal relations which Somalia maintains with both Uganda and Tanzania;
- 2 Our closeness to the troubled area;
- 3 Our belief that all types of dispute that can arise between any two African States can be solved through negotiation, mediation and arbitration;
- 4 Both countries are progressive members of the OAU;
- 5 Our policy of keeping the unity of Africa intact so that the imperialists and racists may not benefit from our disunity;
- 6 Our belief that disputes between African states will slow down the war of liberation particularly when countries bordering the racist minority regimes are parties to such disputes.

After taking this decision, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Jaalle Omar Arteh Ghalib, flew to Uganda and Tanzania with a five-point peace plan worked out by Jaalle Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre. After the necessary consultations with Presidents Nyerere and Amin, the two parties to the dispute responded positively to the mediation effort by the Somali Democratic Republic and consequently agreed to send their Foreign Ministers to Mogadishu with full powers to work out the details of a peace plan submitted by Somalia.

These talks were held in Mogadishu in October 1972 under the Chairmanship of Jaalle Arteh who guided the deliberations of the meeting to a successful conclusion and in the presence of the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU who was invited by the Somali Democratic Republic to be present for the talks.

At the end of the discussions which were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere, the five-point peace plan was accepted in the form of a Pledge which ended hostilities between the two states and restored peace.

The conclusion of this pledge was a victory not only for Uganda and Tanzania but also for the East African region and for Africa in general. It forestalled any serious drawbacks to the smooth functioning of the East African Community which all countries in East and Central Africa hope will be the nucleus for economic integration. It was also a triumph for the OAU, since any hostilities between members are detrimental to achieving the aims and objectives of the OAU and its Charter. The pledge indeed reinforced the conviction that all types of dispute including territorial ones can be resolved peacefully between African states in the spirit of African brotherhood. The Uganda-Tanzania and Gabon-Equatorial Guinea disputes have proved beyond any doubt that such disputes can be resolved only if the parties to them have the necessary goodwill and determination to do so. We believe that other African countries could follow these examples so that we get closer to our aspiration for continental unity and unimpeded progress and prosperity for our peoples.

The success of the peace talks was indeed a blow to the imperialists and colonialists who would like to see Africa weak and divided so that they may exploit our weakness and misunderstanding for their own selfish ends. Above all it was a blow to the racist minority regimes in Southern Africa and their allies who hoped for a prolongation of the crisis in the wish that the war of liberation being waged would be weakened. It is no secret that more than any other OAU member State the United Republic of Tanzania has been committed to this war of liberation and has in fact acted as a springboard for regular attacks against the racist minority regimes in the South. Consequently any prolongation of the crisis would

have weakened the liberation struggle. This possibility necessitated the immediate cessation of hostilities between the two sister countries.

Above all the continuation of the crisis would have given a chance for the big powers to meddle in the affairs of Africa as experience has shown with other crises in the world. The cold war would have been extended to this part of the world, thereby endangering the policy of non-alignment as expounded in the Charter of the OAU.

Somalia's role in this respect was hailed in all the African gatherings and on this occasion the OAU Secretary General had this to say: 'The General Secretariat would like to spotlight the very significant role played in the settlement of the Uganda-Tanzania crisis by Jaalle Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre, President of the Somali Democratic Republic and by our good friend and colleague, his indefatigable and tenacious Foreign Minister, Omar Arteh Ghalib.

'Their prompt initiative and their sacrifice in time and material are only commensurate with the deep sense of devotion and dedication to the cause of African unity which we know is a basic characteristic of the present regime in Mogadishu.'

The Chairman of the 20th Summit Conference of the OAU also despatched the following cable in this regard:

'Excellency, the 20th Session of the OAU Council of Ministers expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for the effective role you played in resolving the conflict between the sister Republics of Tanzania and Uganda. The Council is more than ever convinced that the settlement of the conflict will contribute to the maintenance of peace and the promotion of co-operation among the countries of the region. Highest consideration and esteem.'

**Baba Hassane
Chairman, Council of Ministers'**

Somalia and the Liberation Movements

As noted in previous pages, the Somali Democratic Republic has played a significant part in the efforts made to promote the cause of the Liberation Movement in Africa.

The desire and determination of the African peoples to liberate the entire continent is not a question of yesterday, but is an ever-standing one until Africa is totally liberated.

One of the main objectives of the Pan-African Movement particularly in later years was the total emancipation of the African continent from all forms of

colonialism and imperialism. Thus the Sixth Pan-African Congress held in Manchester in 1945 affirmed the right of all colonial peoples to control their own destiny. The same Congress demanded autonomy and independence for Black Africa and envisaged the use of force, as a last resort, in the effort to achieve freedom and independence.

This objective was later embodied in the OAU Charter. At the same time a Liberation Committee was specifically set up to co-ordinate the efforts of the OAU to liberate the continent from the grip of the colonialists' remaining presence and to assist liberation movements to establish common fronts with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of their movements. It is no exaggeration to say that the Liberation Committee has succeeded in carrying out the task assigned to it. In the period since the formation of the OAU nine new states have joined the OAU family of independent African countries mainly as a result of the military, diplomatic and financial support given by the OAU to the liberation movements in those territories.

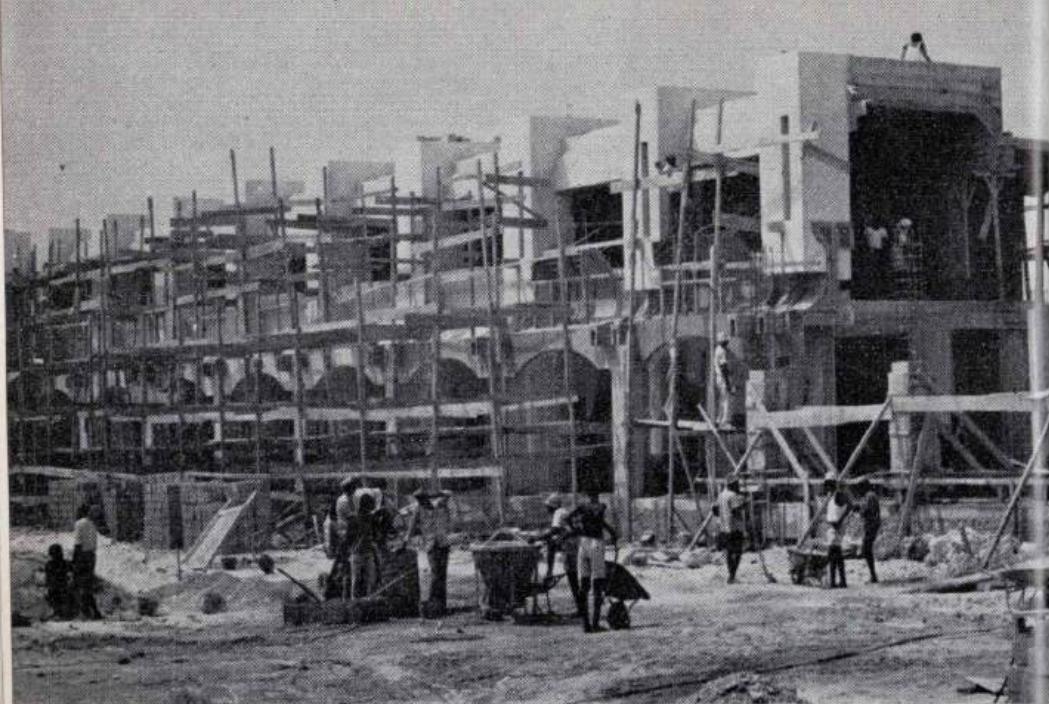
Moreover, during this period, the OAU and the Conference of East and Central African States have in all their meetings passed resolutions condemning the racialist policy of apartheid and the minority illegal regime in Rhodesia while emphatically calling on Portugal to abandon her colonialist and racist philosophy. In the same meetings the OAU and ECAS have reaffirmed their unfailing support for, and solidarity with, the liberation movements.

In their efforts to mislead world opinion the imperialist mass media have repeatedly informed the world that the OAU is bent on kindling a fire of destruction in Southern Africa. To dispel any misunderstanding, however, the OAU adopted the Lusaka Manifesto prepared by the Fifth Summit Conference of East and Central African States in 1969.

The aim was to make known to the world the position of the independent African States on the racialist policies practised in Southern Africa. The Manifesto was also intended to reaffirm the conviction of the OAU regarding the equality of all men and women and their right to human dignity and respect.

After defining the objectives of Liberation, the OAU indicated its preference for achieving the total liberation of the continent by peaceful means and without physical violence. This message was addressed to the racialist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia and Portugal in the hope that they would change their policies and accept the principle of self-determination for the people under their domination.

However, when the Manifesto was submitted for adoption to the twenty-fourth session of the UN's General Assembly, both the Republic of South Africa and



Work proceeds apace on the new headquarters building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Portugal voted against its adoption although the United Nations overwhelmingly supported it. In effect this was a rejection of any peaceful settlement of the problems of Southern Africa and Guinea-Bissau as well as of the principle of self-determination and majority rule.

The Mogadishu Declaration

Immediately after this, it was obvious that the OAU had to change the strategy contained in the Lusaka Manifesto and instead adopt a more militant stand on this very important question of decolonisation. This new strategy was enshrined in the Mogadishu Declaration adopted by the Seventh Conference of East and Central African States held in Mogadishu and later adopted by the OAU in Rabat.

After realising that the plea for a peaceful solution of the problem was falling on deaf ears, the Heads of State and Government meeting in Mogadishu declared at the Seventh Summit 'that there is no way left for the liberation of Southern Africa except by armed struggle to which we already give and will increasingly continue to give our fullest support'. In this statement they completely rejected any dialogue with South Africa.

Long before the adoption of the Mogadishu Declaration, many African states, including the Somali Democratic Republic, held the view that the OAU's strategy to liberate remaining dependent African territories through peaceful means was no more than mere appeasement of the racist minority regimes in Southern Africa and advocated instead a more active and militant policy. In fact the Somali Democratic Republic has on occasions pointed out that plans to liberate peacefully African territories under colonial domination are no more than wishful thinking since the only language that the governments of the Republic of South Africa, Portugal and the illegal regime in Rhodesia know is force. The Somali Democratic Republic genuinely believes that the harder we hit these racist regimes, the closer we will be to our objective of the total emancipation of our continent. This is the only realistic approach to the difficult task that we face. This is why the Mogadishu Declaration was a step in the right direction and more in line with our policy as contained in the First Charter of the Revolution.

Somalia and the Muslim World

A wise word

The battles of life are mainly won or lost in the minds of men.

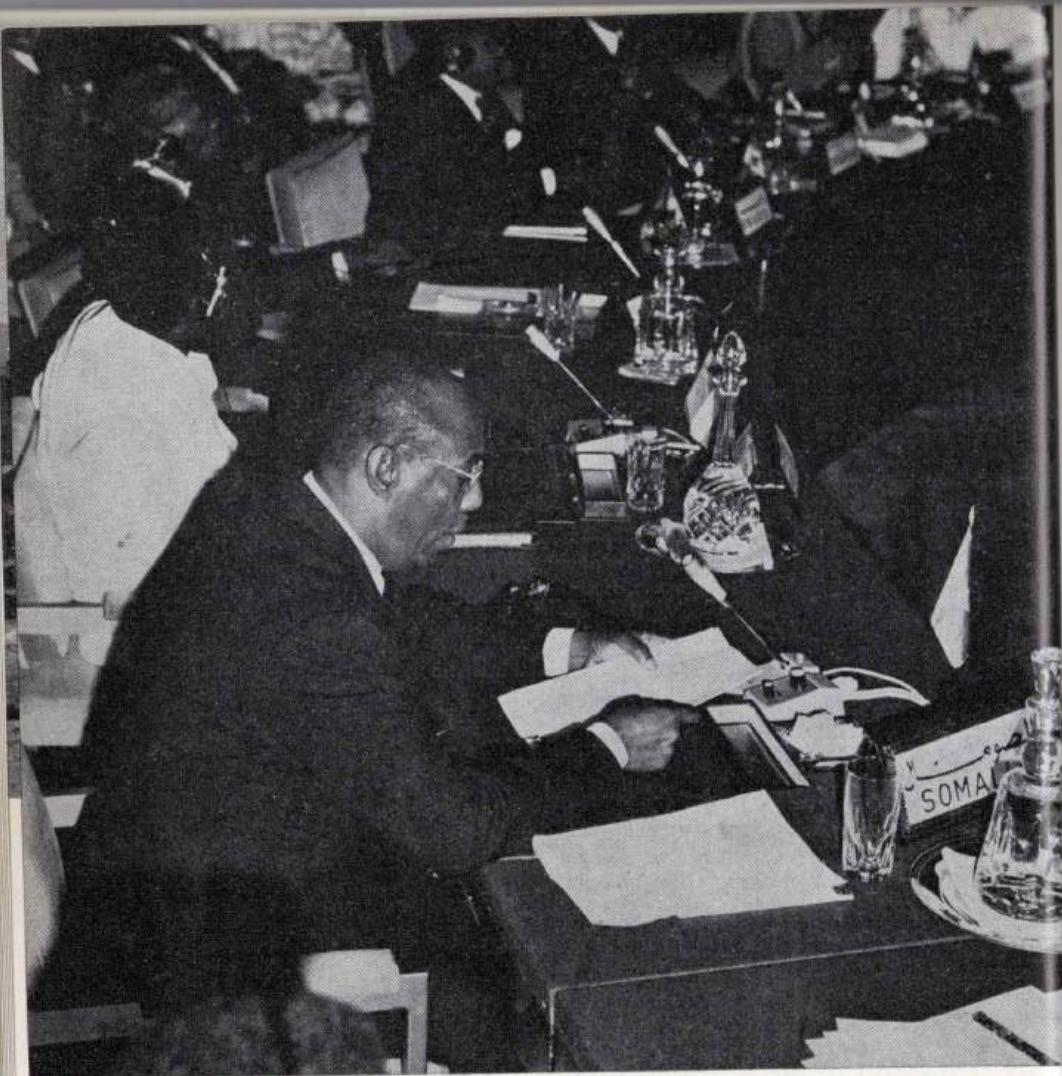
Self-confidence and determination are the first two ever-lasting principles to be built and nurtured so that at the end one merges victorious; the action has then borne its fruit. If failure ensues, the fight was still worthwhile.

Let us turn first to the Holy Qur'an for guidance and deliverance.

In the name of Allah, the Merciful and compassionate.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- 1 Allah says: 'Ye are the best of Peoples evolved for mankind'.
(١) قال الله تعالى : «كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أَخْرَجْتُ لَنَاكُمْ»
- 2 Allah also says: 'And he joined your hearts in love, so that by his grace, ye become brothers'.
(٢) وَقَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى : «وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَلْفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَاصْبَحُوكُمْ بَعْنَمَةِ أَخْوَانًا»
- 3 Allah the Great says: 'And their affairs are subject to exchange of views among themselves'.
(٣) وَقَالَ اللَّهُ : «وَامْرُهُمْ شُورَى بَيْنَهُمْ»
- 4 And Allah says: 'And be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations'.
(٤) وَقَالَ أَيْضًا : «وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاتَّخَلَّفُوا»



Somalia is in the forefront of the struggle for African Unity and a just settlement in the Middle East. President Siyad had travelled widely in support of these aims and is seen here at the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Algiers in 1973.

(a) Fundamental Aims

In these words from the Holy Qur'an, unity, brotherhood and oneness are invariably preached throughout its 'Suras'.

Islam as a religion does not recognise any differences whether based on nationalism, race, colour or individual material gain among those who believe in Islam and faithfully follow its principles and teachings.

It is these heavenly teachings that guide and govern not only the individual

Muslim's attitude towards his other Muslim brothers; but also inspire divine relations among the Muslim countries.

It is, however, equally true that Muslims after centuries of sacrifice and promotion of the cause of Islam under its sacred teachings began to slight Allah's command that, 'Ye are the best of Peoples evolved for mankind'; they therefore started to disintegrate and finally lost their unity and power to non-muslim nations.

The events of the last decade or so have however confidently pointed to the renaissance of the entire Muslim world. The recent Lahore summit conference of thirty Muslim countries which was called to discuss the present state of Muslim affairs is evidence of this.

(b) Islamic Conferences: Objectives and Principles

The concept of Islamic solidarity on a firm, formal basis has been initiated by Somalia; but it took a calamity in the desecration of the Masjid-Al-Aqsa to bring home the need for such unity. It is said that many a calamity brings in its wake a blessing; thus it was the sense of outrage felt by Muslims the world over which resulted in the first Islamic conference at Rabat, Morocco, in September 1969. As a measure of the importance attached to that historic milestone in Islamic unity, twenty-five Heads of State attended the Rabat Islamic Summit Conference.

Since then the conference has been gaining strength and prestige with the convening, to date, of three Islamic Conferences at Foreign Ministers' level. There were also various other Conferences at expert level dealing with the drawing up of a Charter of Islamic Solidarity, the creation of Islamic Cultural Centres and the establishment of an International Islamic News Agency.

The Islamic Conference is composed of:

- 1 The Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government;
- 2 The Conference of Foreign Ministers; and
- 3 The Central Secretariat and subsidiary organs.

Objectives

The objectives of the Islamic Conference are:

- 1 To promote Islamic solidarity among Member states;
- 2 To consolidate co-operation among Member States in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and other vital fields of activity and to carry out consultations among Member States in international organisations;
- 3 To endeavour to eliminate racial segregation and discrimination and to eradicate colonialism in all its forms;

- 4 To co-ordinate efforts for the safeguarding of the Holy Places and to support the struggle of the people of Palestine and help them to regain their rights and liberate their land;
- 5 To strengthen the struggle of all Muslim peoples with a view to safeguarding their dignity, independence and national rights; and
- 6 To create a suitable atmosphere for the promotion of co-operation and understanding among Member States and other countries.

Principles

The Member States decide and undertake that in order to realise the objectives mentioned in the previous paragraphs they shall be inspired and guided by the following principles:

- 1 Total equality between Member States;
- 2 Respect for the right of self-determination and non-interference in the domestic affairs of Member States;
- 3 Respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of each Member State;
- 4 Settlement of any conflict that may arise by peaceful means such as negotiation, mediation, reconciliation or arbitration; and
- 5 Abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity, national unity or political independence of any Member State.

Subsequent events

Nearly five years separate the first Summit meeting of Heads of Muslim States at Rabat in September 1969 and the second Summit meeting at Lahore. During the intervening period the Foreign Ministers of Muslim States have met four times – at Jeddah (March 1970), Karachi (December 1970), again at Jeddah (March 1972) and at Benghazi (March 1973). These meetings have passed their fair share of resolutions.

Some resolutions have progressed to the projecting and planning stage while a few have reached the initial phase of actual implementation. They include the setting up of an Islamic Secretariat, an Islamic Development Bank, an International Islamic News Agency, Islamic Cultural Centres in major cities and the adoption of an Islamic Charter which at last has subsequently been ratified by the minimum required to bring the Organisation into formal existence.

Other resolutions have remained as such, e.g. the one for an Islamic university, while the remaining resolutions have been concerned with expressing a common point of view and an agreed set of exhortations on various world problems, in particular those involving Muslims and on colonialism and racialism.

An Islamic issue

The keystone is, of course, al-Quds (Jerusalem); the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque there by the Jews in August 1969 was the direct and immediate cause of the Rabat Summit. Palestine has always been a Muslim issue, but Jerusalem's plight after the June 1967 war and the 1969 burning transformed this decisively from being primarily an Arab to being a truly Muslim issue, even if the Arab States in the immediate vicinity of Palestine continue to bear the brunt of the challenge.

Jerusalem is a microcosm of the tragedy of Palestine. A victim of political and cultural vandalism for the past six years, it lies bleeding under the heels of Zionist occupation. In its present state, Jerusalem in a weird way represents all the suffering, all the injustices and wrongs the Palestinian people have gone through during the past 25 years.

Jerusalem has always been a land of peace and tranquility, piety and devotion to which people from all over the world have flocked for ages for prayer and meditation. Over the centuries it acquired the status of a truly international city, a city unlike all others under the sovereignty of a society at once tolerant, open, hospitable and universal. But the 'Capital of God's Universal Kingdom on Earth' is today a land of murder and terror, shooting and killing. Fear stalks Jerusalem these days and life for its Arab population is an unending misery and trial. Thousands of them have been cruelly put to death; many more are in Israel prisons undergoing untold suffering. The Israeli authorities are also trying to change both the inner character and outer appearance of the Holy City. New urban development schemes have done great damage to Jerusalem's centuries-old architectural visage and cultural ethos.

The Arab World

The Horn of Africa is strategically placed at the crossroads of world cultures. To the East and across the Indian Ocean are the ancient cultures of India and the Far East; to the North is the Arabian Peninsula and Iran and to the North West and West lie the cultures of Ancient Egypt and others. But since time immemorial Somalia's close proximity to Arabia and her common Islamic faith are deeply rooted in history and custom.

Somalis are 100% Moslems, a fact which extends our horizons of brotherly feeling toward the non-Arab Moslem world, both far and near. Our common struggle vis-à-vis imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and Zionism has locked the destiny of Somalia to the Islamic and the Arab World. Even in its

heyday, imperialist colonialism could not succeed in breaking chords that linked Somalia to Islam and the Arab world. Somali pilgrims frequented the holy places of Islam and our merchants and workers kept alive both trade and cultural links with the Arab countries. Contemporary brotherly relations in the political, economic, cultural and other fields firmly consolidated Somalia's historic ties with the Arab countries. This culminated in the epoch-making event of February 1974, when the Somali Democratic Republic became the twentieth member of the Arab League.

The Middle East

The Somali Democratic Republic has always taken a firm stand on the Middle East question. In a message to a mass rally in solidarity with the Arab cause soon after the 6th October War, the President of the SRC Jaalle Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre said:

'It is indelible ties of history that prompt the Somali people to support the Arab people's struggle, to be happy with their victories and sympathetic to their shortfalls. There is another reason: from time immemorial, the Somali people have upheld liberty and all things that pertain to human dignity. Somalis always supported and will always be on the side of justice and human rights. We supported the Arab nation in their just struggle.'

In this statement, the President of the SRC eloquently expressed Somalia's unequivocal commitment to the Arab cause not merely because of our close traditional links with the Arab nation but also because of the Somali people's inherent belief in justice and the inalienable rights of man. It is for these reasons and many more that the Somali Democratic Republic has become internationally renowned – in the United Nations Organization, in the Organization of African Unity, in the Non-Aligned Conferences and in every international forum at which we have been represented – for championing the adoption of issues in defence of peace, democracy and self-determination for the oppressed peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and for tabling motions in support of the Arab cause and the restoration of the right of the Palestinian people to effect a return to their homeland. The Somali Government has unreservedly and incessantly condemned Zionist aggression and the continued violation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and other resolutions by the Israeli terrorists. The Somali Revolutionary Government has devotedly upheld the necessity for the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories it occupied during its wanton aggression in June 1967.

During Somalia's non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council, our

UN representative relentlessly championed Arab rights and sponsored resolutions which among other things decried continued Israeli aggression against Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, and called for the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories as a pre-requisite for a workable peace in the Middle East. In the United Nations, Somalia contributed – out of all proportion to its size – to the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly which condemned the requisition of territory by force and called upon the aggressor state of Israel to withdraw from Arab territories it occupied by force and to take steps to restore the rights of Palestinians.

In the same way, the Somali Revolutionary Government has remained an indefatigable supporter of the Arab cause and the rights of the usurped Palestinian people, in the OAU, and in Non-Aligned Conferences. Indeed, the Somali Democratic Republic had been instrumental in convincing independent African states of Israeli intransigence and its arrogant mockery of world opinion.

It is most gratifying that this led to the severing of diplomatic ties by practically all those independent African countries that had relations with Israel soon after the Zionist state started hostilities against Egypt (a founding-member of the OAU) and Syria in October 1974.

The Somali Revolutionary Government cemented traditional ties with the Arab nation by expanding Somalia's diplomatic links. At the moment of writing, Somalia has Embassies in Aden, Cairo, Jeddah, Khartoum, Tripoli, Doha, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Algiers, Damascus and Baghdad.

In turn, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Sudan, the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic all have Embassies in Mogadishu. Abundant contacts between Somali and Arab diplomats are being further strengthened by the constant exchange of visits at State or Government levels. But although establishment of diplomatic relations between countries is said to gauge the level of friendship between them, Somali-Arab ties can hardly ever conform to this dictum since the long-standing brotherly relations between the Somali and Arab nations are psycho-cultural rather than politico-diplomatic.

Exchange of State and official visits

Since the 21 October Revolution, the President of the SRC Jaalle Major-General Mohammed Siyad Barre has paid state visits to most Arab countries. In November 1971, Jaalle Siyad paid his first state visits to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Iraq. These visits were most significant since they served as a weathercock for strengthening Arab relations with the Revolutionary Government.

In January 1972 the SRC President paid state visits to the Sudan and Libya, in

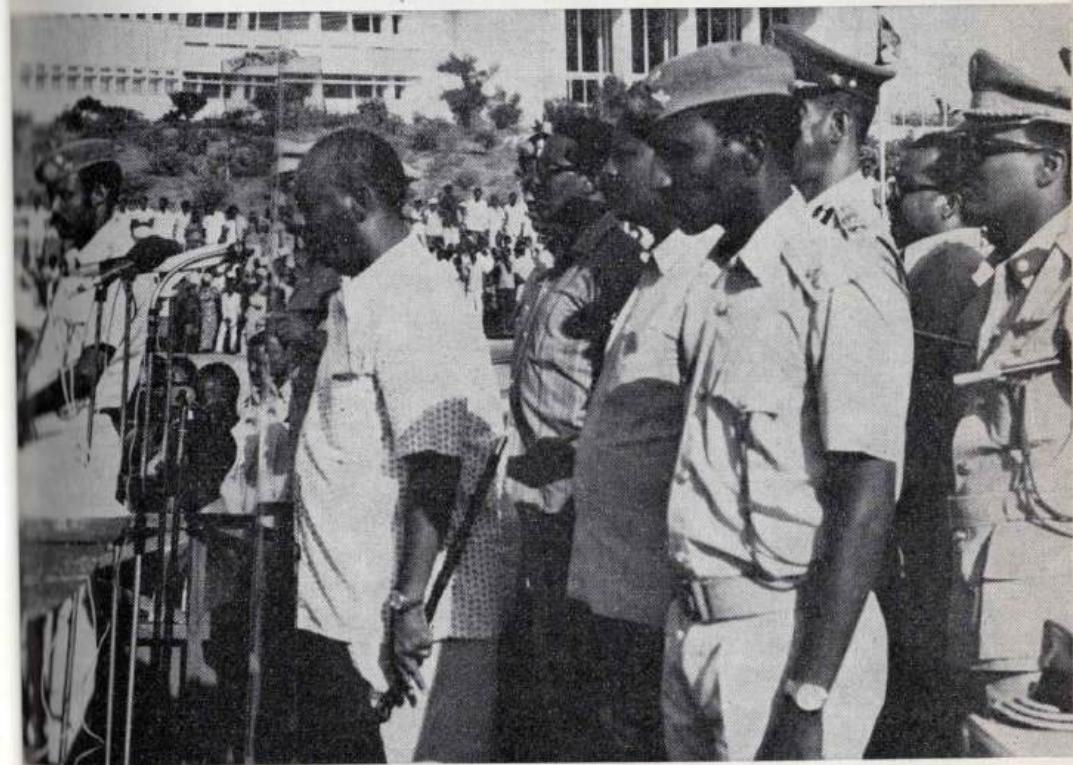


response to official invitations from the leaders of these two countries. Again in late 1973 and early 1974 the SRC President led a high-powered Pilgrim delegation to Saudi Arabia, which proceeded on further state visits to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. It was at the end of these state visits which lasted for twenty-three days that history was made in announcing that Somalia was admitted into the Arab League. The President of the SRC has also been to Rabat during the OAU Summit in June 1972, when the Mogadishu Declaration was adopted, and attended the Non-Aligned Conference in Algiers in 1973. In all these state visits the joint communique and statements after they ended reaffirmed the brotherly relations between Somalia and the Arab nations and cemented solidarity between them.

By the same token, the burning issues of the world were discussed during these visits and common grounds evolved, with particular consideration to the mercurial nature of international politics, the explosive situation in the Middle East and the Machiavellian trappings of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The SRC President also explained to Arab Heads of State the progress Somalia has made since the birth of our Blessed Revolution.

These Presidential visits were further augmented by constant visits to Arab capitals by SRC members, Secretaries of State and high ranking civil servants.

Meanwhile a number of Arab Heads of State have paid visits to the Somali Democratic Republic during the four years since the Revolution. These included President Ja'afar El-Numeiri who came to Somalia in July 1972 and again in June 1973; the President of the United Arab Emirates, H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayan in November 1972 and since Somalia joined the Arab League President Muammar Al-Qaddafi in February 1974. Official visits of Arab Ministers and high officials are also a common feature in the intensified economic, trade and cultural relations between the SDR and the Arab world since the birth of the 21 October Revolution. Hardly a week passes without the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' being feted by a visiting delegation from one or more Arab capitals and without a Somali delegation arriving in an Arab State.



The President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council addressed a gathering in excess of 150,000 people on the occasion of Somalia's adherence to membership of the Arab League. Recalling the traditional good relations between the Somali and Arab peoples, particularly in the fields of education, commerce and religion, the President said that the Arab peoples have always supported Somalia especially during the struggle for independence.

The Arab League

On Thursday 14 February 1974, the Somali Democratic Republic at last made her historical reunion with her Arab sister states and became the 20th member and 8th African state to join the Arab League. There is no doubt that this epic step, taken jointly by the SRC and the Council of Secretaries, transferred the concept of the Somali Revolution to a new level and made it the embodiment of a radical transformation as well as its instrument. Below is produced the translation of the epoch-making decision of the SRC and Council of Secretaries on joining the Arab League.

The SRC and Council of Secretaries reached their decision to join the Arab League in a meeting they had early in February 1974, after carefully studying the following considerations:

- 1 After deeply considering the historical ties and mutual solidarity between the Somali and Arab nations;
- 2 Knowing that the Arabs have always supported the Somali cause;
- 3 Knowing that former Somali governments and the current Revolutionary Government played an important role in the promotion of the Arab cause;
- 4 The Somali Revolutionary Government supported morally and materially the Arabs in the struggle against world imperialism and Zionism, while emphasising constantly that Arab interests lie in their unity and solidarity, until they succeeded in restoring their honour in the October 6th War of 1973;
- 5 The Somali Revolutionary Government never let up in convincing the governments of African nations that the machinations of colonialism were meant to divide them and create disunity among them and to prevent any co-operation and entente among Africans and Arabs;
- 6 Somalia played a great role in African unity and Afro-Arab co-operation, till they understood the enemy amongst them, which led to the severing of relations with Israel by many countries;
- 7 Owing to the success of this role a new era dawned for Afro-Arab co-operation on an equal and just basis, and mutual benefits;
- 8 The Revolution constantly assured Somali interests and the fulfilment of international obligations, and thus took appropriate measures at all times;
- 9 Somalia still continues the rightful struggle against imperialist domination, so that Africans, Arabs and the entire world can utilise their natural resources on an equal and just basis;
- 10 In fulfilling the obligations mentioned above, the Somali people will work

for their sovereignty, their principles and their economic, political and social progress according to the First and Second Charters of the Revolution; and

- 11 In order to continue the victories of the Africans and Arabs, the SRC and Council of Secretaries approved that the Somali Government be a member of the Arab League.

Addressing over 150,000 persons who came out in a massive spontaneous demonstration in support of Somalia's membership of the Arab League, the SRC President Jaalle Siyad said successive Somali governments had failed to take this decision. 'But today we have moved in the right direction.'

Meanwhile, in Cairo, the special session of the Arab League to welcome Somalia's historic membership of the Arab World was opened by the League's Chairman and its Secretary General Mahmoud Riyadh who affirmed the fact that Somalia's entry will strengthen the joint Arab struggle by virtue of Somalia's strategic position on both the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean in the same way as it will positively contribute to the realisation of Somali national aspirations.

Agriculture – of vital importance

Agriculture is vital to the Somali economy and second in importance to livestock. A large section of the population is involved in agricultural work which compared with modern-day standards never progressed in many cases beyond subsistence level. Somalia was slow to realise the benefits and economic advantages attached to large-scale agriculture in conjunction with the raising of livestock. In part, this was due to nomadic stubbornness to settle down and take to farming more seriously. However, several other factors conspired to hold up agricultural development in Somalia.

During the colonial period farming was not encouraged. Usually only one cash crop, for which a demand existed in the colonising country, was grown. So long as this served the requirements of the colonising country, little attention was paid to cultivating other crops. Farm machinery, apart from that owned by a few Europeans, was non-existent.

Subsistence farming continued in this reactionary way for nine years after Independence. Not until the Revolution in 1969, when a self-reliance policy was instituted, was any notable attention paid to agricultural development. At this time, major agricultural schemes were initiated, as follows:

- 1 Crash Programmes;
- 2 soil experimentation to see which particular crops were most suitable and where;
- 3 the establishment of agricultural co-operatives;
- 4 irrigation schemes;
- 5 a cotton scheme at Balad;
- 6 rice and sunflower schemes;
- 7 an experimental tobacco farm;
- 8 42 square kms. at Afgoi-Mordinle in which to grow cotton, sesame and maize;
- 9 the Shabelle River irrigation scheme;
- 10 the Fanole project.

Shortly after the Revolution, Crash Programmes were initiated in an endeavour to transform traditional agricultural methods with the objective of growing as many crops as possible within the shortest possible time. These projects gained active support since they touched the Somali people at their most vulnerable point – the supply of food.

Many aspects of the Crash Programmes had to be touched upon in order to achieve this. Speeches, lectures, orientation and training were needed to convince the populace that unless they abandoned subsistence farming and adapted themselves to scientific methods, they would not have enough to eat. Secondly, they had



Everyone joins in when there is a job of work to be done.





Tractors – a vital part of modern agriculture.

to be made to realise that to import commodities was becoming more and more expensive and that the drain on Somalia's foreign currency resources was so heavy that it could not be sustained for long.

The Crash Programmes were the brain-child of the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC), Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre and he and his Government worked day and night to make them a success. Within the first year, Crash Programme Projects were under way all over the country as the idea that to rely on imported food was ridiculous caught on.

The driving force behind the Programmes was the people's voluntary contribution in the form of free advice and work. In every region thousands of people worked on farms established under the aegis of the Programmes. In point of fact, it became so popular and the enthusiasm so great that the Government found it necessary to channel this energy to a higher plane of activity. To understand the importance of this step, it is necessary to look back on what had been happening before the Crash Programmes were put into effect.

Farming had traditionally been no more than a man and his family tilling a patch of land with the assistance of a hoe and a pair of oxen to grow something that would sustain them. The exceptions to this pattern were the Italian-owned banana plantations, mainly along the Juba River, and a few other plantations owned by cliques who had been ruling the country from the time of Independence

down to October 1969. However, overall, their activities were too small to break the pattern of subsistence farming.

Agricultural co-operatives were set up by the Government. Under this programme, farmers within a particular area were grouped together into one co-operative, an arrangement which had many advantages. Farm machinery, equipment and expertise were supplied to each co-operative, thereby encouraging the benefits of large-scale farming.

A side effect of co-operative farming has been the pooling of labour and resources. Prior to this, farming had been very much an individual venture lacking either sufficient resources or agricultural know-how.

The increase in agricultural production as a direct result of the establishment of co-operatives is reflected in the 1972-73 estimates as follows:

Crops	Areas (hectares)	Production (quintals)
Sorghum	310,000	1,550,000
Maize	120,000	840,000
Wheat	3,500	10,500
Rice	20	400
Oil seeds	34,900	139,600
Cotton	2,500	–
Sugar cane	6,000	15,000
Fruits	300	1,300,000
Bananas	8,939	–

1972-73 was the period when most of the projects got off the ground. The production figures given here are therefore the first indication of initial efforts and do not reflect the overall situation.

At the same time, other major agricultural schemes were commenced with long-term targets. Among them was an experimental scheme researching into soil in order to establish which particular crops would yield maximum production.

Large investments were made to establish laboratories and training schemes to get this project organised. It has now been in operation for three years; beneficial consequences are beginning to be seen.

On 23 May 1972 the Somali Democratic Republic and the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Korea signed an agreement under which they would cultivate 10,000 hectares for sesame and other crops. The total cost of the scheme was anticipated at between 120 – 160 million shillings, out of which the Somali Government would



A fine grapefruit crop.

pay 48 million shillings. Initial preparations for the scheme have been made including the construction of roads and other facilities and it is now scheduled to commence during 1974.

Having discovered that Somalia was spending in the region of 148 million shillings per year on imported food commodities and clothes, major schemes involving cotton, rice and sesame cultivation have been put in hand. On rice alone the country was spending 51 million shillings a year and with the prospect of even higher prices home grown commodities were essential.

In 1973, 1,000 hectares were allocated for the cultivation of sunflowers. At the same time, numerous but smaller areas throughout the country were designated for the same purpose. Co-operatives have also been encouraged to accelerate sunflower and rice production as much as possible.

A special Unit has been formed at the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with the cultivation of rice and sunflowers, the main function of this Unit being to supervise cultivation and give constant advice. In 1973 the Ministry of Agriculture alone had grown 1,600 hectares of sunflowers in the Lower Juba and Middle Shebelle Regions. Other Government Units as well as the Banana Agency and the Experimental Unit have had a hand in making this project successful.

In 1972 the cultivation of rice was confined to Government farms since in the early stages private and co-operative farmers could not afford to carry out experimental farming with this crop.

1973 showed the Government a net profit of 135,000 shillings from cotton and 1,424,500 shillings from sunflower oil. These Government figures have encouraged extension schemes within the context of the 1974-78 Economic Plan.

Another substantial project at Afgoi-Mordinle which has been established by the Somali Government in conjunction with the African Development Bank is to develop 42 square kms for cotton, sesame, groundnuts and maize. As an extension of this scheme a dam is under construction at Jowhar. The total cost of both is estimated at 34 million shillings.

The purpose of the dam at Jowhar is to reserve 190 million cubic metres of water. The outcome of this will be to supplement the Shebelle River during the dry season and to supply the farming community in the area. The project also includes the building of four water-pumping stations at Afgoi and Mordinle, drainage systems, a network of roads and aid for farmers wishing to settle in the area.

A major cotton plantation funded by the Federal Republic of Germany was started in April 1970 and despite difficulties due to water shortages has proved successful. At the same time other crops such as wheat, maize and sunflowers have been grown on a rotation basis. The Jowhar dam, when completed, will be of considerable value to this scheme.

At Mordinle, in the Afgoi district, a two-year pilot project is underway between the Somali Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), experimenting with rice, groundnuts, cotton and sunflowers and the necessary irrigation procedures for these crops. A major training scheme is in operation to deal with the cultivation, watering and tending of such crops. It is anticipated that when similar projects are started in the future, adequate fully trained personnel will be available to run them. Because of the importance of this programme, it has been extended to 1976.

A major item undertaken by the Government has been the large scale introduction of modern farm machinery and its utilisation has been partly due to the success of this and other projects.

A further dam, under the Fanole scheme, is under construction on the Juba River which will have a holding capacity to irrigate 8,200 hectares in the Lower Juba Region. At the same time, the dam will generate 5,000 kW of electricity for light industrial plants in the area. The total cost of this has been estimated at 282



Modern methods of spraying of insecticides and pest control have led to substantial increases in production of agricultural products.



million shillings to be shared by the Soviet Union and Somalia. Somalia's participation will be 150 million shillings.

These are some of the major projects that the Revolutionary Government has in hand and which, it is fair to say, would not have met with such success without the fullest support from the Co-operatives and private farmers.

The Government gives agriculture a great deal of attention under the 1974-78 Economic Plan, the main aims of which are not only confined to self-sufficiency in



The Freedom Fighters' Memorial, Dagahtour, Mogadishu, and (right) the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mogadishu.



Practical training provides for the future.



The Somali woman is renowned for her attractive features.



The Agricultural Development Corporation now fixes prices for commodities so that farmers and consumers are no longer exploited.

the more basic items, but to produce surplus quantities for export. Emphasis is to be put on research services which are to be expanded to eliminate waste in every phase of Somalia's agricultural economy.

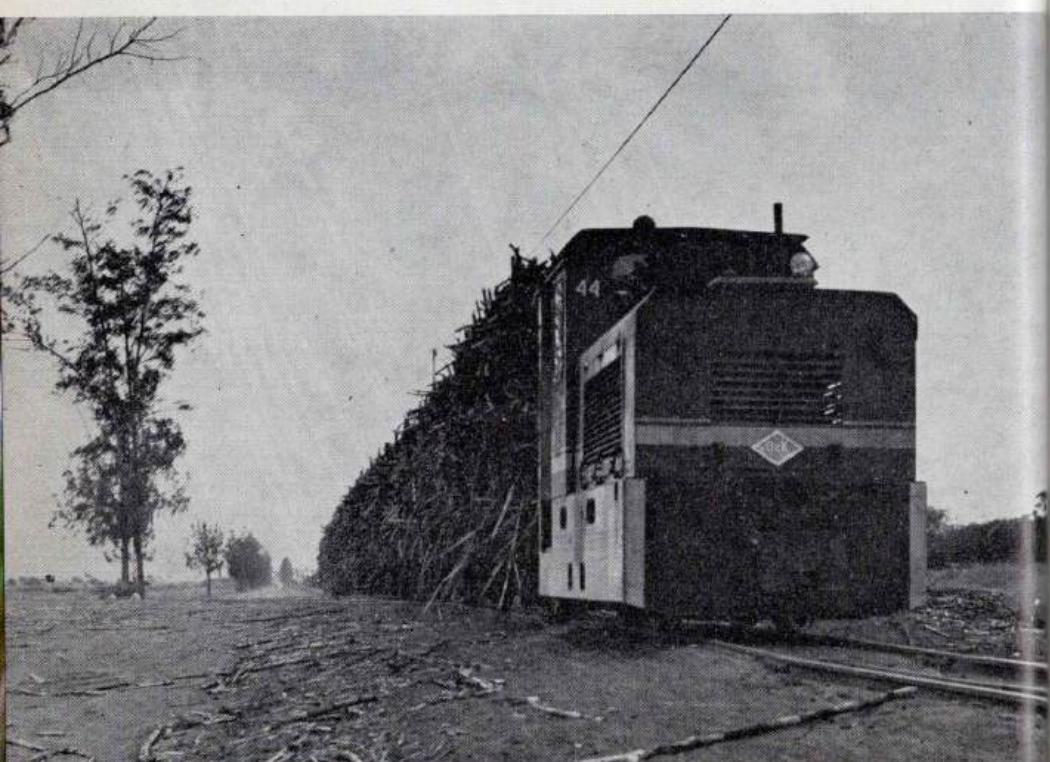
The figures in the following table give some indication of what is to be undertaken within the Plan period and the scale of the projects envisaged.

The details of the 1974-78 Economic Plan become more meaningful when one

considers that Somalia has more than eight million hectares of arable land of which at present only 800,000 hectares are under cultivation. One can see the glaring disparity between potentiality and utilisation. To close this gap the Government has placed heavy emphasis on agricultural strategy under the Economic Plan as follows:

- 1 To reach within the plan period self-sufficiency in sorghum, maize, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits;
- 2 To grow enough wheat and rice to dispense with imports;
- 3 To give assistance, in the form of credit facilities and machinery, to Co-operatives and other farmers and, at the same time, to enlarge the scope of Government farms;
- 4 Once the establishment of large-scale farms is complete, to impose strict production and distribution controls so that racketeering, hoarding or price manipulation will not develop;
- 5 To integrate commercial crops into the production programmes of agro-industries;

Mechanisation is an important aid to improved handling of the sugar harvest.



- 6 To give maximum encouragement to mixed agriculture and livestock enterprises;
- 7 To focus attention on agricultural research, extension services, marketing methods and organisation and credit institutions which provide assistance in technical know-how and material;
- 8 To develop irrigation schemes to a point where it will be possible to engage in the diversification of agricultural products.

Projects (shs m)	1974-78	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Agricultural co-operatives	47,961,000	3,000,000	5,648,000	9,286,400	13,121,000	16,805,500
Research	20,078,521	4,860,760	4,148,810	4,635,410	4,425,340	2,008,201
Plant protection service	20,159,800	3,755,400	6,552,800	5,892,800	2,054,400	1,904,400
Agro meteorology	982,000	278,800	240,800	165,800	158,800	137,800
Grain storage	6,310,000	1,500,000	1,600,000	1,800,000	1,000,000	410,000
Farm machinery	35,551,574	9,432,830	7,996,847	6,121,897	6,000,000	6,000,000
Crash programme	112,500,000	15,000,000	21,000,000	23,000,000	25,000,000	28,000,000
Irrigation	1,924,200	641,400	641,400	641,400	—	—
Machinery for rice cultivation	8,153,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,153,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Fanole project	241,961,900	26,681,600	59,314,500	55,184,500	53,656,600	37,124,700
Afgoi-Mordinle project	16,358,953	15,215,234	1,143,719	—	—	—
Balad irrigation	160,000,000	22,500,000	37,500,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	30,000,000
Banana development project	20,000,000	20,000,000	—	—	—	—
Integrated agricultural development	44,310,500	—	17,319,500	11,500,000	7,800,000	7,700,000

For these undertakings 1,124,500,000 shillings have been earmarked. As will readily be seen the 1974-78 Plan entails substantial objectives, many as a direct result of experience acquired under the 1971-73 Development Plan.

Great emphasis is also to be put on training farmers and two more farmers' training centres will be established within the plan period. The training courses will involve co-operative management, crop production techniques, farm management as well as soil and water conservation. During this period special attention will be given to training farmers in Jowhar, Afgoi, Balad, Dafat, Genale and the

regions of Lower Juba and Hiran. The North-Western Region and the districts of Burhakaba, Baidoa and Densor will be served by a separate project instituted under the training and agricultural development programmes of these areas.

The Five Year Plan has provisions for the encouragement and further enlargement of Co-operatives. The idea of Co-operatives has become exceptionally popular and has proved to be of mutual advantage to both the farmers and the country and has served to eliminate friction between the national interest and individual or group interests. During this period 150 multi-purpose Co-operatives, 1,050 crop farming Co-operatives and 75 production Co-operatives will be formed and organised into profit-making ventures. A Department for Co-operatives has been formed within the Ministry of Agriculture which will be responsible for complete financial and administrative control.

Great effort has been placed on increasing the amount of land available for cultivation under irrigation – the Fanole Hydro-Electric Project will produce a further 8,200 hectares at the outset in the Lower Juba region.



An extensive programme is planned for plant protection from insects, birds and diseases. This project will be undertaken by experts in this field and will augment the agro-meteorological development programme. Thirteen agro-meteorological stations and posts will be established which will be responsible for analysis, forecasting of meteorological conditions and the determination of water requirements for crops.

Of notable interest in the field of agricultural production and irrigation is the Rice Production Programme. The Afgoi-Mordinle Irrigation project, the Crash Programmes and farmers in irrigated areas will have the task of farming 4,000 hectares to be initially set up by a specialised technical unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. Machinery, fertilizers, herbicides and seeds will be supplied as an encouragement for better rice production.

The Fanole Project, mentioned earlier, has been given greater emphasis under the Five Year Plan. This project is the first phase of the Juba Development Programme which comprises:

- 1 Construction of a diversion dam;
- 2 Generation of hydro-electricity power;
- 3 Construction of 522 kms of irrigated channels;
- 4 The establishment of 8,199 hectares of State farms.

The area around the Juba River has great agricultural potential, a fact that has been confirmed by several studies carried out in the area since the Revolution. It has been estimated that 148,600 hectares could be cultivated by irrigation if a flood detaining dam is to be built at Bardera.

Another irrigation project at Balad will cover an area of 10,000 hectares. The crops to be grown in this area will include sugar cane, rice, cotton, groundnuts, sesame and fodder. This project alone, which is the quintessence of the principle of self-help, is expected to produce 6,000 tons of rice, 5,000 tons of cotton, 2,000 tons of oilseed and 1,110 tons of fodder when fully implemented.

A multi-purpose project to be undertaken in the North-Western Region around Baidoa and Burhakaba will have as its aim soil conservation, agricultural development and crop production. Soil conservation development is essential to the region where erosion is now a problem. 30,000 hectares of land will be fenced off to be reclaimed within the plan period.

In Togwajale 1,000 hectares of land will be cultivated with wheat and another 75 hectares will produce livestock fodder. These schemes will be carried out mainly

Livestock - backbone of Somalia's economy

by Co-operative farmers. In addition to the farms in existence another 50 will be established.

A feasibility study will be undertaken in the North-Western Region to determine the potential of agricultural production in the area.

Somalia has a high consumption of dates, most of which are imported. Cultivation of dates has met with little success in the past and under the Plan small scale experimentation schemes to improve the quality will be set up. 250 hectares of land at Bulahar, Halan and El-Sheikh have been allocated for this purpose and Co-operatives already growing dates will be given special credit facilities as an inducement to increase production.

The National Banana Board, hitherto engaged in marketing, will develop banana cultivation in the Five Year Plan period, commencing with the establishment of a 250 hectare plantation. Apart from increasing production, this plantation will also serve as a demonstration centre for improved growing methods. The National Banana Board project will also be used as a channel for Government assistance to growers. This will be in the form of technical aid, fertilisers, insecticides and financial assistance.

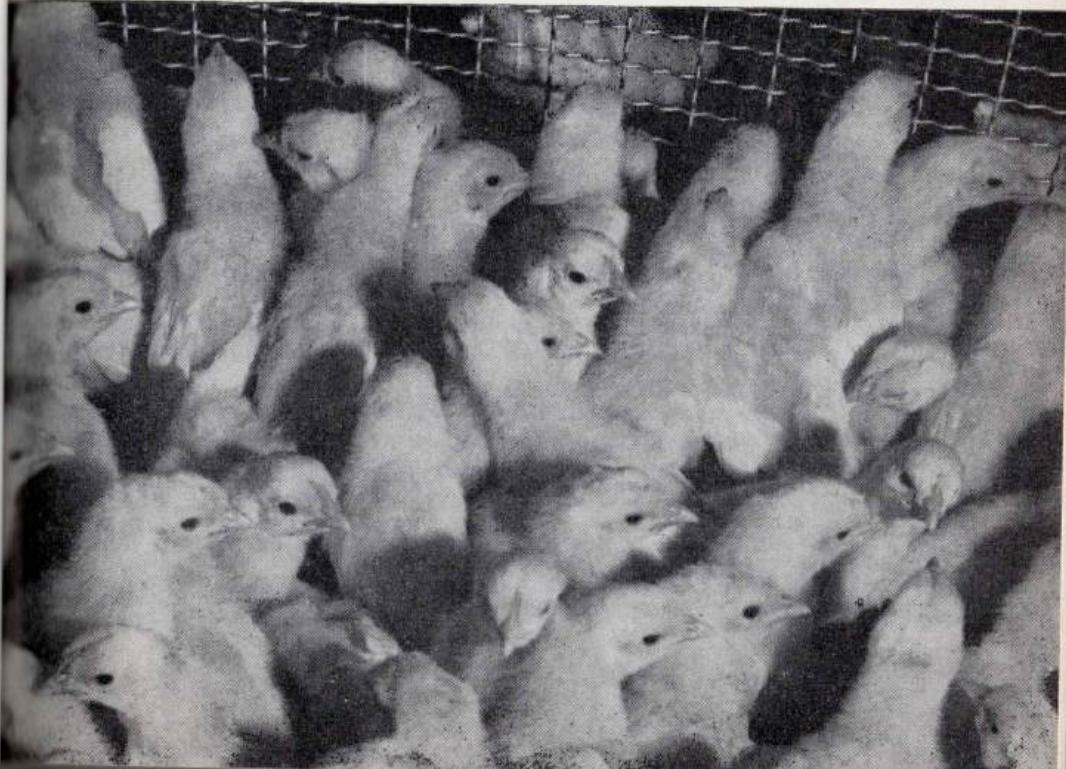
With the major emphasis placed on agriculture under this Plan and with the completion of all the projects within the five-year period, Somalia will have reached self-sufficiency in most food commodities and will have a surplus available for export.

Livestock are the backbone of the Somali economy. Eighty per cent of Somalis earn their living from livestock and the remaining 20% depend on it indirectly. However, successive Somali Governments since Independence in 1960 did not place as much emphasis as they should have in developing priorities for Livestock Programmes to place it in its proper place in the economic scheme of the country.

Corruption surfaced after independence and permeated every facet of Somali life; even affecting the nomads in a most tangible way. For instance, every year a large amount of drugs were earmarked for the treatment of livestock, but this was only a cover up for more and more corruption. Drugs were taken out of Government Stores only to be sold openly to the nomads at exorbitant prices. At one time the price of livestock drugs was so high they were jokingly named 'Uranium'. Like everything else in the country after the Revolution in October 1969, animal care was in a very sad state.

However, almost at once the Revolutionary Government undertook a serious programme on the improvement of livestock. Since there were so many areas to be covered in this field a plan was formulated to deal with the most important problems.

Egg production has expanded rapidly.



Firstly, veterinary centres and dips all over the country were established thus ensuring the treatment of livestock within easy reach. As the Somalis are fatalists who pin whatever happens to their livestock, good or bad, on the will of God, a tremendous campaign had to be launched to educate them in the understanding that prevention is better than cure and that if prevention is not possible, treatment is the next best thing. One thing which at first acted as an impediment to the nomads' willingness to give treatment to their animals was the question of expense. Having suffered in the corrupt era before the Revolution they were naturally wary of any good intentions, but they were soon to be convinced of the authenticity of the new Government's purposes and aims. Soon the centres which had been established in the densely populated livestock areas had more than they could handle. As a result, further veterinary centres, dips, dispensaries and other facilities were established.

Somalia's livestock population ratio is five to one, a ratio considered to be the highest in the world. This abundance of livestock reflects the predominant mode of life in the country. What poses great problems for the execution of the livestock health programmes is the fact that the nomads are on the move most of the time. This makes it difficult to keep track of the movement of animals and to know which animals have been vaccinated and which are awaiting vaccination.

Animal concentration is greater in certain parts of the country. The majority of cattle population is concentrated in the Lower and Central Shebelle and the Upper and Lower Juba areas. Camels are evenly distributed throughout the country. Eighty per cent of the sheep population and 20% of the goats are found in the Northern regions of the country. These concentrations of animal population make it possible to focus animal health programmes firstly in these areas and to extend veterinary services from there.

The period 1970-73 found the Somali nomads for the first time in their history with accessible veterinary centres, dispensaries, dips and other facilities at their disposal. Further, free drugs were made available by the Government at great expense. In addition to these facilities, mobile veterinary teams roved the country in an effort to take the nomads these benefits and advice. These teams move with the nomads and treat animals, check them for diseases and, in the meantime, teach the nomads how to rear animals more scientifically. This is not as simple as it sounds. For one thing the roving teams have to combat many irrationalities. Since the nomads had never been taught the scientific way of raising animals, it is not easy to persuade them to shake off their traditional ways.

The 1970-73 health programme had two facets: first it had to persuade the nomads that if they adopted scientific ways of animal treatment they would have many more productive animals in terms of meat and milk. This was not easy to achieve

and the campaign needed perseverance and time in order to succeed. This was the foundation of the animal health programmes.

Apart from this part of the programme, a great deal of attention was given to livestock intended for export. Before 1970 facilities for these animals were practically non-existent. However, in the period between 1970 and 1973 steps were taken to ensure that healthy animals were exported.

Initially a string of holding grounds were established around the two main ports, Berbera and Kismayo, from which animals are exported. In these holding grounds every animal is given a complete and thorough check-up. If any are found to be suffering from a disease, they are quarantined and given appropriate treatment. Since these holding grounds have shade, water and sufficient fodder, there is no problem in holding great numbers of livestock at any one time. This system has proved to be a sure way of exporting animals which are known to be one hundred per cent healthy. It also alleviated a perennial problem for the livestock exporters, who hitherto had had the problem of feeding and watering livestock while they were at the coast awaiting transportation.

As a result of these facilities and health improvements, which curbed the mortality rate, revenue from exported livestock in 1972 rose by 38%, from 148 million shillings in 1971 to 205 million shillings in 1972. Meat exports jumped from 21.4 million shillings to 35 million shillings, 63% over the previous year. Hides, skins and animal by-products also rose considerably in the same period. Overall, exports of livestock and by-products accounted for over two-thirds of the 1972 revenue earnings, which totalled 394 million shillings. These figures show that livestock is the mainstay of Somalia's life and economy and that the Government's decision to give it a high priority in its development programme was well placed. This shook off old attitudes which had taken livestock and its benefits for granted for centuries. In essence, until the Revolution, consideration to improvements for livestock had been ignored completely.

Another programme parallel to the health improvement programme was a Range and Forestry Scheme, a long-range programme with the ultimate aim of reclaiming those parts of the country which had been suffering from soil erosion and de-forestation. Certain factors had conspired which led to a serious erosion problem threatening to turn many parts of the country, especially in the Northern regions, to a pile of uninhabitable rocks and sand. It became evident that this pattern of denudation was going to be a prominent feature of Somalia's landscape unless it was checked in time. The denudation resulted from over-grazing in places where there were large concentrations of livestock population, especially places near water holes, and worsened year after year as the hoofs of animals pulverised the surface of

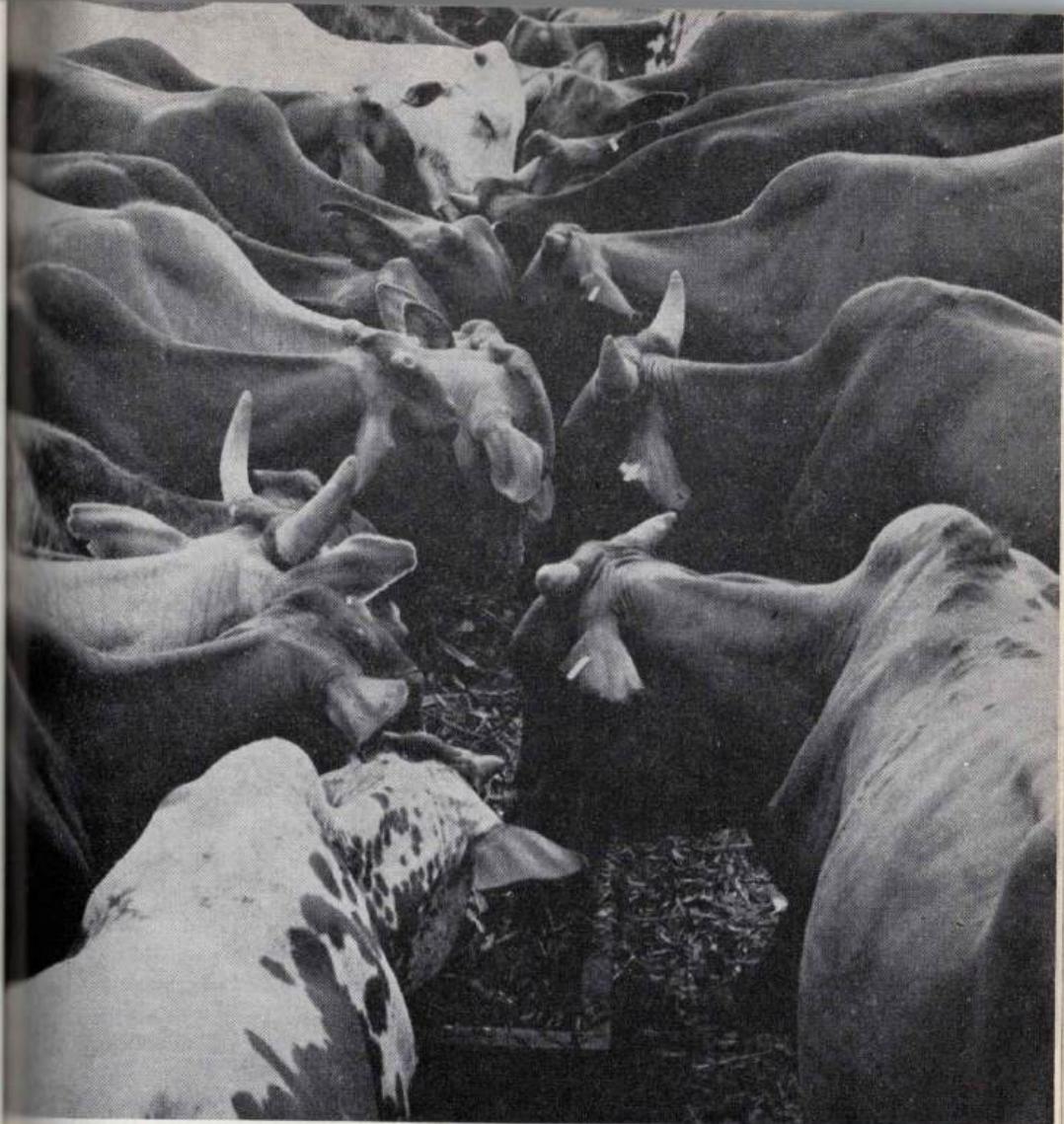
the soil and the wind blew it away in the absence of vegetation to which the loose soil could cling. As the years passed, and in the absence of any meaningful care, certain parts of the country began to look like an arid desert.

In order to halt this catastrophe, the Revolutionary Government launched a reclamation programme to be phased in several parts. Firstly, it was concerned with stopping shifting sand dunes on the coastal area. For years sand dunes had been gradually creeping up from the coast to the mainland in certain parts of the country. At first no real danger was attached to this situation. However, it soon became apparent that these creeping, shifting sand dunes were a greater menace than had been thought. This became obvious when the sand dunes threatened to block roads. At this point the programme was launched in a serious fashion. The most important part of this programme is Sand Stabilisation, a project which has been set up between Mogadishu and Merka. This programme has earned quite a reputation since almost all of the residents of Mogadishu, Merka and the areas in between have participated on a rotation basis and people have even come from Baidowa to be involved in this scheme. The apparent inspiration behind the success of this project has been the active involvement of the President of the SRC, Major General Mohamed Siyad Barre, who has been religiously participating as an ordinary worker. As a result, dignitaries visiting the country make it a point to see this spot and the diplomatic corps are constant visitors.

The success achieved in this project has engendered a great deal of enthusiasm among coastal communities to accomplish similar successes and, consequently, many 'Sand Stabilisation' schemes have commenced where sand dunes might pose a future problem.

In the countryside reservation areas were cordoned off to re-forest denuded areas. This plan entails the closing off of areas bare of vegetation, planting trees, etc, and not allowing livestock to graze until such time as vegetation has grown to an extent that it would prevent the area from reverting into a denuded state. The project is expensive, time-consuming and nerve-racking as nomads do not like to be impeded in their movements by fences and range and forest guards, but since every inch of land saved from inutility is obviously beneficial, the plan is worthwhile. This scheme of forestation naturally complements the health improvement programmes which have been so extensive that they cover most areas in the country.

In 1971 the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock established 20 dips and 32 portable ones for the treatment of ecto-parasites and had treated 455,515 head of animals. By the end of 1972 the Department had treated 1.3 million head of animals. In 1972 and 1973 24 new veterinary centres were established. Two



Livestock are the backbone of Somalia's economy.

additional regional, eleven district and seventeen rural centres were also built. All were designed to give maximum efficiency.

In 1971, a Rinderpest Campaign was launched under the 1971-73 plan. In 1972, fourteen different mobile veterinary teams were at work combing the country for cattle thought to be suffering from this disease. This work has curtailed the frequency of outbreak. Immunity tests carried out in 1973 show that this method of combating the disease has been quite effective.

At first the campaign was intended to end in 1972, but the Government decided to continue the programme for a few more years so that this disease could be completely eradicated from the country. Statistics concerned with animals treated for various diseases in the period October 1969 to October 1972 show how extensive this programme has been. During this time 3,223,189 head were vaccinated and 1,272,901 were re-vaccinated against Rinderpest. 1,594,000 were vaccinated against Blackquarter and 266,000 re-vaccinated. 193,000 were vaccinated against Anthrax.

Disease control will attain even wider scope in the 1974-78 animal health development plan. The original 1971-73 plan had as its aim, amongst other things, the vaccination of the entire cattle population against Rinderpest. A review of the work revealed that 65% of the cattle had been effectively vaccinated. The project fell short of its target by a small margin. In order to fulfil these aims it has been decided to extend this project to 1974 and 1975. The new targets set for the project are as follows:

- 1 The vaccination of calves once a year for two consecutive years.
- 2 To vaccinate all the cattle population which had not been vaccinated during the previous three-year plan. The vaccinated cattle are to be ear-punched to show vaccination.
- 3 To keep neighbouring countries informed of any outbreaks of Rinderpest or other diseases.
- 4 To keep strict surveillance on the movement of cattle to prevent transmission of diseases into disease-free zones.

For the efficient execution of this plan 20 veterinary teams will be put into service each with mobile laboratories and clinics. This project will also include the vaccination of cattle population against CBPP, Anthrax and Blackquarter. The vaccination of cattle against CBPP is being conducted in West Africa by an international organisation and the programme is expected to be extended to East Africa in 1974-75. This international effort will greatly supplement Somali efforts. Part of the project is rendering assistance and encouragement to the Serum and Vaccine Institute in the production of CBPP dry-freezed vaccine and TC-Rinderpest/Pleuroneumonia vaccine.

Of course, this project cannot stand alone to be successful; many other plans will be instituted. Amongst these, numerous check-treatment quarantine stations will be set up, this being essential to the establishment of disease-free zones. Seven such quarantine stations will be set up in the Kismayo area alone. These stations are expected to handle two million head of cattle. They will check animals for rinderpest, CBPP, anthrax and blackquarter, quarantine those animals found to be suffering from any of these diseases and then treat them accordingly. Each station will be

on a fenced-off area of 5,000 hectares of open grassland and another 5,000 hectares of reserved grazing area. Each station will also have sufficient water wells, a laboratory, stores, spray-races and cattle pens. The laboratories will be equipped to handle control measures against outbreaks of diseases. The total cost of the project over a five-year period is estimated at 3·536 million shillings.

Another area to be entered into is Parasitic Treatment. This project envisages the establishment of Parasite Treatment centres throughout the Republic and is to be a follow up of the 1971-73 animal health programme. Parasite Treatment centres have been in existence for some time and their popularity speaks for their usefulness. Most of them, however, have been in the Northern regions of the Republic, with only a few in the Southern regions. But their number does not match the need for them, and the 1974-78 project has as its aim the extension of such centres in the South. This would, in effect, make it a comprehensive plan to establish regular, well-equipped veterinary services throughout the extent of Somalia.

Each district in the country will have, by the time this project is completed, a veterinary service centre with sufficient equipment and supplies of drugs for dipping, spraying and anthelmintic treatment of animals. Each centre will also have spray-races and pens. Added to which it is hoped that in the long run these centres will be developed into major livestock development schemes. Also, apart from being animal health centres, these stations will have an extension project which will deal with breeding, processing of milk, meat and by-products, enabling each district in the country to be self-sufficient.

As a further aid, spray-races, dips and swim baths will be established in all the watering places and markets in each district so that veterinary services will be made as easy as possible for livestock owners. Where these facilities already exist there are provisions under the plan for the purchase of whatever equipment and supplies of drugs these centres lack.

Four roving veterinary teams will be assigned to each district in the Northern regions, the Upper and Lower Juba regions, the Shebelle regions and the free-disease zones. The plan also calls for the establishment of an impressive array of new facilities. During the 1974-78 period the following will be set up:

Permanent dips	20
Portable	29
Spray-races - permanent	20
Spray-races - mobile	250
Crash races	20
Holding pens	20
Swim baths	10

The total cost for the establishment of the above is estimated at 2·450 million shillings.

Tsetse fly has been a great problem to livestock owners around the Shebelle River. Provisions have been made in the 1974-78 plan to wipe out this troublesome disease. This pilot project envisages the eradication of Tsetse fly, but the plan embraces several projects to run concurrently. Among them are bush clearance, burning of vegetation, spraying of bushes as well as of livestock in the area and medical treatment of animals. As recognition of the importance of this plan a complete unit which has all the facilities it needs at its disposal has already been detailed for the task. The first aim for this unit will be to concentrate on the known areas of Tsetse fly habitats.

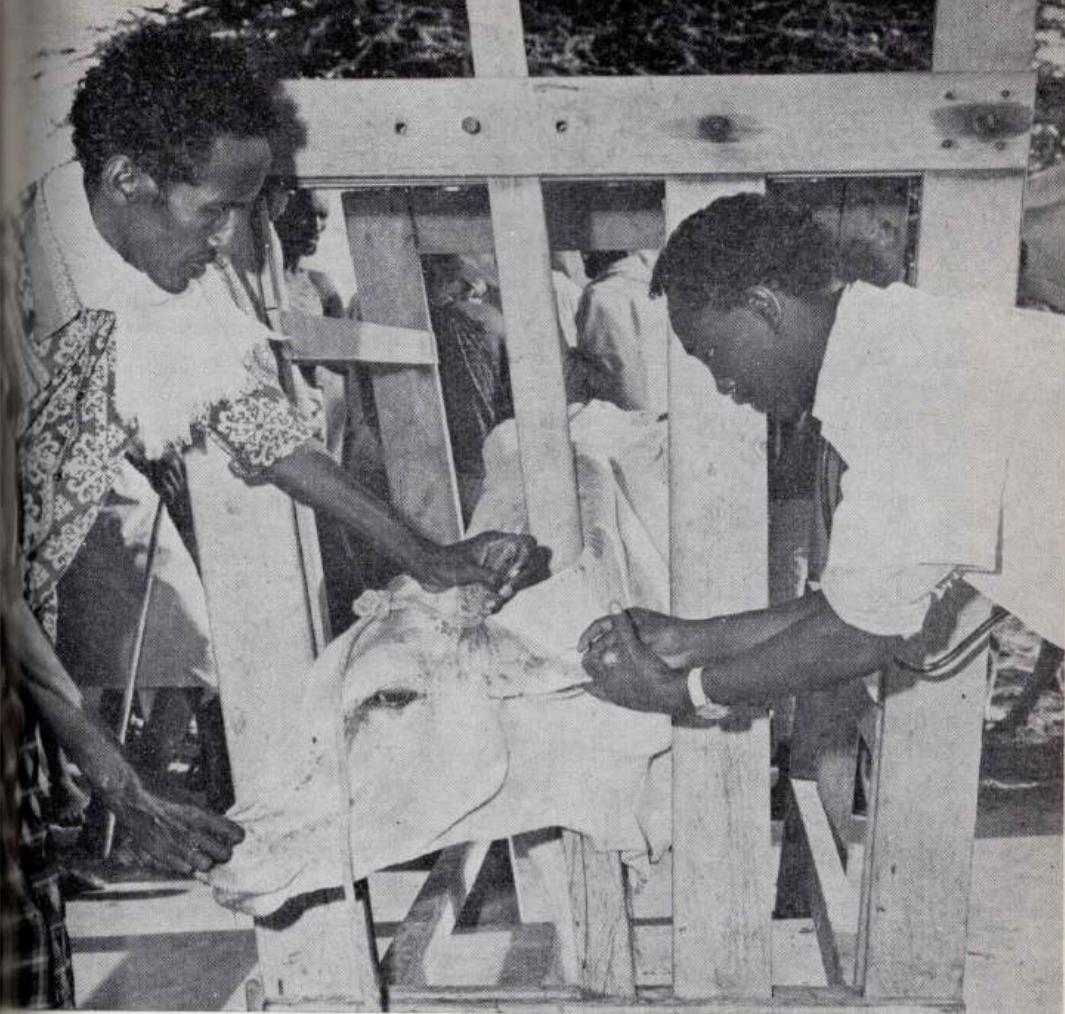
Fortunately, Somalia's Tsetse fly eradication programme coincides with a plan of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The OAU has as its ultimate aim the eradication of Tsetse fly from the Continent of Africa. An OAU Technical Committee has already drawn up plans to be executed in various African countries. The application of the OAU's plans towards the eradication of Tsetse fly naturally complements Somalia's efforts. The total funds earmarked for this are estimated at 1·814 million shillings.

Another ambitious project is the establishment of a large-scale laboratory which would be capable of producing animal drugs sufficient to meet the needs of the country. On completion of this project, Somalia hopes to dispense with the import of drugs, which absorb a large sum of Somalia's hard currency earnings.

This laboratory would be part of the Vaccine and Serum Institute at 'Km Seven' which already produces a fair amount of livestock drugs. Another laboratory concerned with animal disease diagnosis will also be established under the same plan. Combined, these two laboratories have the functions available that would make possible the eradication of prominent diseases.

A sideline for these larger laboratories would be to help in the creation of smaller laboratory units to be established in the regions and districts together with the training of personnel. The main laboratory, as well as the smaller ones, will have repair and maintenance workshops, in which all repairs to laboratory equipment will be undertaken. The Plan anticipates international assistance in the provision of expertise and sophisticated equipment.

The plan also envisages speedy training of personnel in virology, bacteriology, parasitology, tropical veterinary medicine and laboratory technology. This of course is in line with Somalia's set policy to gain within the shortest possible time self-sufficiency in as many fields of endeavour as possible. Quick training of personnel is an ingredient of our acclaimed policy of self-reliance. In the past, foreign experts



Veterinary services have been updated and extended since the Revolution.

have had a tendency to stay on in Somalia for long durations of time without actually imparting any of their knowledge to their counterparts. To avoid such a sterile relationship with foreign experts, the Somali Government intends to search for high calibre men whose main aim is to impart knowledge and thus establish a fruitful relationship and involvement with the country they are helping. Of course, as soon as enough Somalis are trained in the various fields, the foreign experts would leave Somalia, who will remain grateful for their services. The total cost of this project over five years is estimated at 12·73 million shillings. 3·87 million shillings are expected to be received in the form of outside assistance.

Another project which has become essential in view of the extent of animal health improvements is a pharmaceutical organisation to undertake the purchase

and distribution of animal drugs. Since the Government has declared a policy of free distribution of drugs to livestock owners, provision was made in the 1974-78 economic plan for the opening of drug stores throughout the country so that livestock owners would get these drugs at their convenience. At the same time, six million shillings have been earmarked over a five-year period for the free distribution of these drugs. To fulfil the aims of this programme, the structure of an already existing organisation, Aspima, an autonomous organisation which has been responsible for the import and distribution of drugs, has been expanded. To meet the requirements of the new scheme the role of Aspima will be expanded not only to undertake the distribution of drugs throughout the country, but also to evolve methods of distribution suitable to the movements of the nomads. This pharmaceutical organisation will have a close link with the regional diagnosis laboratories to be established in the 1974-78 economic plan.

The total cost of the pharmaceutical project is estimated at 33.304 million shillings over a period of five years.

One of the most elaborate schemes in the field of livestock economy is the Trans-Juba Livestock Development Project whose aim is to increase meat exports. This plan, to be located between the Juba River and the border between Somalia and Kenya, has many facets, as follows:

- 1 The establishment of three cattle markets at Tabda, Maskati and Garisci-Warshan. Another two smaller markets will also be set up at Dolo and Busar.
- 2 The development of sufficient water supplies, staging points, ferry-boat facilities and grazing areas over 1,086 kms of livestock routes.
- 3 The purchase of transport vehicles and equipment and an increase in the number of livestock marketing teams.
- 4 Provision of funds for the purchase of cattle stocks.
- 5 The establishment of a cattle holding ground which will cover an area of 20,000 hectares near Afmadou.
- 6 The launching of a bush clearance project over 12,000 hectares near Kismayo. The area to be cleared is close to an already existing cattle ground.
- 7 The establishment of three breeding ranches as follows:
 - (a) The establishment and operation of three pasture ranches of 80,000 hectares in which young cattle can be raised for a minimum period of one year.
 - (b) The design and construction of irrigation, drainage and road networks over an area of 1,500 hectares at Mombasa Island on the Juba River. The purpose of this project is to produce cattle fodder for approximately 30,500 head of cattle to be fattened each year after which period they will be sold off.

- 8 The establishment of a disease control unit which will cover such aspects as:
 - (a) The setting-up of one veterinary unit at Kismayo, three centres at Afmadou, Gelib and Jamama and five veterinary dispensaries.
 - (b) The provision of transport, equipment and other requirements.

This project also includes the formation of a construction and maintenance unit whose responsibility will be the design, supervision and construction of market places. After the completion of construction, in approximately two years, this unit will be reduced to a maintenance unit.

The investment period for the scheme will be four years, after which time it is hoped that it will be a self-sustaining, profit-making enterprise. Total investment in this project will be 73.5 million shillings.

Another multi-purpose cattle ranch undertaking will be commenced in the same period. This ranch for livestock development will be linked with the Trans-Juba Livestock Development Project and the European Common Market (EEC) will have a partial participation. Its aims will be:

- 1 To test the productive meat and milk capacity of Somali cattle. The idea is to experiment with the type of cattle which can produce the greatest volume of milk and weight of meat. The most productive strains will then be categorized for breeding.
- 2 To fatten cattle through better feeding, management and health services in order to process meat for higher prices.
- 3 To generally improve on the traditional Somali way of raising livestock.

Initially, this undertaking will commence with 3,025 head of cattle with another 4,100 to be added at a later stage.

This ranch will be located on the Western Bank of the Juba River opposite the town of Gelib. It will also serve as a demonstration centre for improved animal husbandry practices, as well as selective breeding for quality production of meat and milk. As an ultimate aim, it is hoped to use this centre as a demonstration showcase to entice nomads into scientific ways of cattle-raising, and in turn lead to the settlement of nomads. The total cost is estimated at 5.622 million shillings.

Another holding ground scheme which was started under the 1971-73 plan for livestock development will carry over to the 1974-78 plan. Under the 1971-73 plan, two staging points were established along the Burao-Berbera road in the Northern region. This was later expanded to include two holding grounds, one near Hargeisa and one in Burao. Under the 1974-78 development plan a similar project will start in the Borama, Gabilay, Hargeisa, Odwene, Burao and Buhodle districts. These



Sheep and goats are a valuable export item particularly to the countries of the Middle East.

areas have some of the best grazing land and sustain a large number of cattle. But a shortcoming is the scarcity of sufficient water supplies. At present, livestock owners have to travel great distances to reach water-holes, especially during the dry season. Since pasture and good shelter is scarce both to and from the water-holes, these long treks result in high mortality and loss of weight in the animals.

To eliminate the importation of young cattle and calves from the Northern regions, the new plan envisages the setting-up of two small market places at Togwajale and Hahi, two centres where there are large cattle concentrations. The purpose of these market places is to purchase young cattle and calves and take them to nearby holding grounds where they will be raised until maturity.

Two holding grounds will also be established at Goladay, near Hargeisa, and the other at Aroori, near Burao. These will have complete veterinary services and a holding capacity of up to 10,000 head of cattle. Young cattle will be held there for a period of six months to a year. Further such projects to be established at various points throughout the country will have as their ultimate aim the elimination of the import of young cattle.

A fodder farm will also be undertaken at Togwajale to support the cattle in the holding grounds around the area. This will cover an area of 1,000 hectares and is expected to produce 60,000 tons of fodder for cattle in both holding grounds. A further 30,000 tons is expected to come from natural pasture in the vicinity of the farm and the holding grounds. The total cost is estimated at 14·73 million shillings.

A feed-lot system will also be developed for the purpose of breeding certain selective strains of cattle which will produce prime meat for high priced markets. The meat of these specially bred cattle will be processed in Somalia and then exported to certain markets. This feed-lot system would form part of the breeding and marketing development schemes.

In essence the feed-lot project is twofold. The first part will concern itself with the selection and breeding of cattle. Naturally, these selected cattle will be fed with high-grade fodder. In view of this requirement for prime meat production, the veterinary authorities have established a sugar-cane plantation. Sugar cane mixed with other selected animal food ingredients will guarantee prime meat production from these cattle. A total of 50 feed-lots will be established, with an area of 100 sq metres each and another 200 sq metres for shade area. One part will be allocated for animals entering the feed-lot for the first time. Before they are integrated, new arrivals will be given a thorough veterinary check-up to prevent the possible spread of any disease.

The feed-lots area will cover 1,150 metres and will be equipped with shade areas, offices, veterinary laboratories and workshops for the maintenance of equipment.

When the feed-lot system enters into full production, it is expected to produce 28 tons of processed prime meat per week. The weight of cattle to be raised in the feed-lots is expected to increase from an average of 200 kg to a minimum weight of 325 kg.

This project is expected to reach a point of completion within three years and its cost is estimated at 17·198 million shillings.

An important task commenced under the 1971-73 economic plan was a dairy farm project whose aim was to supply sufficient milk to the Mogadishu Milk Factory. This project was, to a large extent, successful. However, improvements were required. Despite the fact that output was reasonably high it was obvious that capacity

could be increased. In order to close this gap, another plan was instituted under the 1973-78 phase. The purpose is to breed pedigree cattle for high milk production, aiming at quality in preference to quantity.

This breeding process will involve cross-breeding of local cattle with imported Holstein, Guernsey and Sahiwal bulls. Hopefully the progeny of these bulls will be a new strain of cattle suitable to the Somali environment with a high production output. A limited cross-breeding project which was initiated under the 1971-73 plan produced 45 heifers and bulls in the first generation. Under the new plan the scope will be expanded to embrace artificial insemination and an increased rate of conception. This experiment will naturally help in gauging the milk capacity of the new strain and also accelerate the process of selection so that it will be possible to pinpoint and isolate those which do not come up to expectation.

A farm established for cross-breeding purposes has had 1,156 head of cattle and this number is expected to increase to over 2,000 within a short period. The milk volume of each cow is expected to average five litres. Increases in the milk volume each cow can produce are expected after the twelfth year of the cross-breed experiment programme. It is anticipated that at this stage the strains of cattle will have stabilised and not be subject to further genealogical change.

A sister project of the preceding scheme is a fodder production plan. Heavy emphasis is being placed on the health of cross-bred cattle. A thoroughly worked-out plan is being launched to produce a well-balanced fodder programme. To these ends pasture lands are being developed and new sources of fodder ingredients investigated.

Another cross-breeding project will be established at Asura, 280 km off Burao and 480 km off Berbera. This will be concerned with sheep. The project has been in existence as a skeleton farm for some time, and has had 650 head of sheep including 250 ewes. Despite the existence for some years of this set-up, it has not contributed significantly to the overall plan of the five-year Development Programme. However, expansion is anticipated in the form of a holding ground to incorporate a cross-breeding experimentation centre and a farm for evolving better methods of sheep-rearing.

It has been discovered that Somalia's climate is conducive to the rearing of karakul, fat tailed sheep from Tashkent in the Soviet Union. On the basis of this it has been decided to start cross-breeding experiments with Somalia's black-headed sheep. The project is estimated to cost 4.489 million shillings.

In addition to the Asura project, another ranch for sheep and goats will be established at Erigavo where climatic conditions will permit the rearing of wool-

producing sheep. Under this project Uzbekistan fat-tailed Djaidara sheep will be cross-bred with local sheep. 20,000 head of wool-producing sheep are anticipated soon and further increases to follow shortly.

In addition to rearing wool-producing sheep, the ranch will also serve as a fattening centre for sheep and goats, and be used as a demonstration centre for showing nomads better animal rearing methods. Its cost is anticipated in the region of 6.182 million shillings.

A further sheep and goats ranch is to be centred at Galkayo, the objectives of which will be:

- 1 Experimentation on ways to increase the weight and volume of milk from local sheep and goats.
- 2 Sheep and goat rearing experiments in settled areas instead of the nomadic way.
- 3 The establishment of the project as a commercially viable entity within the five-year development period.

Model poultry farms are also envisaged. Egg production in Somalia had been a haphazard affair and unscientific in the extreme until the Revolutionary Government devoted special attention to this area. The weight of eggs produced by hens traditionally raised has been about 30 gm, a standard of weight much lower than the 50-56 gm of eggs produced by scientifically raised hens. As a means of rectifying this situation the Government has decided to establish seven modern model farms at various areas throughout the country, among them Hargeisa, Kismayo, Baidowa, Beledweyne, Galkayo and Bossaso. Each of the model farms will be initially stocked with 2,000 egg-laying hens.

Each farm is expected to produce around 200,000 eggs a year. 135,000 of these are to be sold, while the remaining 65,000 will be incubated. Further, each farm is designed to hold 60,000 chickens at any one time during the year which will be available for distribution to individuals interested in establishing miniature farms. Encouragement to individual poultry farm owners is expected to spread throughout the country. The total cost involved is estimated at 4.130 million shillings.

An important aspect in the improvement of livestock economy is the Hides and Skins plan. Started under the 1971-73 phase another two-phase programme will be commenced under the 1974-78 plan. The first phase is a joint Somali Government-UNDP venture which will last two years while the subsequent phase will be a purely Government project. It has the following objectives:

- 1 Elimination of branding and similar marks which might harm Somali hides and skins.

Education – the fountain of knowledge

- 2 Improvement of flaying methods and replacing 'case-ripping' with open-ripping.
- 3 Improvement in methods of washing, fleshing, trimming and presentation.
- 4 Improvement of drying and salting methods.
- 5 Introduction of the best methods of storing and caring for cured hides and skins.
- 6 Teaching improved marketing methods.
- 7 The establishment of market places.

In order to fulfil the aims of this project it will be necessary to organise demonstrations on methods of curing hides and skins so that modern techniques can be appreciated. The country will be divided into four zones for this purpose, the first being Hargeisa and Burao, the second Galkayo and Garowe, the third Kismayo and Baidowa and lastly Beletweine.

In addition to centres already established at various points, the following will be set up:

1974	16
1975	16
1976	13
1977	11
1978	3

This well co-ordinated plan for the development of livestock reflects the seriousness of the Revolutionary Government's intentions to lay down a sound foundation for the Somali economy, which is centred around livestock.

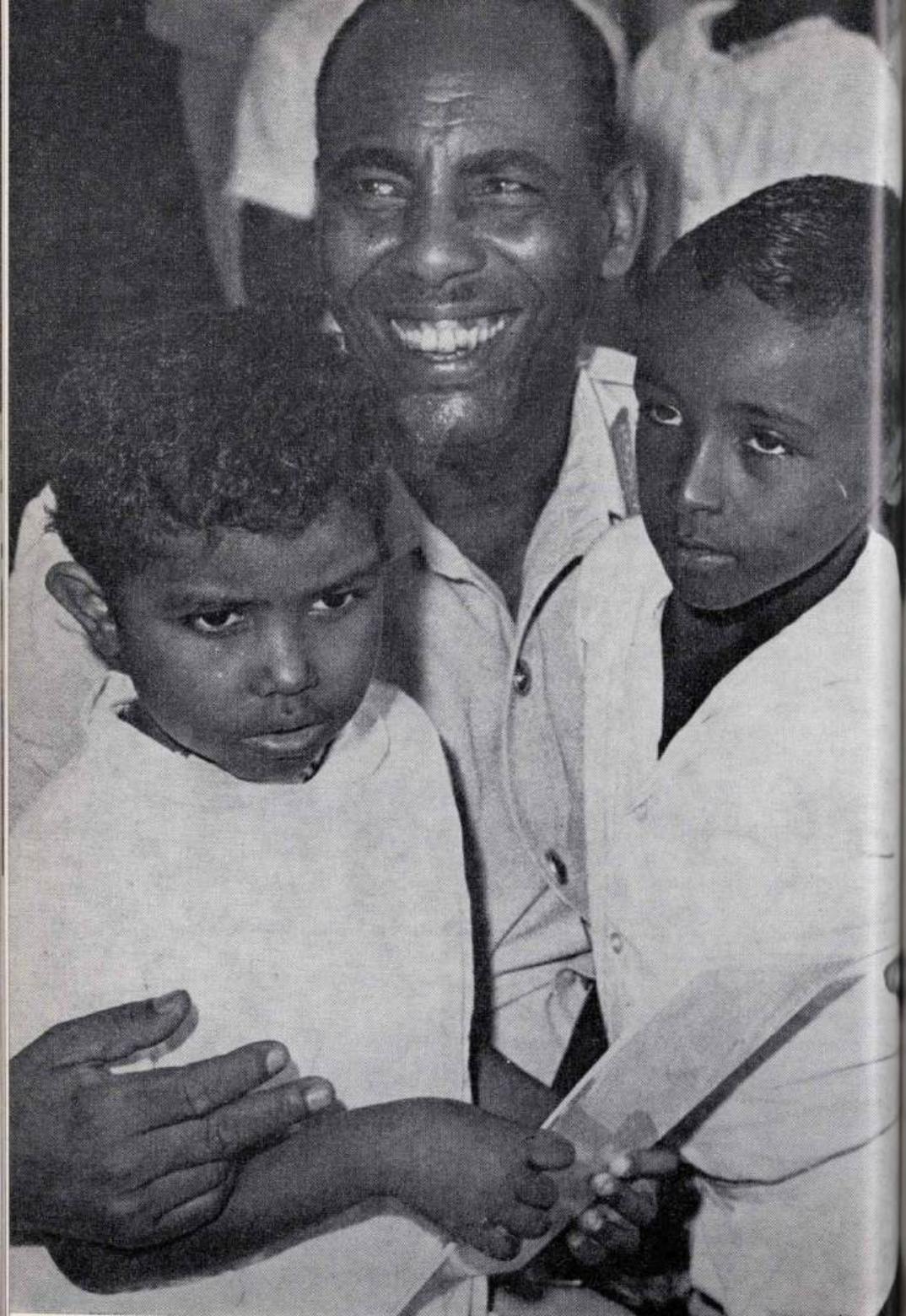
The transformation Somalia has undergone since the 1969 Revolution cannot be said to be complete without examining achievements in the field of education. Without a proper educational foundation no country can claim to have progressed towards economic development for education is the key to such progress. However, before looking at the picture of achievements in the field of education during the revolutionary era, let us look at what was happening in the field of education before the revolution. This gives the reader a useful point of comparison.

During the colonial era education in Somalia was limited to secondary school education, and even the number of secondary schools was so few that only a very few had a chance to enter them. There were only two secondary schools in the former Italian Trusteeship Territory. One of these schools was for Italians and the sons and daughters of the Somali rich and influential. In the former British Protectorate there was only one secondary school in Sheikh, which had an intake capacity of 18–20 students each year. These were the only secondary schools in Somalia at the time of the unification of the two parts of Somalia on 1 July 1960.

What is even more revealing than the number of secondary schools in the country was the kind of education they used to impart to the students who entered them. The subjects taught in these schools were art subjects – languages, history, geography, a smattering of mathematics and science. In other words, they prepared their students for little more than clerical jobs, since there was no opportunity for higher education.

After independence no improvements were made to the previous situation. Those who came to power in Somalia in 1960 either lacked the necessary breadth of mentality to effect changes in education or were too concerned with their own interests to examine the overall interests of the nation. As a result of this neglect no changes were made to custom-tailor education to the needs of the country. The only difference between the way in which the colonial governments ran the educational system and the Somali governments which took over after independence was that the new civilian governments were on the receiving end of scholarships offered by a number of countries in their aid programmes.

Even the management of these scholarships became entangled in the web of corruption which was part of the way of life in Somalia. The selection of students was not carried out on the basis of scholastic achievement, as it should have been, but was based on nepotism and favouritism. As a consequence, the type of student who went abroad for higher education was not, except in the first two years of independence before corruption had really taken root, those who had the best record of achievement in their secondary school but those who had powerful relatives in government circles.



The revolutionary government inherited this state of affairs from previous regimes and theirs was the arduous task of changing the situation. One of the first things the revolutionary government undertook was to change the basis of education. For education to have any relevance to the country's development, it was essential to change the system so as to gear it to the present and future development of the country. This change had many facets. It was not enough just to change the subjects which were taught in the schools; it was essential to launch a programme of mass education so that the greatest number of people could have an opportunity to benefit from education.

Since October 1969 the Revolutionary Government started building schools of all types, from elementary to colleges. This was a fulfilment of the policy formulated by the Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC) which stated that every child of school age must have an opportunity to receive education and take advantage, if able, of higher education. In order that this policy did not fall short of its target, the government introduced free education from elementary up to college stage. This opened up great opportunities to people who never before could attain education because of their inability to pay school fees. This policy combined with the increase in number of schools gave the urban population of Somalia access to earning.

An important instrument in education has been the introduction of the Somali script. On 21 October 1972 the Supreme Revolutionary Council pronounced a major revolutionary policy which declared Somali as the official language. This introduction of the Somali script facilitated mass education by putting an end to the practice of giving a small percentage of the people, only about some 5 %, the opportunity to have a proper education.

The whole country participated in this mass education programme but the major responsibility fell on the shoulders of the Ministry of Education. Every available classroom space was put to maximum use and anyone who could teach was pressed into service. A campaign for eradicating illiteracy was launched and the public, civil servants, workers, peasants and armed forces all participated with great energy and determination. Such was the demand for the Somali script that the manpower resources of the Ministry of Education were extremely stretched. However, the Ministry met this demand and handled the situation admirably.

In order to ensure success for the campaign against illiteracy all civil servants were required to master reading and writing of the Somali script within three months. The results of the civil servants' examinations declared at the end of the mandatory three months show the enthusiasm with which the people learned the script of their mother tongue.

Examination results

Date	Examinees	Pass	Failure
19/1/1973	32,816	17,973	14,843
25/5/1973	16,471	13,690	2,781
28/9/1973	6,413	5,664	749

Writing of the language brought about necessary changes in the school system. First, the language of instruction in schools had to be Somali which offered a great advantage to students as previously for nearly a century they had had to acquire their education in a foreign tongue. Secondly, these changes could not be put into effect if foreigners were allowed to run private schools; foreign owned schools were therefore closed down. There were 42 schools of this kind in which 15,215 students were enrolled. This closure was not a manifestation of xenophobia; it was merely intended to make necessary changes uniform throughout the whole educational structure. Teachers in private schools absorbed this change and carried out the Government's educational policies. Thus for the first time in the history of the country Somalia acquired a standardised educational system. The multiplicity of languages in use had created social and political problems for those groups that had been instructed in one particular language and who thereby conceived an allegiance for that language and indirectly to the nation whose language they knew. This attitude was not compatible with the interest and dignity of the Somali nation. Factionalism in language had to be eliminated quickly and the answer to the problem was arrived at with the writing of the Somali script.

One major task which faced the Ministry of Education in 1973 was the production of textbooks in Somali. The problem was not the actual writing of the books, but the limited time available for production which taxed the resources and energy of the Ministry. These books had to be written not only for school, but for the general public and all qualified teachers were working non-stop to help in production; even so, they were not able to produce the volume of books required fast enough. Despite these difficulties, 262,955 books were produced for elementary, intermediate and secondary schools and another 1,202,525 books for the public, intended primarily for adult education.

At the same time, Somali teachers produced books in Arabic and English. The idea behind this was to make books in these two languages, whose content was embued with Somali culture, available to the Somali people. Previously, foreign language books were based on foreign cultures, fields in which Somalis inevitably had little or no critical sense.



Books in foreign languages

	I	II	III	IV	Total
Elementary-Arabic	24,329	22,499	13,614	11,135	71,577
Intermediate-Arabic	6,050	2,000	2,000	—	10,050
Intermediate-English	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	30,000

In addition 20,556 books on various subjects were imported.

All these changes in the educational system made necessary the construction of more schools as previous school space was inadequate to cope with the changes. In 1973 179 classrooms were built at a cost of 3,320,000 shillings. This figure is nominal for the major part of the cost is defrayed by self-help schemes. No part of the country was overlooked in the building programme for 1973.

	Number of classrooms	Cost in shillings
Mogadishu	60	1,900,000
Lower Shabelle	9	117,000
Middle Shabelle	—	—
Bakol	5	65,000
Bay	11	143,000
Gedo	5	63,000
Lower Juba	24	312,000
Hiran	6	78,000
Galgudud	3	39,000
Mudug	2	26,000
Nugal	—	—
Bari	4	42,000
Sanag	3	39,000
Togdeer	8	104,000
North Western Region	30	390,000

Given the progress in school construction since October 1969 – some 170 classrooms per year – it is clear great improvements have been made.

In 1973 the World Bank and the Somali Government jointly undertook to build and equip thirteen Secondary Schools and to enlarge the Lafole Teachers' College near Afgoi. This project is carried over into 1974 and has a target date for completion of September 1974.

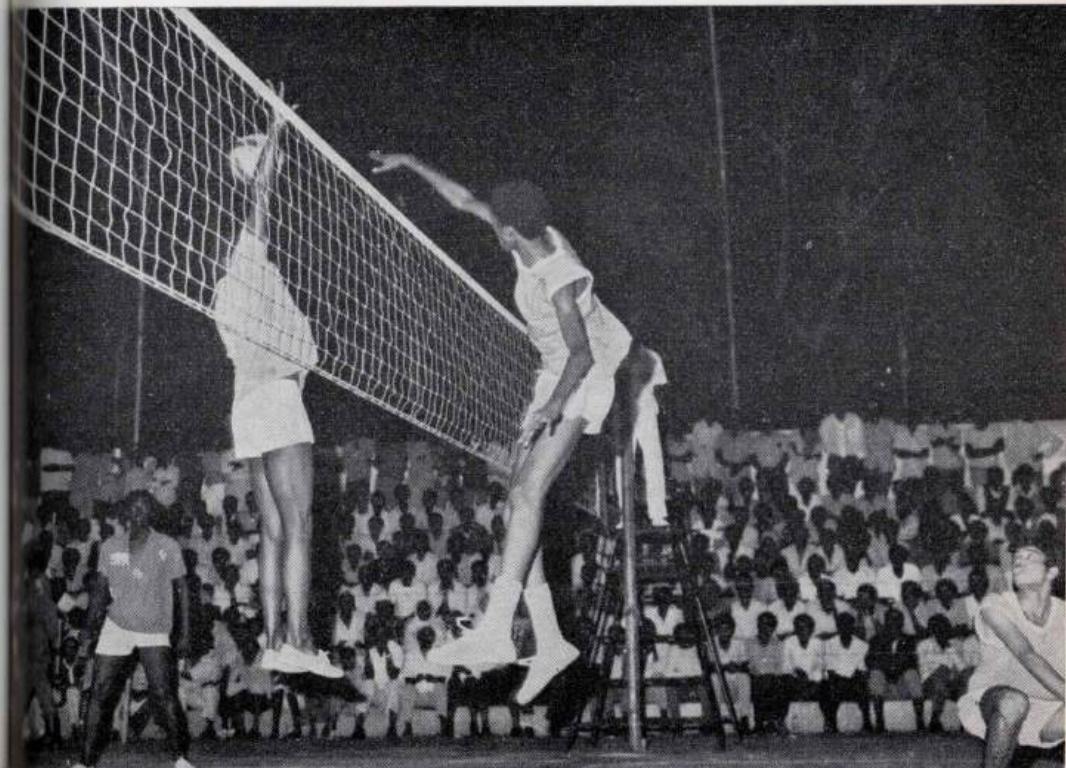
The number of students has greatly increased since the birth of the Revolution.

The overall increase in the number of students in school attendance has been estimated at 146%.

The changes brought about in the educational system combined with the tremendous increase in the number of students have necessitated the speeding up of teacher training programmes and an increase in the number of teachers undertaking this training. In 1973 alone, 1,718 teachers had been trained under intensive programmes.

The Ministry of Education started kindergarten schools for children between the ages of three and five. This type of school was practically non-existent before the birth of the Revolution; at the present time there are thirteen kindergarten schools in existence with an attendance of 1,128 children. Attention was also given to Home Economy Education. Twenty-one Home Economy Schools were built. The aim behind this type of education is to prepare Somali women for their rightful role in the running of the nation's affairs. Although education as a whole was in confusion before the birth of the Revolution, women's education was totally neglected. Since the philosophy of the Somali Revolution embraces the equality of the sexes, the following statement is made:

Sport and physical training are a fundamental part of modern educational methods.



of the sexes in all fields, it was imperative to raise the standard of women's education. Naturally their education is not confined to Home Economy and similar specialist studies, but is also concerned with their having their share of formal education at all levels, from elementary to College.

	Type	1969-70	1970-71	%	1971-72	%	1972-73	%	1973-74	%
Mogadishu/ Middle & Lower Shabelle	Elem	9,910	17,663	78	21,541	22	26,666	24	33,019	24
	Inter	6,164	8,149	23	10,313	27	14,210	38	14,407	14
	Secon	2,939	4,851	65	5,777	19	6,939	20	6,968	4
Total		19,463	30,663	57	37,631	22	47,815	28	54,394	14
Upper Juba (Bakol, Gedo & Bay)	Elem	2,353	2,919	24	3,306	13	4,520	37	5,438	20
	Inter	1,096	1,229	12	1,375	13	1,555	13	1,826	18
	Secon	—	62	—	136	119	183	35	286	56
Total		3,449	4,210	18	4,817	14	6,258	30	7,550	21
Lower Juba	Elem	1,608	2,594	61	3,197	23	4,892	53	6,736	38
	Inter	480	787	64	1,002	27	1,369	37	1,569	15
	Secon	—	67	—	117	75	209	70	284	36
Total		2,088	3,448	65	4,316	25	6,470	50	8,589	33
Hiran	Elem	1,065	1,140	7	1,425	25	2,397	47	3,171	32
	Inter	566	712	26	846	19	889	5	900	1
	Secon	—	—	—	29	—	111	73	180	62
Total		1,631	1,852	14	2,300	24	3,397	48	4,251	25
Mudug (Galgudud + Mudug)	Elem	1,598	1,672	5	1,841	11	2,631	42	3,436	30
	Inter	571	771	35	869	13	767	—	929	21
	Secon	—	64	—	132	105	158	19	232	47
Total		2,169	2,507	16	2,842	13	3,546	25	4,597	30
Bossaso (Bossaso + Nugal)	Elem	975	1,150	16	1,379	20	2,160	57	2,815	30
	Inter	255	312	22	334	7	564	69	667	18
	Secon	—	—	—	68	—	83	22	106	28
Total		1,230	1,462	19	1,781	22	2,807	58	3,588	28
Burao (Togdeer + Sanag)	Elem	1,601	1,639	2	2,104	28	2,638	25	3,341	27
	Inter	1,243	1,163	—	1,604	37	1,402	—	1,420	1
	Secon	210	256	22	610	138	637	4	810	27
Total		3,054	3,058	13	4,318	41	4,677	8	5,571	19
Hargeisa	Elem	4,732	5,346	13	5,429	2	7,571	39	9,450	25
	Inter	3,304	3,543	7	3,605	2	3,912	9	3,970	14
	Secon	1,036	1,383	33	1,527	10	1,588	4	1,720	83
Total		9,072	10,272	13	10,561	3	13,071	20	15,140	16
General total		42,156	57,472	36	68,566	21	88,038	28	103,682	18

The educational strategy contained in the 1974-1978 economic plan is based on the following major considerations, viz:

- 1 to raise the literacy rate to 90%;
- 2 to provide sufficient basic facilities for everyone seeking an educational opportunity;
- 3 to tailor education to the development of the country in order that subjects studied in schools are geared to the social, economic and cultural organisation of the country;
- 4 to develop technical education and
- 5 to expand university facilities to a maximum.

In a developing country, it is essential to have a planned strategy otherwise efforts and resources are dissipated on educational plans that may not be of any practical use to the country in question. Bearing this in mind, the Ministry of Education is conducting feasibility studies on national manpower so that educational policies can be tailored to the needs of the country. These studies will give the Ministry a clear cut idea on the approach it will have to make towards striking a proper balance between technical and general education. One of the major needs today is to produce sufficient skilled manpower to man the burgeoning industry of the country. In recognition of this need the Ministry of Education has been aiming to increase the number of vocational and technical schools.

Another field of education that has received prominent attention is higher education. A new Ministry was formed in 1973 to deal with this in view of the tremendous increase in students leaving secondary and technical schools.

Several higher institutions have been created. The Somali National University, a university in name only before the birth of the Revolution, has been put in full-time working order. All faculties are now working efficiently.

The Lafole Teachers' College at Afgoi is now fully functioning. In the field of administration, the Institute of Public Administration (SIPA) has been playing an important role. The creation of higher institutions became an economic necessity for the simple reason that the educational level has to keep pace with, and even surpass, advances being made in the overall economic field.

Writing the Somali language

One of the greatest achievements of the October Revolution was the bold decision to write the Somali language. On 21 October 1972, the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre told the nation that the revolutionary government had chosen the Latin alphabet, with some modifications, as the official script for writing the language. The President also explained how this decision was reached and the reasons leading up to the adoption of Latin as the desired script.

This long awaited decision, which was announced on the third anniversary of the Revolution, was enthusiastically received not only by the people in the Democratic Republic but by people in all the Somalilands.

Soon after the adoption of the script, government civil servants as well as the armed forces were given three months in which to learn this script and to put it to use in writing the language, so that after this period it might be introduced into government offices. Emergency courses were organised and simultaneously a great number of text books already prepared by the Language Commission were printed. Additionally Somali lessons concerning the learning of the script and its application were initiated in radio programmes and publicised in government newspapers. All these practical steps were intended to facilitate the learning of written Somali, to enable government personnel as well as the public in a very short time to become familiar with the system of writing their language. This brought to an end the long and fruitless debate on this issue which had gone on for the past 80 years.

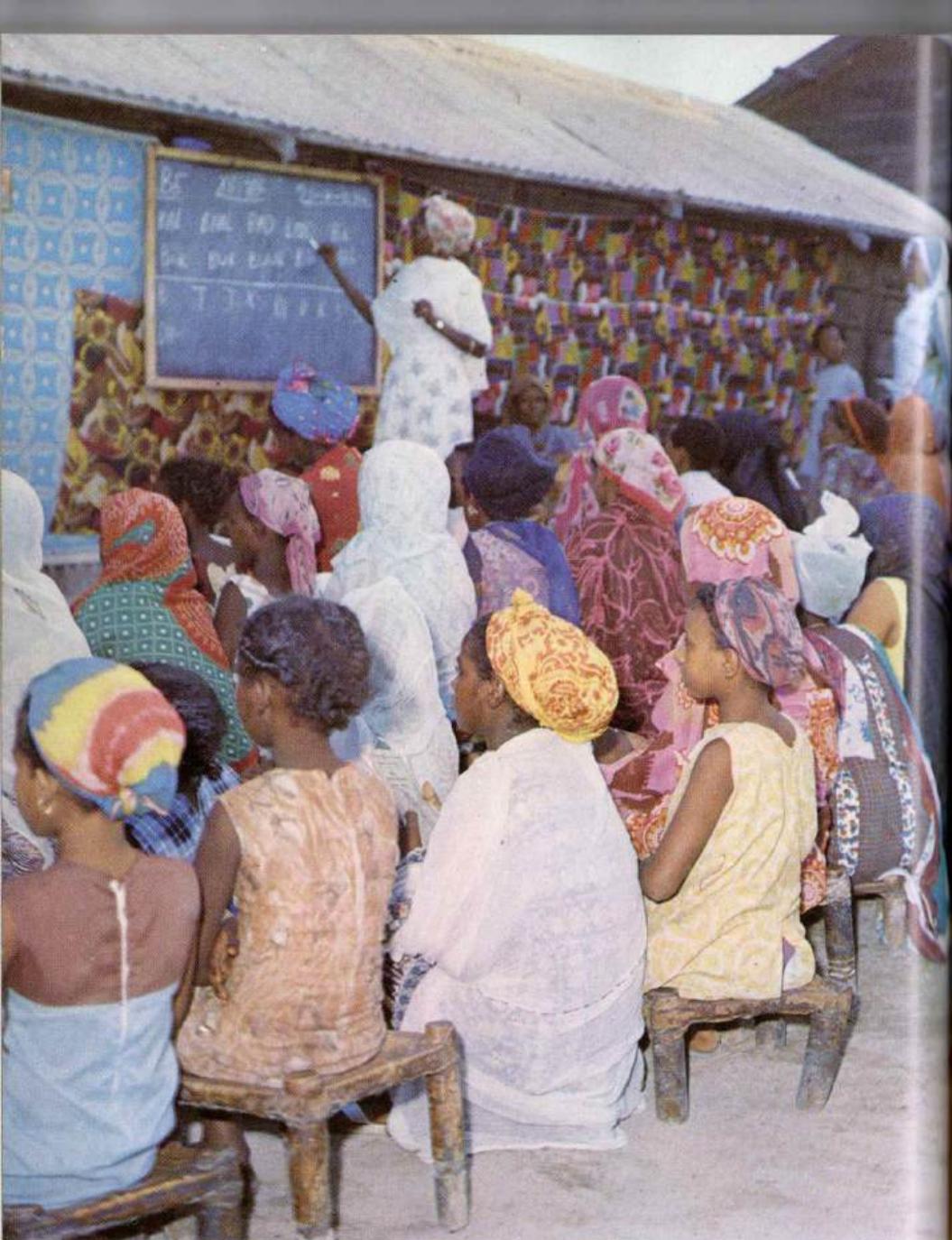
After the three months courses, in mid-January 1973, Somali was officially introduced into the administrative machinery of the government, replacing the three former foreign languages (Italian, English and Arabic) which had been in use in the country for the last hundred years or so. The first government newspaper in Somali 'XIDDIGTA OKTOOBAR' was produced on 21 January 1973, the same date on which the teaching of Somali was started in the elementary schools.

However, it should be mentioned here that before the adoption of written Somali by the Revolutionary Government the educational system in Somalia was in disarray due to the use in the system of foreign languages. This resulted in the disorientation of the whole educational system, causing difficulties to students who had to struggle to master two or more foreign languages before qualifying in any scientific or professional subject. Each one of these languages had its own culture and required specially trained teachers each following differing ways of teaching and programmes which naturally resulted in creating confusion in the minds of Somali youth.

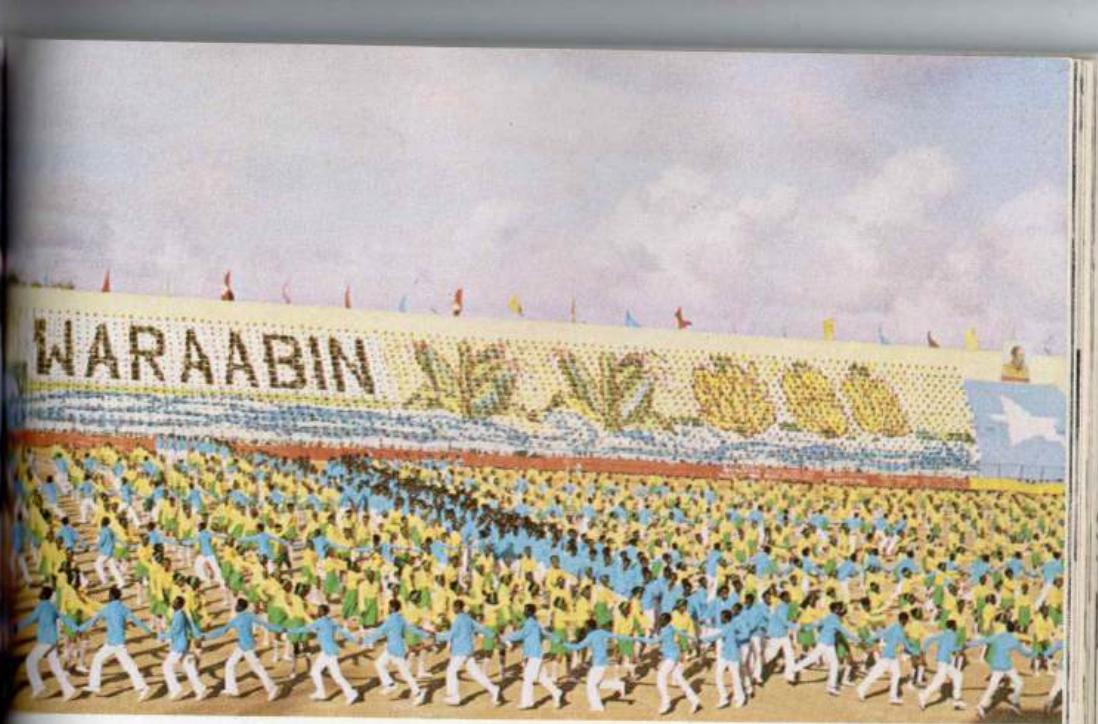
Moreover, Somali students who went abroad for their higher education often



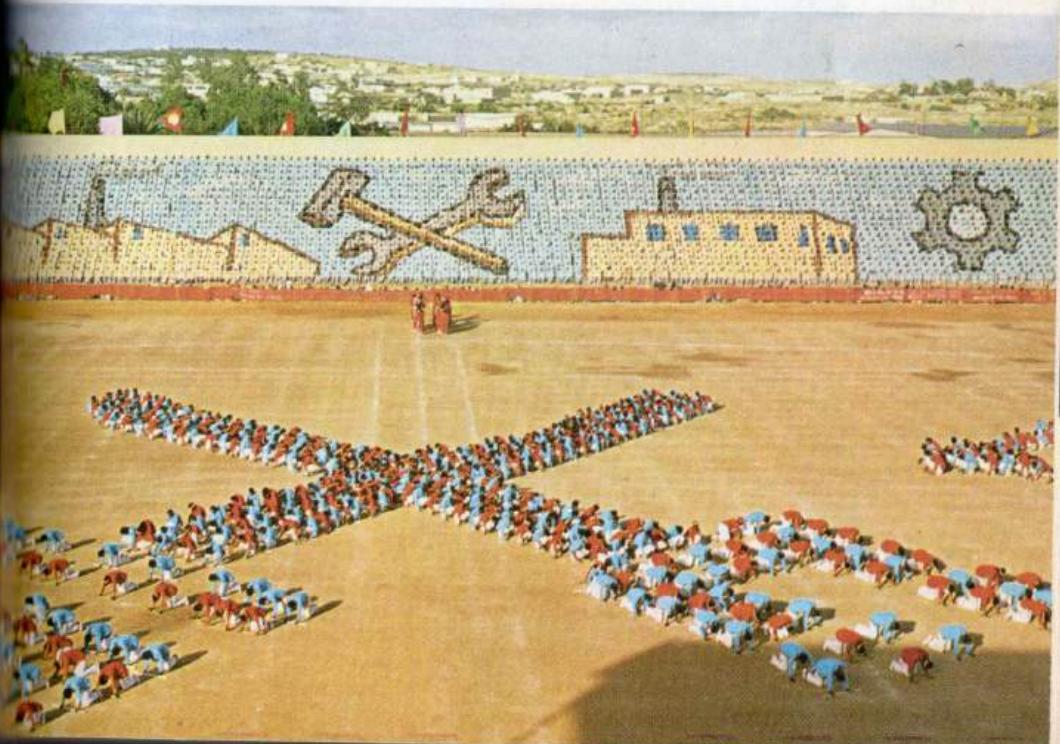
Great emphasis is being placed on the provision of adequate modern educational opportunities.



One of the greatest achievements of the Revolution was the decision to adopt the Latin script for writing the Somali language.



Many thousands of young people take part in colourful displays devised to symbolise the achievements and objectives of the Revolution.





The new first class Juba Hotel, a self-help project, offers the visitor every up-to-date convenience.



returned having absorbed alien cultures. It was difficult for a graduate from the Soviet Union to communicate with the one from the United States or Italy. This hampered efficiency in Somalia's administration. Each office required two or three translators and caused duplication of work. The foreign languages were also used as a weapon to propagate colonialism and the past glories of the respective colonial power.

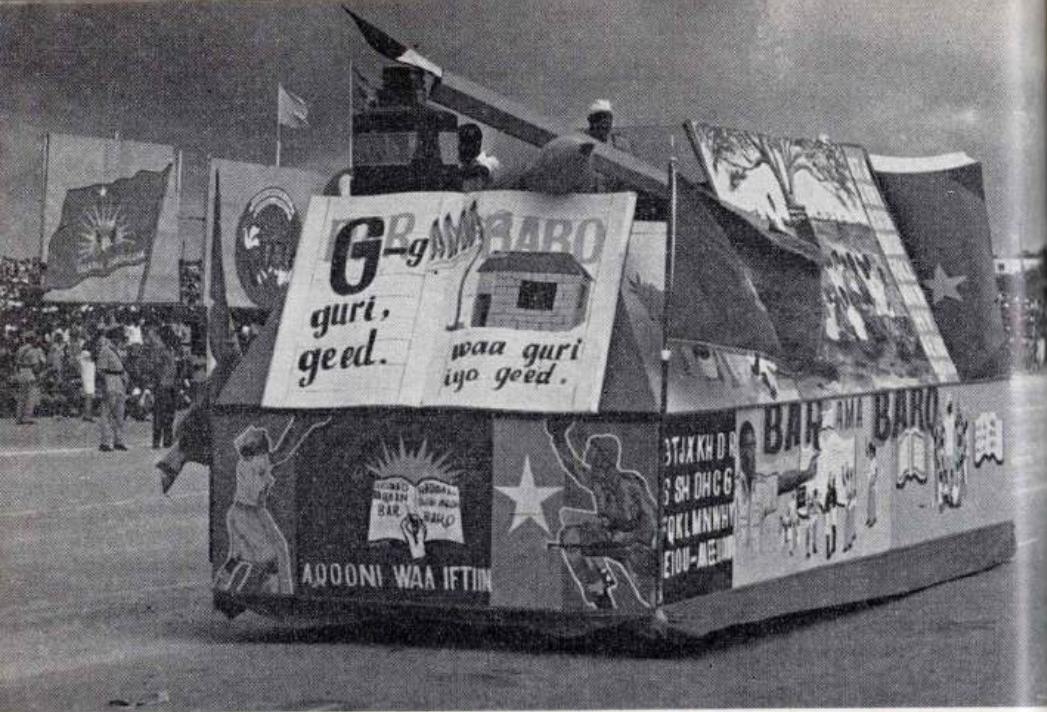
Now the Somali language is written and the advantages of its use as a medium of instruction in the lower schools have already been proved by the results achieved in the elementary and adult schools. Pupils in these schools can follow their lessons more easily than when they were taught in a foreign language and this has had the effect of raising the standard of education in a very short time, creating a new self-confidence in both Somali teachers and students alike as the language barrier has been lifted once and for all.

The public had and still has ample opportunity to go to schools and learn the basic rudiments of education which had been deprived to them for so long in the past. Over a million people have benefitted from the recent campaigns on literacy. The rate of literacy in the country has jumped from a mere 5% to 33%. Mass literacy campaigns in the urban areas are to be followed by others in the rural areas and courses designed for the nomadic settlements have already been organised.

On the other hand the door has been opened particularly to those talented in Somali literature to compile and write their own books on the different aspects of their cultural heritage. In the past people were not able to read foreign books or even enjoy reading their own literature in foreign languages. Today the Somali language is being studied as one of the African languages in a number of foreign countries. All foreign diplomats accredited to Somalia learn the language at courses organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The language having been written, it is a primary obligation for everyone to take the advantage of education – not just those who live in the towns but those in rural areas as well. Education's first and foremost responsibility is not only to make illiterate people literate but also to ensure that they can join the fight against ignorance and social backwardness.

When due consideration is given to this idea, the instruments of education will provide and create unlimited resources of labour both skilled and unskilled, not necessarily just in the towns but also in the villages and among the nomadic communities in order that all can participate in the production of the material wealth of our country. Thus our educational system must provide people with



A good example of the principles of self-help is the slogan on which the campaign to teach written Somali is based - 'If you don't know, learn; if you do know, teach'.

ample publications and information with regard to the development of the country, the benefits of the ideology of scientific socialism and the ways and means of enthusing in them a sense of nationalism, self-reliance and co-operation. It is true to say that when education plays its role in moulding a society in the right way it creates mutual understanding among people all over the world who have experienced similar problems.

The campaign which was launched at the beginning of March 1973 to eradicate ignorance, as well as disease and poverty, has been very successful. The reason for this is largely the self-confidence engendered in the masses by the learning, reading and writing of their language, the spirit of dedication of thousands of volunteer teachers, the sound administration of the many committees who were assigned to organise this campaign, and above all the many who offered financial contributions. The role of Somali women who played a great part in all this activity was a significant one.

It must not be forgotten however that in all these literacy campaigns the doctrine on which the campaign was founded was 'HADDAAD TAQAANNO BAR HADDAADAN AQOONNA BARO' which means 'IF YOU DON'T KNOW LEARN: BUT IF YOU DO KNOW TEACH IT'. This doctrine is based on the principles of self-help 'Iskaa-Wax-U-Qabso'. Turning now to statistics, enrolment in adult classes for the first phase of the campaign (April 1973 to January 1974)

reached a total of 400,000 students who successfully passed the literacy examinations. What is more interesting to discover however is the number of people who have learned through other media such as radio and who amount to no fewer than 600,000 candidates, all of whom were equally qualified for the same examination. This proves the value of written Somali which has resulted in almost a million people being able to read and write. The next step is for these people to enrol in functional literacy campaigns so that they may increase the range of their learning. The ultimate goal is to create a skilled labour force that will improve economic conditions and contribute towards building a socialist society.

As regards the nomadic community who constitute a majority of the population and whose livestock is the mainstay of our economy, effective improvement of their way of life was impossible in the past. The Revolutionary Government has taken care of their welfare and has paid special attention to their advancement in the national Five-year Development Plan. As was planned at the beginning of the campaign, a mass literacy campaign for the nomads will be launched this year and the Regional and District authorities have been instructed to make their own plans for the organisation and execution of this national task. There is also the prospect of establishing ten experimental schools, each accommodating 400 students. These are pilot projects and if found to be successful they will serve as the nucleus for the establishment of a wider system of education for the nomadic community. However, there is no reason why it should not succeed as long as we continue to believe in the truth of the Somali traditional proverb: 'RAQBA WAA KU RAGGEEDA' which means 'Each task has its own merited people'.

In spite of all this we must not lose sight of the words addressed by the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre, to the nation on various occasions that the campaign requires much preparation and effort. On past performance, the necessary effort will be forthcoming.

Industry takes off

Industrial development in Somalia was slow to emerge. At the time of Independence in 1960 desultory efforts were made at setting up a few factories here and there, such as the Laskoray Fish Factory, the Kismayo Meat Processing Factory, the Jowhar Sugar Factory and the Balad Textile Factory. All ran at a loss. These were established at the insistence of various aid-giving governments, who stipulated that their financial assistance should be used for long-term industrial development. As a result, the corrupt pre-Revolutionary Government set up a few skeleton factories, which at the time were of little benefit to the country as a whole, in order to placate countries donating foreign aid.

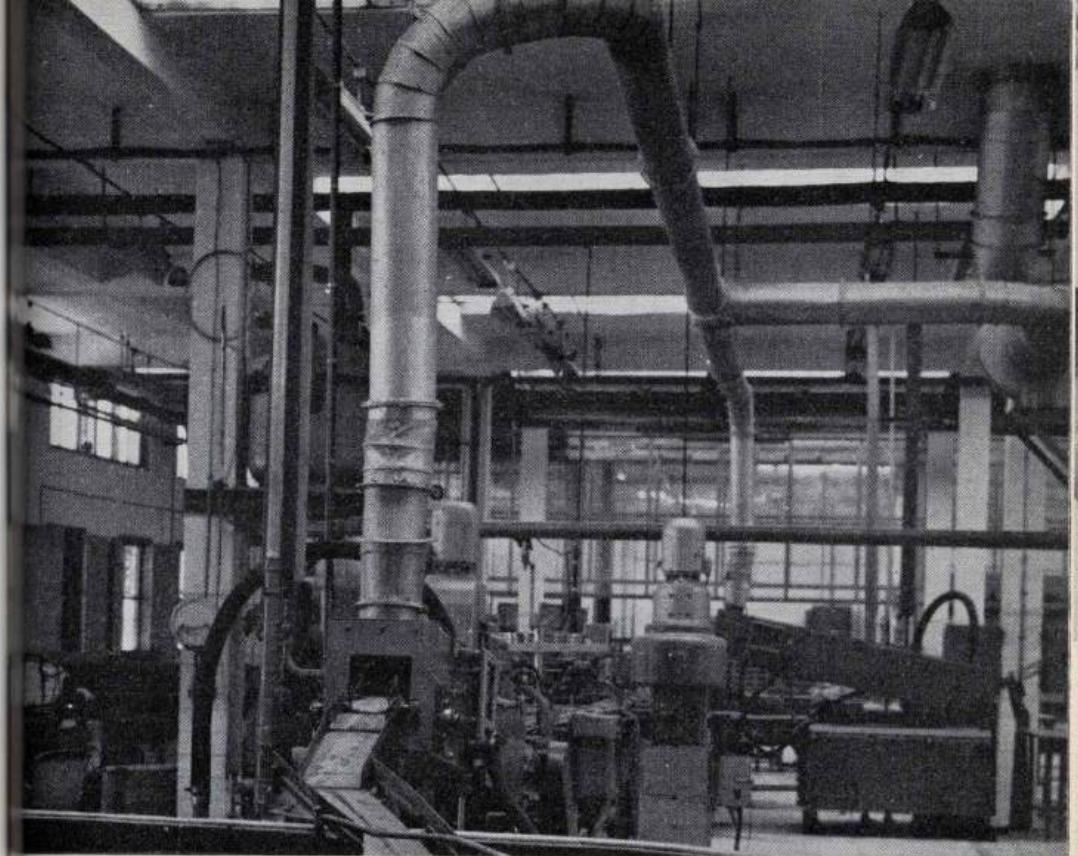
The Revolutionary Government took measures to rectify this situation and in addition to creating new factories, ensured that those existing were efficiently streamlined and organised on a profit-making basis.

Also, they were quick to realise that industry had to be developed to take advantage of the most important resources, i.e., agriculture and livestock.

With this in mind, the Revolutionary Government has given special attention to this area, the results of which can be seen in the following table showing the rise in industrial output from 1969 to 1971.

These statistics have been compiled by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination and show that a 20 % increase was achieved during this two-year period.

Industrial group	No. of establishments		No. of persons employed		Value added Shs (millions)		Gross output Shs (millions)		Valued added growth rates %
	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971	
Food manufacturing	17	58	1,910	3,489	32.8	94.1	41.8	165.8	30
Beverage industries	4	5	122	206	0.9	2.5	1.4	5.2	39
Textiles	20	7	830	797	0.4	4.4	1.1	10.2	122.4
Leather & footwear	8	11	105	289	0.6	1.2	1.4	2.8	18.80
Furniture & fixtures	29	30	235	421	1.2	1.8	3.2	3.7	10.7
Printing & publishing	4	8	78	265	0.9	4.7	1.7	7.0	51.2
Chemical products	3	9	33	159	0.1	1.2	1.0	5.9	128.9
Structural clay & lime	19	33	209	308	0.2	2.2	2.5	2.7	122.4
Metal working	3	10	42	105	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	29.5
Jewellery, etc	8	10	57	87	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	nil
Other industries	6	6	115	82	6.0	1.4	9.7	-	-
	122	187	3,736	6,205	44.5	114.1	64.0	196.4	



A part view of the processing area of the Jowhar Sugar Factory, the largest industrial complex in the country.

Notable amongst these increases is the high rate of growth for chemicals (129%), structural clay products (122%), textiles (122%), printing (51%) and metal products (26%). In considering these percentages it also has to be taken into account that numerous small-scale units are scattered all over the country for which production figures are hard to obtain. In this respect, the Somali Government has spent a good deal of time in an endeavour to re-organise these small-scale units. As an example, people engaged in handicrafts and similar activities have been grouped into Co-operatives. This has resulted in dual benefits; for the people, hitherto unorganised and ill-equipped, they now have Government assistance at their disposal, pooled resources and credit facilities. For the country as a whole better and faster production will ensue. It is interesting to note that the Government has made such assistance available for the development of industry regardless of whether it falls within the private or public sector.

Overall, industry is being built up on the basis of agriculture and livestock, the two most important sectors of the economy, in the absence of any significant mineral wealth. Anticipated agricultural increases will in turn require the estab-

lishment of rice mills, flour mills, textile factories, oil-producing factories, etc. Light industry will also be improved when the full utilisation of agriculture and livestock products and by-products is established. As a result, imports will decline thereby making a considerable saving in the economy.

Basically, the industrial structure of Somalia falls into several distinct categories:

- 1 Large industrial establishments, mostly in the public sector.
- 2 Medium and small-scale establishments employing five to ten persons - mainly in the private sector.
- 3 Industrial units in the private sector, employing less than five persons.

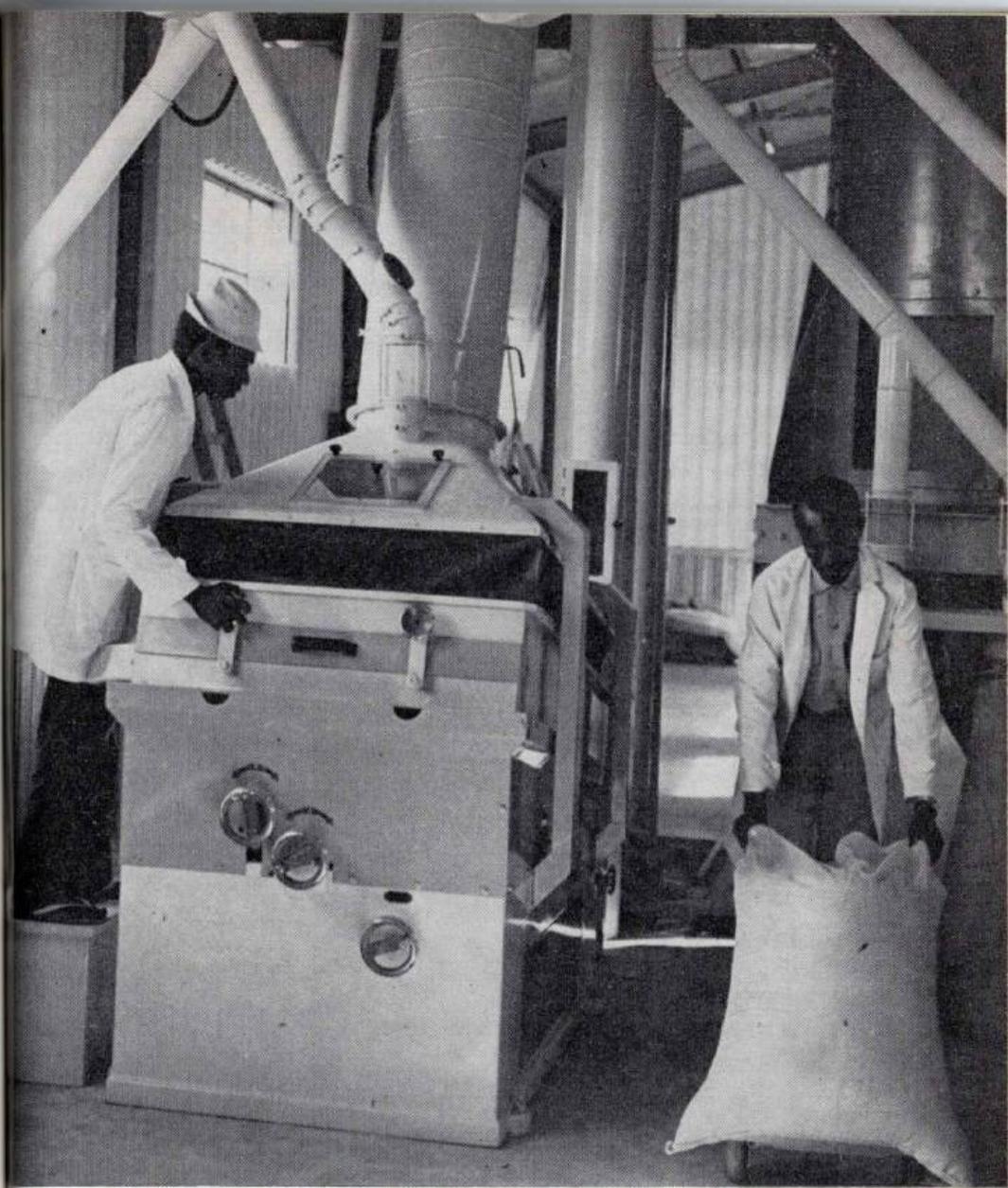
Industrial establishments with five or more employees

	Public sector	%	Private sector	%
Number of establishments	18	9.3	177	90.7
Total employed	3,735	56.5	2,879	43.5
Employees' remuneration (Shs)	24,158,532	75.4	7,861,640	24.6
Fixed capital employed	8,194,034	61.2	5,194,781	38.8
Output (Shs)	165,137,522	75.2	54,535,281	24.8
Added value (Shs)	108,016,866	88.2	14,444,577	11.8
Average added value per establishment (Shs)	6,000,938	-	81,608	-
Average added value per employee	37,299	-	6,928	-

As will be seen from this table, the major eighteen industrial establishments employing five persons or more are Government-owned, with employees estimated in 1971 at 3,735 representing 56.5% of the total number of employees in industry as a whole. This compares with 2,879 persons in the private sector for the same period.

The prominence of public industries should in no way reflect overall Government domination, but more a lack of private funds available for industrial investment coupled with the fact that most individuals in Somalia are either too timid to fund industrial set-ups or do not have the business know-how and grasp of the significance of industrial development. As a result the Government has had no alternative but to take the appropriate steps necessary for securing future progress.

Figures available for 1972 compiled by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination show a continuation of this pattern of public sector prominence in the country's industrial structure.



Maize meal in full production.

An analysis of the industrial set-up has shown that food processing industries accounted for 101.00 million shillings in 1972, which represents 73% of total industrial earnings, with sugar and processed meat predominating. Second was the textile manufacturing industry which netted 9.4 million shillings, 6.8% of the total industrial earnings. Another major area accounting for 6.4% is the electrical power

industry; the Government printing houses earned 4.6 million shillings, 3.7%. These main industries accounted for no less than 94% of total industrial earnings with leather goods, chemicals, furniture, jewellery and other miscellaneous items representing the remaining balance of 6%.

These figures relate the pattern of importance of industrial complexes within Somalia with the definite indication that the food processing industry will predominate for some time to come.

Total industrial establishments including units employing less than 5 persons

	Public sector		Private sector		Total	Value added (Shs millions)		Public sector %	Private sector %	Traditional sector %	Total %	
	No. of units	No. of employees	No. of units	No. of employees		Factories	Traditional					
	No. of units	No. of employees	No. of units	No. of employees	No. of units	No. of employees	Public sector	facto- ries	Trad- itional			
Food manufacturing	42,244	54,124	51,160	2,615	1,218	6,104	89.28	4.77	7.85	101.90		
Beverages	0	0	5	206	0	0	5	2.48	0	2.48		
Manufacture of textiles	1761	6	33	932	1,683	939	2,477	4.38 (c)	0	5.02	9.40	
Leather & footwear	1150	10	139	256	352	267	641	0.34 (c)	0.88	1.12	2.34	
Furniture & fixtures	263	28	358	161	276	191	697	0.19	1.62 (a)	0.83	2.64	
Printing, publishing, etc	1106	7	105	5	12	13	277	4.01 (c)	0.63	0.04	4.68	
Other chemicals	134	8	125	4	7	13	166	0.50 (c)	0.50	0.20	1.20	
Structural clay products	00	23	243	12	36	35	279	0 (c)	1.56	0.10	1.66	
Lime	120	9	45	20	27	30	92	0.06	0	0.08	0.14	
Metal products	120	9	85	240	411	250	516	0.46 (c)	1.00	0.23	1.69	
Jewellery	00	10	87	29	64	39	151	0 (c)	0.23	0.19	0.42	
Industries NES	00	6	82	42	82	48	164	0	1.40	0.35	1.75	
Electric power	6383	2	26	0	0	8	409	8.80	0.20 (a)	0	9.00	
Total sub-sectors	183,735	177	2,879	2,861	5,565	3,056	12,179	108.02	14.45	16.83	139.30	
Total sub-sectors (%)	0.59	30.67	5.80	23.63	93.61	45.7	100	100	77.55	10.37	12.08	100

Sources of data:

(1) *Industry Survey Report (1971)*, Central Statistics Dept., Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination
 (2) *Manpower Survey Report, Vol. 2, August 1972*, Labour Dept., Ministry of Labour & Sports

(a) Total Apportioned on basis of value of inputs used by public and private sector units
 (b) Estimated on basis of So Shs 3,000/- of value added per worker per year
 (c) Obtained as a residual figure

Regional distribution of industries (number of units)

Region	Public Sector	%	Private sector	%	Traditional sector	%	Total	%
Mogadishu	8	44.4	127	60.8	1,139	44	1,274	45.2
Jowhar (Upper Shabelle)	2	11.1	5	2.4	56	2.2	63	2.3
Merka (Lower Shabelle)	—	—	19	9.1	325	12.6	344	12.2
Baidoa (Upper Juba)	—	—	3	1.5	62	2.4	65	2.3
Kismayo (Lower Juba)	2	1.1	14	6.7	179	6.9	195	7.0
Beledwein (Hiran)	—	—	5	2.4	49	1.9	54	1.9
Galkayo (Mudug)	—	—	5	2.4	15	0.6	20	0.7
Garowe (Nugal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bossaso	—	—	4	1.8	7	0.3	11	0.4
Togdeer (Burao)	2	1.1	14	6.7	12	4.3	128	4.6
Hargeisa (NW Region)	4	22.3	13	6.2	46	24.8	663	23.4
Total	18	100	209	100	2,590	100	2,817	100

Industry is mainly concentrated in and around Mogadishu, the country's capital. 45% of the total number of industrial units, 44% of each of the public and private units, are located in this area. This uneven distribution has been determined by the availability of natural resources, their development and the existence of communications facilities.

Another responsible factor is the uneven population density. Overall, Somalia has a low population density, most of which is centred in Mogadishu and the Upper and Lower Juba regions; thus industry has been developed accordingly.

One of the oldest industries in Somalia is the Sugar Factory in Jowhar which commenced in 1926 with a modest output of 600 quintals per year. Prior to the Revolution the factory was in private hands. It was nationalised in May 1970. Since that time production capacity has increased and output expanded to the point where the country has been able to reduce its sugar imports from 10,160 tons (8,538,000 shillings) in 1960 to 50 tons (80,644 shillings) in 1971. Most of the reduction was achieved during 1969 to 1971, the time that the Revolutionary Government took control and re-organised the plant. Also during this period the utilisation of sugar by-products was expanded to include such items as perfumes, liquor output, etc. The sugar factory owns an area of 8,000 hectares, of which 5,320 hectares is planted. Sugar output soared to a peak in 1973 when 4,633,798

quintals were produced in each of the two seasons. Average percentage yield varies from 12.3% to 13.6%.

The plantation has a network of irrigation channels covering an area of 600 kms which draw water from the Shabelle River. Some 5,300 employees work at this factory and its various additional units and enjoy social amenities such as housing, health services, water and electricity, educational facilities for children and shopping and recreational aids.

In December 1971 the factory's assets were valued at 172 million shillings, with fixed assets at 133 million shillings. Gross income in the same year was put at 51.45 million shillings.

Net profits for the period December 1969 to December 1971 were as follows:

31 December 1969	4.59 Shs million
31 December 1970	4.41 Shs million
31 December 1971	15.70 Shs million

These net profits for the three years indicate that the factory has considerably increased its earning capacity within this short period.

This can be better appreciated with the background knowledge of the situation prior to the Revolutionary Government's re-organisation. At that time Management was poor and ill-equipped to deal with higher production levels. In addition, equipment was virtually obsolete, not having been replaced since the founding of the factory. Further, racketeering on sugar imports conspired to keep the level of production down.

Under the 1971-73 Economic Development Programme, one million shillings were re-invested mainly in equipment to make plastic shoes and bottles, perfumes, shampoos and detergents and a small plant for the production of assorted liquors such as rum, whisky, gin and so on. This has been underway for two years and at the time of writing is reported to have made considerable progress.

A feasibility study has been undertaken on aspects of increasing sugar production by 10,000 tons a year. The execution of this programme is planned under the 1974-78 Economic Plan.

The Kismayo Meat Factory, built jointly by the Soviet Union and the Somali Democratic Republic, is another major industrial unit. Built at a cost of 39.5 million shillings, it was designed to slaughter 170 cattle per day and process meat over a period of 300 working days, thereby producing approximately 500,000 tins per annum of conventional size. According to initial forecasts, the factory was expected to realise its investment within two years.



The canning of fruit and fruit juices is a successful newly established industry.

Production figures reflect an upward trend in output from 1969 onwards. At the same time, several new items have been introduced such as bonemeal, sausages and fat to amplify the original production line of tinned meats.

The factory's earnings for the period 1969-72 are shown in the following table:

Canned meat	1969	1970	1971	1972
	(Somali Shs)			
Stewed meat	1,065,503	6,522,207	14,664,423	18,228,730
Corned beef	339,480	—	—	43,220
Meat with bones	—	—	8,152,356	8,536,984
Sausages	44,484	12,463	5,740	3,725
Fat	31,838	115,657	231,771	331,104
Meat and bonemeal	—	—	4,732	9,933
By-products	140,695	737,715	1,451,729	1,973,407
Total	1,622,000	7,388,042	24,510,751	29,127,103

The increase in earnings from one year to the next is quite outstanding. As will be seen, earnings for tinned meat rose from about one million shillings in 1969 to more than eighteen million shillings in 1972.

This impressive record is due entirely to reorganisation undertaken by the

Revolutionary Government from 1969 onwards. Every possible improvement was considered in order to raise production as quickly as possible even down to structuring a working shift rota. Failure to achieve a profit-making organisation and to appreciate the importance of such an industry prior to the Revolutionary Government's control was the direct result of corruption, dishonesty and an acute lack of business acumen. This is all the more emphasised when it is realised that the area in which it is located, Kismayo, is one of the most densely populated with cattle. At the present time this factory is operating at peak capacity with approximately 500 employees. Somali staff have fully mastered the necessary production and maintenance techniques.

The outstandingly high earnings of the past few years have enabled considerable reinvestment to be carried out and during the 1971-73 Economic Plan a total of two million shillings was set aside for new innovations. New production lines, such as corned beef, meat extracts, sausages, etc, were initiated. By-products as well have been utilised to a fuller extent resulting in a surplus of two million shillings from these previously ignored items in 1972.

Somaltex, the textile plant at Balad, was established in 1966 and was originally owned jointly between Somalia (73%) and West Germany (27%). Initial capital investment by West Germany was in the form of machinery. Complete re-organisation was undertaken in August 1969 and under the new form of ownership of the company the pattern is as follows:

	<i>Somali shillings</i>	<i>%</i>
Somali Government	6,130,000	42.4
Somali Development Bank	1,186,000	8.2
Somali private shareholders	84,000	0.6
German private shareholders	2,600,000	17.9
On behalf of the FRG	4,470,000	30.9

A loan of DM 14,020,000 was also made available for plant modernisation. As a result, production figures for 1969-72 clearly show that the textile plant has been given a new lease of life.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grey sheet</i>	<i>Bleached cloth</i>	<i>Dyed cloth</i>	<i>% planned production</i>
1968	39,272	39,272	—	—	0.28
1969	796,000	796,000	—	—	7.02
1970	3,000,028	2,097,028	854,000	49,000	27.52
1971	7,018,512	6,123,477	1,570,490	324,545	50.00
1972	6,400,000	(No break-down available)		60.00	

As will readily be seen, production has been on an upward trend since 1969. This has been achieved mainly through the installation of better plant and machinery, efficient management, better organisation of personnel together with an astute application of available resources. In fact, the Balad Textile Company has captured a sizeable portion of the textile market, Balad-produced clothes and uniforms for schools having become popular among men and women alike. A further area, cloth for bedding and curtains, has also greatly increased in output. The factory has a reputation for quality merchandise and to a large extent has been responsible for replacing imported materials. The 27,560,000 shillings previously spent on imported cloth had been reduced to 3,519,541 shillings in 1972. This is a considerable saving in foreign currency for Somalia for which the textile industry must be given credit.

This plant employs in the region of 750 people. During the 1971-73 Economic Plan, the factory invested over five million shillings in improvements. Despite this, expansion in output has been given a prominent place in the 1974-78 Plan.

Some account should also be given of the progress realised by the Somalia Fishing Industry under the aegis of the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Transport, an organisation set up by the Revolutionary Government early in 1973. In the early stages the programme laid down by the Ministry favours the rapid development of fishing resources within the context of necessary priorities.

Twenty-one co-operatives are being set up, the basic objectives of which are to increase production and raise incomes with the ultimate aim of self-sufficiency both financially and managerially. Initial assistance from the Government will take the form of technical advice, credit facilities and marketing consultancy. In turn it is hoped to stimulate production to the level where exports may be increased and fish consumption internally promoted.

During 1974 the expansion and modernisation of the Mogadishu Boat Building Yard will be completed, which will greatly aid the objectives of this programme. Production at present is at the rate of 12 boats per month for supply to Fishermen's Co-operatives.

The Ministry has also been involved in considerable efforts to improve the Las-Koray Fish Cannery, which as a State-owned industrial plant has been running at a loss since its inception. This has been mainly due to the lack of a comprehensive fishing fleet and rather high overheads. The plant has now been equipped with motorised fishing boats and its fishing fleet increased from 10 boats in 1973 to 70 boats in April 1974. In addition, plans are in hand to extend the existing pier, increase freezing capacity and establish a Boat Building Yard. As a result of recent

rationalisation moves the cannery's production has increased threefold in 1973-74.

The National Shipping Line, which is a State-owned autonomous agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Transport, was established at the end of 1972. The line commenced its operation with the purchase of a livestock carrier and cargo ship. Negotiations for a further two banana vessels and one livestock carrier are already underway. In addition, the Somali Government has entered into a joint arrangement with the Libyan Government for the operation of the National Shipping Line.

The Mogadishu Port Project which is now underway is expected to be completed within the course of the next three years. Costs of construction have been estimated in the region of US \$25 million. This project is being jointly financed by the IBRD and the EEC. Steps have also been taken to modernise the handling techniques and equipment of the port authority so as to ensure efficient loading and unloading of goods.

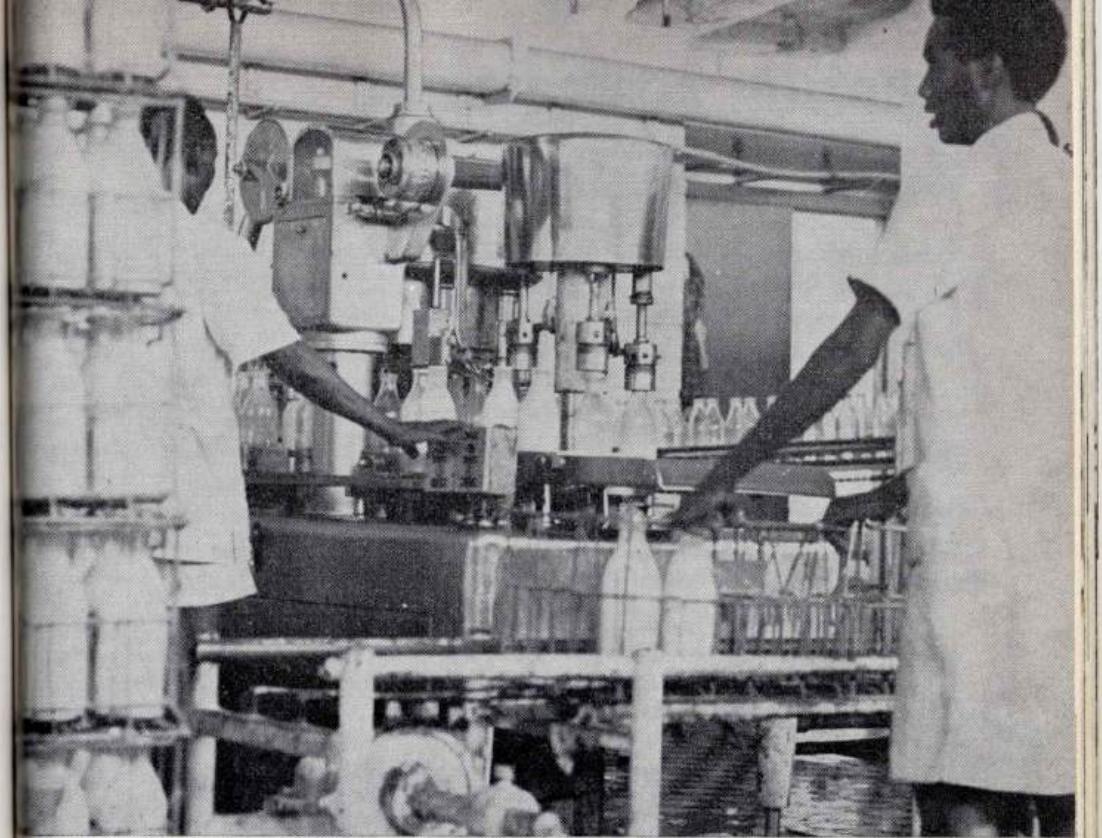
A most important part of the fishing industry in Somalia is the processing cannery at Las-Koray, referred to earlier. This plant was constructed with Soviet aid of 43·24 million shillings and processes mainly tuna fish, tuna liver in oil and industrial oil. During 1971 the cannery processed 1,087,200 cans and in 1972 it produced 562,300 cans and 13 tons of fish meal.

The Somali and Soviet Governments entered into an agreement in December 1972 whereby fishing can be co-ordinated to supply sufficient quantities to the Las-Koray Fish Factory. This will end the uncertainty over fish supplies, particularly of tuna which is an unpredictable fish, and enable forward-planning to proceed on a concrete basis.

Further Soviet assistance helped fund the milk factory in Mogadishu, set up in 1966. The original outlay for this project was 11,600,000 shillings and the plant has a capacity for processing pasteurised milk, yoghurt, ice-cream, cheese, butter and ghee. Milk production figures for 1966-1972 are as follows:

(litres)	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	1,051,119	879,201	1,065,174	821,150	1,136,084	2,500,000	3,000,000

Demand for these products has increased at such a rate that factory output is experiencing difficulty. Its products are mainly consumed in Mogadishu. One of the principal problems the factory has met with is a lack of milk in sufficient quantities. However, measures to increase supplies have been instituted in the form of the establishment of a dairy farm and inducements to cattle owners in the vicinity to supply the factory with their milk output. One way of ensuring this has



Pasteurised milk, yoghurt, ice-cream, cheese, butter and ghee are popular products of the Mogadishu Milk Factory.

been the development of 'Collection Centres' in those areas where there are most cattle. However, even with these advantages milk production is still below demand.

Overall, light industry has been gaining ground during the past few years with the establishment of such units as fruit juice and tomato paste plants. Further, there is a cigarette and matches factory, a cement factory and a gypsum factory underway, with numerous other similar concerns scattered throughout the country.

In fact, Somalia is developing light industry for which it has the raw material and know-how at a rapid pace. This of course is all part of Somalia's revolutionary plans to depend where possible on the resources and manpower available within the country.

In the private sector, there are so many small scale industrial units that it is impossible to give a full account of them here. However, they include grain mills, cotton ginning, vegetable oil, detergent, furniture and ice plants, meat canning factories, fish canning factories, cotton weaving plants and many others.

Justice restored to a place of honour

Justice, the cornerstone of any well ordered and efficiently run society, fell into disrepute in Somalia under the regimes that controlled the nation's affairs in the ten year interval between the attainment of independence and the 1969 October Revolution.

Rampant corruption, coupled with official indifference and the pervasive effects of tribalism, had destroyed all sense of morality among the men whose task it was to preserve the sanctity of law, and to ensure equity and justice without fear or favour. The judiciary, deprived of its cherished authority, was exposed to ridicule and its total collapse was purely a matter of time.

In this situation, subversion went unchecked, and the violence that subsequently flared signalled the need for urgent action.

The ineffective administration of justice had brought misery to the common man and this encouraged an attitude of lack of confidence in the government and its powers. This was one of the strongest reasons for the intervention of the Armed Forces on 21 October 1969 and barely five days later, the Supreme Court was suspended under Decree No. 12 of 25 October 1969 of the Supreme Revolutionary Council.

Within six weeks a handpicked team of legal men, whose honesty, integrity and ability were beyond question, became the guardians of the nation's independent Judiciary when the reconstituted Supreme Court came into existence under Decree No. 1 of 9 December 1969 of the Supreme Revolutionary Council.

At this point, thousands of cases, both civil and criminal, had been pending for years and apart from bias and political manoeuvring which had become undisguised features of the legal system, the reasons offered by the authorities for these prolonged delays served to indicate to what extent the government had lost touch with reality.

When he addressed the newly appointed judges later, the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre, remarked soberly, 'The Supreme Revolutionary Council does not want you just to imprison people for them; but rather it wishes you to safeguard justice, to work with confidence and without fear or favour'.

Thus with commendable swiftness a vital institution of Somalia's national life was reinstated; its impartiality assured and its respectability restored. But that was only the beginning of the process of change and revitalisation that has been taking place all over the country.

The Judiciary in its lower reaches too has been streamlined. Law graduates were

brought in and facilities improved all over. New buildings have been provided. The Court of Appeal in Kismayu moved into a new home, and new premises were provided for the Regional Court of Benadir at considerable cost.

While active consideration has been given to the facilities and equipment that will enable the machinery of justice to function without impediment, attention has also been focused on the laws themselves.

These could, and should have been, revised and amended during the decade since independence. But in the malaise that set in, this was neglected. Now the task was tackled properly of examining, up-dating and redrafting the laws to meet the needs of Somalia today. It is true to say that no aspect of the nation's system of justice has remained untouched by the progressive ideas of the Revolution.

Under the portfolio of Labour also, considerable progress has been recorded.

The modern headquarters building in Mogadishu of the Somali Police Force.



In January 1970, a Work Permit Committee was set up to ensure that Somalis were not kept out of jobs they could do by foreigners. The permit system is designed to guarantee that only where skills are not available in the country is a foreigner permitted to take up employment.

There are constant visits by Ministry officials to all the principal centres throughout the country, which are undertaken to study and report upon needs and problems and to see how effectively prescribed solutions are in fact remedying the difficulties faced in the regions and in the rural communities.

And so, as things have improved with the new momentum that the Revolution has brought, there is the prospect of even more far-reaching changes for the better.

Corruption had become so rampant during the former regimes that the SRC, soon after its formation following the Revolutionary takeover, appointed a special commission to investigate the situation. The result was a startling revelation of crimes against the State.

All the guilty parties were arrested and tried. Thus the special court came into existence and later the National Security Court was brought into being to try those guilty of maladministration, peculation, graft and high treason.

The Commission's investigations led to 70 persons, including government officials, being charged with peculation of an aggregate amount of Somali shillings 56,464,971.

Seventeen other people were charged with non-payment of income taxes totalling Som. Shs 13,905,417.07. Officials were charged with administrative irregularities involving Som. Shs 5,098,287.49.

As the investigations went on, individuals continued to be brought before the courts to answer for their misdeeds in the past. A healthy respect for justice had returned where previously it merited scant attention.

Where before there was turmoil, dissension, loss of life, the looting of livestock and property, burglaries, conflicts over pasture and water holes, deep-seated vendettas and a general sense of lawlessness, there is now calm, peace and security in the knowledge that no one need fear threats to his life or property. This may sound frivolous to people accustomed to peace and security, but in a country where lawlessness was the order of the day, a return to security is the most precious thing in the lives of the people living in that country.

The police, armed with the new laws and facilities put at their disposal, have been instrumental in bringing about peace and stability. Once the hold of political influence and pressures on the people had been broken; once tribalism, which had

allowed unprincipled individuals carte blanche to do what they wished was destroyed; once venal judges and corrupt officers were removed both from the judiciary and the police force, then the police had no difficulty in apprehending anyone who had committed a crime, whether it was a person of influence or not.

The Revolutionary Government likewise attacked the problem of communal warfare which existed in the nomadic regions and which was customarily brought about by differences relating to grazing rights and water holes. It abolished factional or group claims to any particular stretch of land or water holes; it ruled that the land and its potential in any shape or form is the common property of the entire Somali nation. There was to be no restriction in future on the grazing or watering of livestock anywhere in the Republic. Anyone found contravening this law would face a stiff penalty.

This course of action eliminated any claims being made by any particular section of the community on any land area. The revolutionary government backed up this policy with a far reaching programme to dig enough water holes so that there would always be sufficient water for the pastoralists' normal needs.

Another problem the police and judiciary tackled together was that of contraband. Until the birth of the Revolution the contraband business was a multi-million shilling activity. This deprived the state of large sources of income that would have accrued to it in the form of taxes.

The police had little incentive to crack down on the illegal traffic of goods because they had learnt from experience that whenever contrabandists were apprehended with their goods, they were freed by the courts.

After the reorganisation of the judiciary system, the police mounted a large scale campaign against contrabandists and confiscated their goods. This campaign was successful and reduced the traffic to a mere trickle.

Justice and peace guarantee stability and inspire confidence in one's country and its leaders. Now that these basic elements have been secured in Somalia the nation can tackle other important tasks in the knowledge that all men will be treated without fear or favour before the law.

Communications – vital sinews of the economy

Communications, a vital sinew of all progressive economies, have made rapid strides within Somalia in a comparatively short time.

The achievements of the Revolution under the Economic Plan for agriculture, livestock, education and so on speak for themselves, but in one sense communications form the main artery of the country, and accordingly this area has been given attention commensurate with its importance under the overall Plan.

Indeed a country without well-developed postal and telecommunications services and an adequate network of roads, cannot claim to have carried out any meaningful economic development. In Somalia, for instance, certain parts of the country would be completely isolated from one another without these facilities.

Prior to the introduction of a formulated plan by the Revolutionary Government to fill these needs Somalia's communications were virtually non-existent, having no telecommunications to speak of except an out-of-date telex link with Rome, for the use of which it was not unusual to wait for two days or more. As a result external development and communication with the rest of the world was limited in the extreme; its value was neither appreciated nor encouraged.

If possible, it can be assumed that the postal service was even worse. Between two and four weeks could be considered general for a letter to reach its destination, telegrams faring only marginally better.

Existing roads, so-called, were in fact dirt tracks in which vehicles frequently became bogged down, particularly during the rainy season. Indeed, during this season, roads in some parts of the country became completely impassable and whole regions were isolated and left without means of obtaining even essential food supplies.

To remedy this incredible situation, the Revolutionary Government in 1971 formed a separate Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts. The Government carried out a complete re-organisation and studies were undertaken to evaluate the most urgently needed items. After these preliminary steps, several important development programmes were initiated.

Foremost among these was a telecommunications project which commenced in July 1971. Financed by the European Common Market (EEC) at a total cost of 41·25 million shillings, it broadly covered three aspects namely:

1 The setting up of automatic telephone exchanges in Hargeisa and Kismayo, Hargeisa having 100 lines. This was an important step since Hargeisa is the second most important urban centre in the country and should have had such a necessity a long time before.

A similar project at Kismayo will start with 200 telephone lines. This project also serves to link-up the old exchange centre in Mogadishu and the central communication building where all the terminal equipment will be installed. The contractors responsible for this telephone project are also to provide training for 24 technicians and operators in Somalia.

2 The second project is the introduction of international telephone and telegraph micro-wave systems, to be set up at Jowhar, Balad, Afgoi, Mogadishu, Merka, Janale, Goryolay, Jelib, Jamama and Kismayo.

After the completion of this system, which is anticipated by September 1974, Somalia will be able to communicate with any country in the world having a similar system.

This will have the effect of eliminating the disadvantages attached to communications on the HF (high frequency) system. Both systems will, in fact, continue to be employed so that Somalia has the advantage of communications with countries employing either system.

3 The third project is the construction of an extensive internal telephone and telegraph system, entailing inter-urban telephone and telegram connections. This will serve to complete the link-up of all major cities and towns.

By the end of September 1974, it is anticipated that 35 technicians and plant operators will have been trained to successfully manage the latter two projects. Training is being undertaken by ITU which has supplied five experts on loan to Somalia for this purpose. After the end of September all three projects will be run and managed by Somalis. Training is actively carried out at the School of Telecommunication and Postal Training set up by the Revolutionary Government for this purpose.

The facilities of this school will also be used to train personnel in other Government plans in the communications field.

In fact, the school's impressive record for training personnel within a remarkably short time, has prompted the Government to consider initiating a three-year training scheme with a regular intake of students to study telecommunications and related fields. This idea is at the moment pending decision.

Among further accomplishments of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is the expansion of the Mogadishu telephone system, with the introduction of a further 1,000 lines. This is a step to meet a new demand for a city that is growing rapidly, a situation with which the Ministry appears to be keeping pace.

Efforts undertaken generally since the introduction of these plans include re-

placing obsolete equipment with modern installations, the purchase of over 30 telex machines during the past four and a half years and an improvement in overall standards. Such areas as teleprinter facilities between certain parts of the country have not been overlooked and servicing and regular supplies of spare parts are being given considerable attention. Overall, this is a remarkable achievement considering the short time these plans have been in existence and a further example of Somalia's determination to overcome the handicaps inherited from the past.

Roads also have received their proper share of attention. Until the Revolutionary Government instituted plans for overall improvements Mogadishu, for example, was a rambling disorganised and congested city. In order to create double-laned highways and generally organise the City's traffic problems it was inevitable that certain buildings and areas have had to be demolished to make way for this progress. As a result of this programme, Mogadishu can now claim to be a clean, tidy, well-organised city, criss-crossed with spacious tarmac roads.

Further, as an extension of this, a network of roads has been put under construction to link the Capital with the regions. In particular a tarmac road has been established between Mogadishu and Baidoa, the capital of the Upper Juba Region, eliminating many previous problems.

Similar roads also connect Mogadishu with Merka, a large coastal town and seaport and Mogadishu with the Lower Juba Region. This latter road stops short of the regional capital of Kismayo; plans exist to close the gap.

In the North, a major highway construction project is underway between Jowhar and Burao with the assistance of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of China. Around 150 km have been completed to date. When completed it will facilitate transportation through five regions. This has been one of the most essential developments as travelling between the Northern Regions has always been arduous, days being allocated to just travelling a few kilometres. Needless to say, movement has hitherto been severely impeded within most of these areas and this new highway will be a great boost to the overall internal economic development of the country.

Also under construction, and very near to completion, is a road linking Berbera, a port on the Gulf of Aden, and Hargeisa, the second largest city in the country. Even pre-Revolutionary Governments had toyed with this idea, but until recently nothing had been set in hand.

Many other roads are either at the beginning of the construction phase or in the planning stage; when they are completed Somalia will have a healthy network of roads on which to base further economic advancement.

The ports of Somalia, which dot 3,200 km of coastline, have also been given much attention, falling under the jurisdiction of the Ports Authority, an autonomous agency created in 1962 under the Ports Act Law No. 70. The two principal ports of Somalia are Berbera in the North and Kismayo in the extreme South. These ports have modern harbours which can handle heavy traffic and the bulk of live-stock exports goes through them.

In view of their importance the Revolutionary Government has focused a great deal of attention on proper functioning. No expense or effort has been spared to make them as up-to-date as possible.

At the same time, a new international port is under construction at Mogadishu, the previous Mogadishu port consisting of a jetty that dates back to the colonial days. Loading and unloading was a difficult operation and disembarkation for passengers must have been a trauma for all those who have experienced it, passengers being put in a basket made of ropes, swung up in the air by a winch and then lowered into the boat which took them ashore.

The overall picture of earnings from the Ports Authority has been good. In 1971 there was a net profit of 14,305,311 shillings. In 1972 this rose to 15,784,191 shillings.

Airports and airport navigation facilities have been accorded similar attention. An airport capable of handling even Jumbo jets was opened in Kismayo in March 1974. Another similar airport for Mogadishu is at the planning stage. Other airports in the country, such as Burao, Berbera, Hargeisa and Baidoa have all been improved.

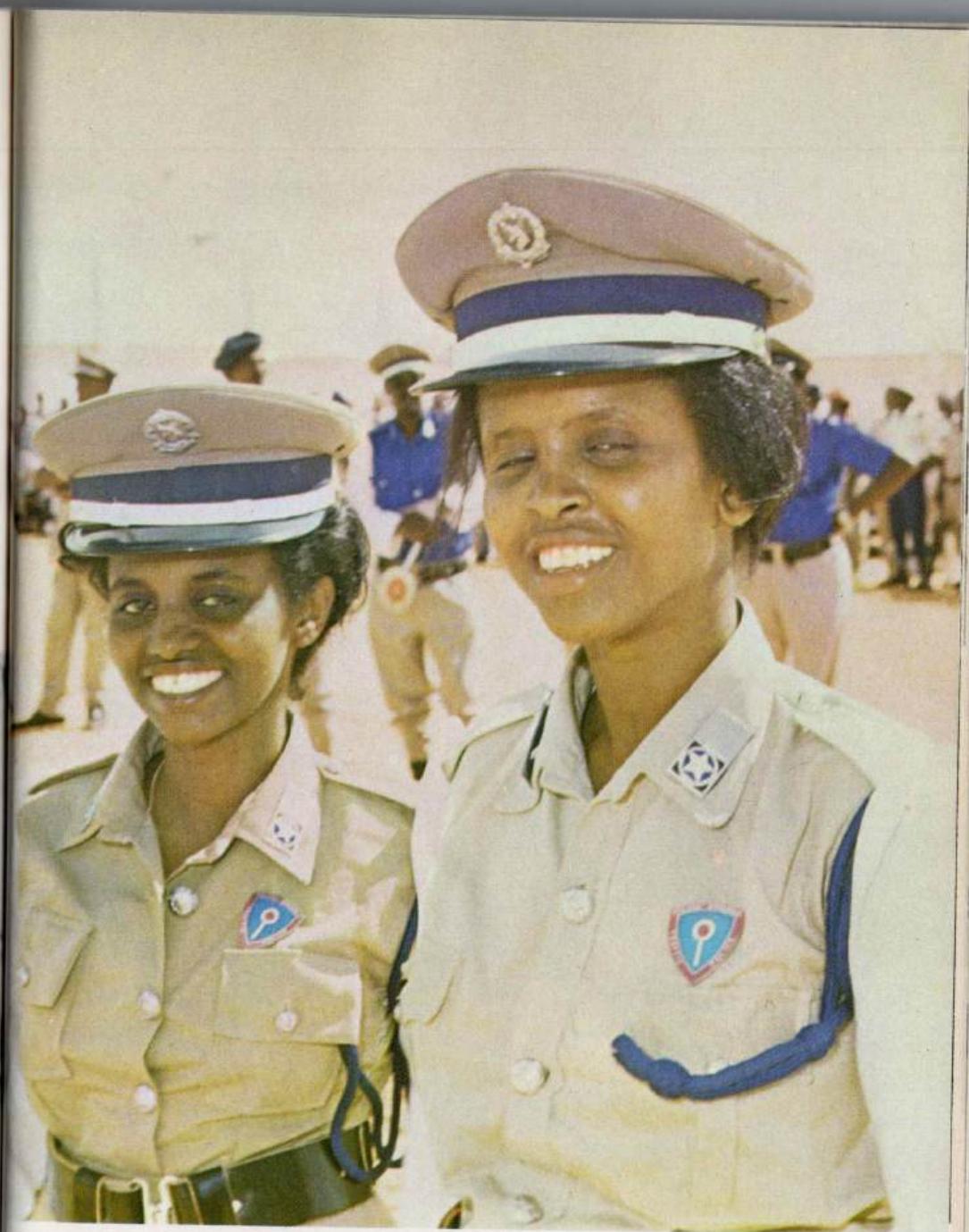
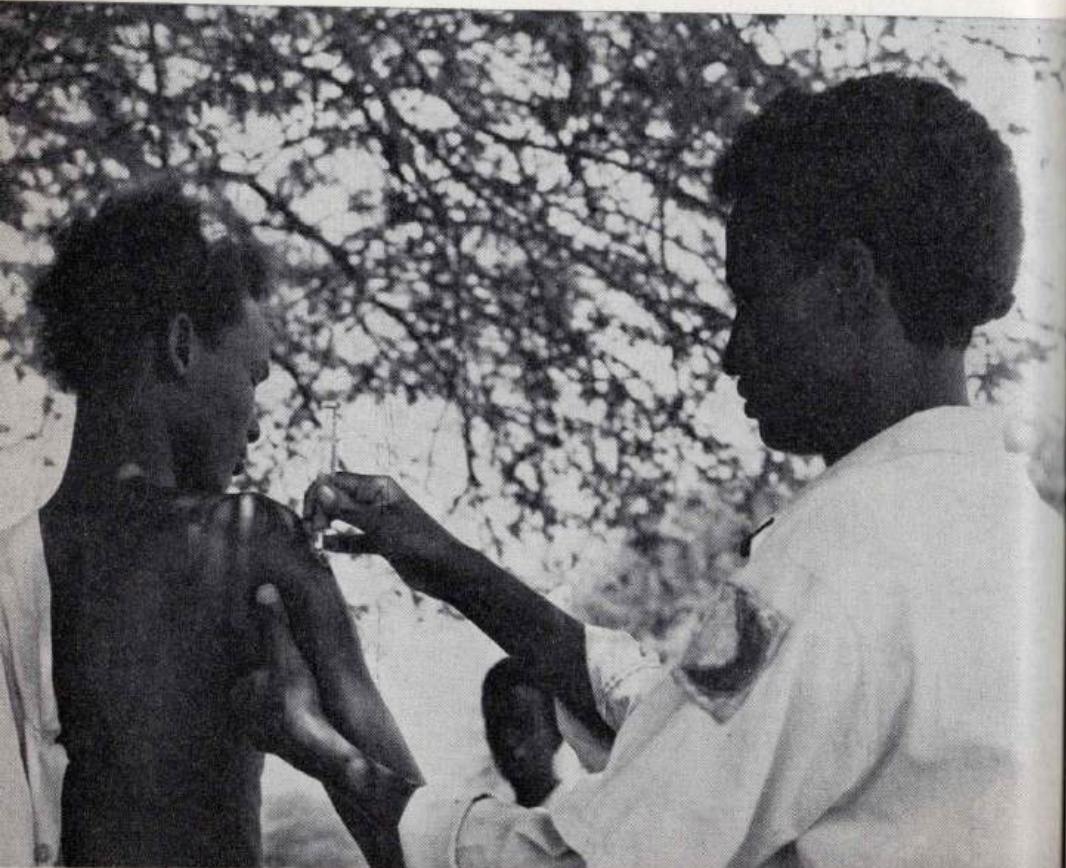
Overall, the Revolutionary Government has done much to improve the field of communications, as in other areas of activity. By all accounts it does not intend to limit its future ideas.

Government in partnership with the people

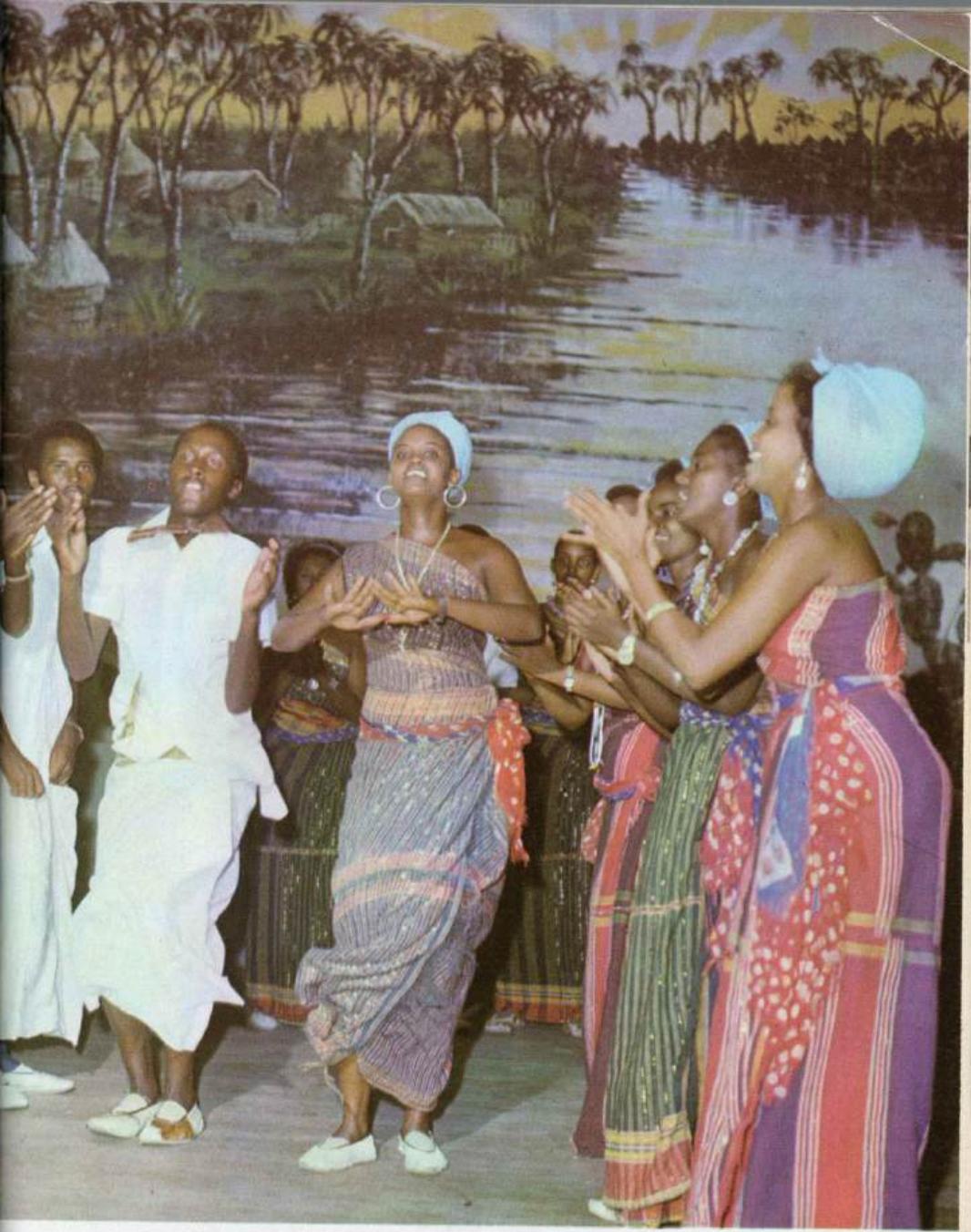
The scale of developments masterminded by the October Revolution called for changes in public administration as the machinery of administration in Somalia had not changed much since the days of colonialism. The government machinery was so centralised that all decisions were taken in the capital, Mogadishu, and this, coupled with a slow decision-making process had paralysed the efficient functioning of government.

Contrary to expectations, no changes took place in public administration after independence in 1960 and no attempts at change were initiated. The system concentrated all power in the hands of one or two people who had the authority to make decisions on the smallest matter which in effect gave them carte blanche to do as they pleased. Additionally, this repressive colonial system rendered any action by the populace to effect change a futile one since punitive laws and

Effective programmes to combat disease have been established throughout all the regions of the Republic.



Somali women play an enthusiastic and professional role in the welfare and development of the country.



Performers at the revitalised National Theatre have been widely acclaimed in Somalia and internationally for their interpretation of classical and modern Somali songs, dances and music.



Agriculture is moving ahead fast. Tobacco is now being cultivated successfully to save foreign exchange earnings.

sentences were given for any action deemed contrary to the interests of those in power.

Eight regions existed in the country in the pre-revolutionary era, each with a governor whose authority was limited; in fact a kind of puppet waiting for higher instructions. Whatever decisions were made at a higher authority would be put into execution without thought for the consequences. These instructions were mainly of a political nature since instructions were rarely received concerning economic development.

The regions became isolated entities where no decisions of any significance were taken. As a result of this compartmentalisation, the whole country became bogged down in inertia. Nothing of significance ever took place; no economic developments were initiated and the relationship between public and government remained in essence the same as had existed in pre-independence days. People had no say in matters concerning their everyday life and therefore could find no real difference between the colonial administrators and those who replaced them. In fact some held that those in authority after independence were worse than their predecessors. There was some truth in this statement for the type of men who replaced the colonialists were generally people of low mentality, poor education, with few scruples or imagination and who practised the same methods they had learnt under the colonial administration. Thus the management of the country's affairs was carried on essentially as before.

One of the first acts the Revolutionary government undertook was to change the country's administrative machinery. People were given the right to participate in their own affairs. Each region had a Revolutionary Regional Council. This body, composed of people from the region, was entrusted with the task of running the affairs of the people in that region. Each region was further sub-divided into districts, each district having a Revolutionary District Council. This process of decentralisation continued until it reached the zones in the towns, cities and villages, a process which gave people the feeling of being masters of their own affairs. In every part of the country people began to make decisions for themselves with the knowledge that the failure or success of the system rested on their shoulders; this gave them the further incentive to strive harder which was unheard of in the pre-revolutionary era.

The reasons for decentralising public administration were simple and logical. The tenets of the Revolution stressed that it was 'for the people and of the people' and the only way this could be expressed was to hand over to the people the running of their own affairs. It was essential to restore the confidence that had been lost through years of servitude.

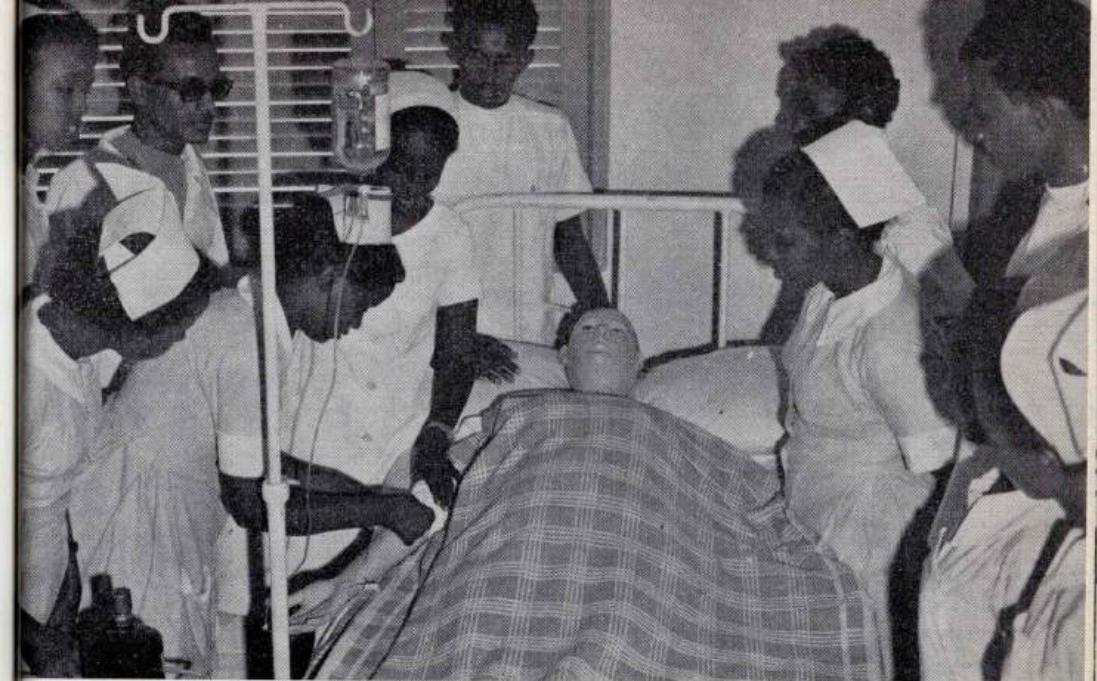
Another reason for decentralisation of government was the question of the practical application of this system. Giving each region, each district and each village the opportunity to run its own affairs had embued the system with a popularity at grass roots level and gained support for the overall economic development plan for the country. One might suppose that with this degree of decentralisation there could be elements of strain in the system due to administrative units pulling in different directions. To prevent any such economic or political fragmentation, all regions and districts forwarded their projected development plans to the central government. All this information was carefully analysed and those plans that could be seen to fit in with the overall economic plan were given the go-ahead. There was thus a comprehensive strategy underwriting the economic aims of the country.

Another reason for decentralisation was that the central government wished to make each region a viable economic entity. The President of the SRC, Major-General Mohamed Siyad Barre, declared that each region should work toward this goal so as not to depend on other regions for, amongst other things, essential food commodities. This policy aimed at augmenting overall government policy which had been formulated at the birth of the Revolution. The sustaining philosophy of the Somali Revolution has been the principle of 'self-reliance'. This seemingly simple principle has a great deal of meaning for the Somali people. Previously it had been said that the country was too poor to sustain its population. The principle of self-reliance has exposed this fallacy. It took the Revolution to negate the idea of a poor, helpless Somalia. The Revolutionary government stated that the country was endowed with sufficient national resources and it was up to each and everyone to exploit them. Another mental legacy from the colonial period was that the Somalis were unable to achieve their required goals without the aid of expatriate advice, the idea behind this being to render the people unable to fend for themselves.

People were so accustomed to this state of affairs that after independence they were mentally as dependent on the former colonial countries as they had been previously.

The Somali Revolutionary Government set out to try and correct this attitude by successfully putting across the idea of economic and mental self-reliance. People soon saw the fruits of their achievements and with this came the realisation that progress and development could indeed be attained without outside assistance.

Before the birth of the Revolution, there were eight regions in the country, each so vast that there was little possibility of running them efficiently. The regions which then existed were the Upper Juba, Lower Juba, Benadir, Hiran, Mudug, Bossaso, the North Western Region and the North East Region. In order to create better administrative units, the Revolutionary government created seven more



Medical training progresses enthusiastically.

regions out of the original eight. These newly created regions were Gedo, Bakol, Central Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Sanag, Mogadishu City (formerly the Benadir Region which was divided into two) and Nugal. More districts were constituted as a consequence of this new formation of the regions which in turn led to increased administrative efficiency.

With the decentralisation of government came decentralisation of services. In the pre-Revolutionary era all services were concentrated in Mogadishu. There was no health service to speak of. People came from all over the country to the capital in order to see a doctor. The government, in order to put an end to this unsatisfactory situation, established an efficient health service with sufficient supplies of medicines and doctors in the regions and districts. Previously, doctors disliked practising in the outlying regions and districts for they preferred a well paid appointment in the government hospitals in the capital. Many even neglected their hospital duties in favour of their private practice.

The Revolutionary government in an attempt to improve the health service put an end to private practice. This decision made it possible to transfer doctors to any part of the country thus ensuring adequate medical provisions in the outlying regions. The transfer of doctors in this way, together with an increase in medical supplies and overall improvement in the health service gave the regions the service they should have had many years before.

The Mass Media – expanded facilities

Banking services have been extended to the regions, whereas, before the Revolution, only a few regions had enjoyed these facilities. Now the regions, except some of the newly created ones, enjoy an up to date modern banking service. As a result of efficient organisation, better training for bank personnel and the employment of better qualified management, the banks are doing substantial business. Bank profits improved through better management and extension of their operations and services.

Better administered regions produce greater government revenues. Each region has a well organised revenue collection unit which ensures a steady flow of revenue earnings to the government; before the Revolution much of these revenues found their way into other pockets than those of the government. This is the sort of transformation that may not be immediately apparent to those who did not know Somalia before the Revolution.

The winds of change that swept through the country after the Revolution destroyed many vested political interests. An administrative remnant of the colonial era was the 'Akill system' of tribal elders acting as intermediaries. Akills were tribal elders appointed and paid by the colonial administration to explain their measures and decrees to the people. Thus the whole concept of the 'Akill' fell into disrepute and they were regarded as pawns of the colonial administrators. One of the first acts of the Revolutionary government was to outlaw the 'Akill' system as the people themselves were now participating in the decision-making apparatus of their country; the whole system was thus an anachronism. In its place was substituted a revolutionary cadre called the Guulwadayaal or 'Harbingers of Victory', young people who voluntarily give their services to the part of the country in which they live, for example, by helping the police in patrolling the towns, villages and cities. Their green uniform and red scarf has become a common sight in every part of the country.

Reorganisation of the administration of the country was carried out by the Ministry of the Interior. It was a monumental task which required patient perseverance, analytical ability and organisational expertise. The smooth functioning of the regional and district administrative units they created is a great testimony to the achievements of this Ministry.

Economists, sociologists, politicians and development strategists the world over are satisfied that the socio-economic development of a society can only be initiated and carried through by effecting a transformation in its peoples' ways of thinking and living. This is so because man is the prime shaper of his environment no matter when and where he may live.

Man is also the product of his society – its language, its scientific knowledge, its techniques and ways of doing things, its traditions, beliefs and legends – everything that goes to make up the sum total of his culture.

To overcome the traditional conservatism of many of their people is the major single obstacle to the rapid socio-economic development of the countries of the Third World at the present time including Somalia.

On independence and reunification in 1960 the Somali language which constituted the lingua franca and as such the most important means of human communication in the country was an unwritten language. As to mass media in existence in the country, radio broadcasting was the most important medium through the vehicle of spoken Somali. Even the radio though was used by the pre-revolutionary regimes for cheap entertainment rather than informing and educating the masses of the people.

The press which existed in three foreign languages, Arabic, English and Italian, was largely irrelevant to the needs of the country since only a very small proportion could read or write any of these languages.

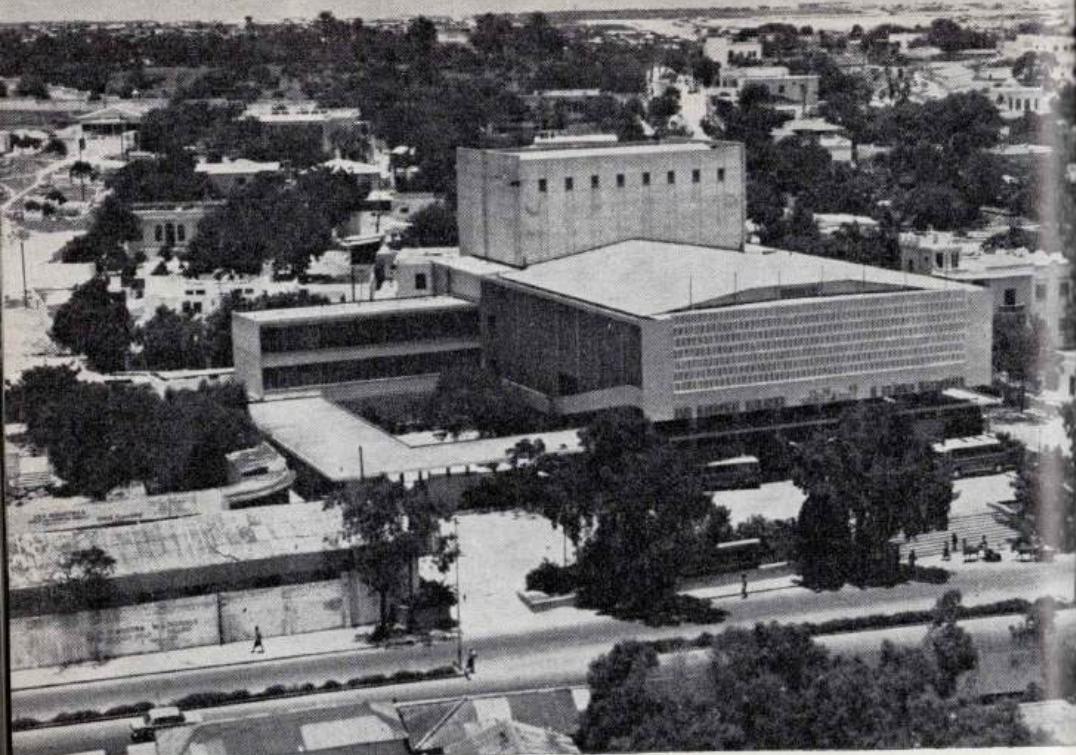
The Revolution quickly recognised the importance of revitalising the activities of the Ministry of Information; progress achieved in the principal spheres of activity is indicated below.

The National Theatre

The main contributors to this transformation have undoubtedly been the Waberi artists who through their keen and revolutionary political awareness, maturity and prolific output have directed radio entertainment, as well as educational and instructive broadcasting along the right socialist path.

The National Theatre which had been used for the showing of foreign films and drama has since the Revolution had its role transformed into a dynamic and active adjunct to the task of national reorientation.

The Theatre became the inspiration of revolutionary songs, music, sketches, dramas and plays and among the weekly popular programmes are the 'Heesaha Hirgalay' and 'Kedis'. The Theatre opened up great opportunities for the unknown artist, poet, and musician to produce new and revolutionary works of art.



Performances at the National Theatre exemplify the renewed cultural life of the Somali people since the Revolution.

The National Theatre Agency has not only implemented popular competitive entertainment programmes, but also revived Somali folklore dancing which had previously been forgotten and neglected. Through the initiation and encouragement of the SRC the Somali folklore dancers' department was established and was held to be one of the most spectacular achievements of the Theatre. In the year 1973, the Theatre undertook the following:

Songs produced for Radio Mogadishu	225
Sketches or short plays	91
Number of plays staged	71 (47 of national character and 24 orientational)
Number of regions toured	12
Total audiences	122,000 persons
Number of visits abroad	3 (Zanzibar, Kenya & GDR)
Est. audience for the folklore dancers abroad	20 million persons

The content of the songs, sketches, plays, folklore dances etc, was almost entirely of a revolutionary character demonstrating the progress made during the year on socialism, literacy, city projects, cleanliness, co-operatives, decentralisation of local government and so on.

As a result of the Waberi Artists' popularity nearly every region now has its own groups of artists who use the local Orientation Centres for staging their plays and variety shows.

All this goes to show that the National Theatre, the Somali artists and the folklore dancers have been given their right and dynamic role in the socialist revolutionary construction of the country.

The Somali Broadcasting Service

(a) Technical

The increase in the number of programmes and overall transmission time call for urgent expansion of the available power supply.

At present Radio Mogadishu has one 5 kW short-wave transmitter and a 50 kW short-wave transmitter but it is anticipated that the station will be equipped with an additional 50 kW short-wave transmitter and a 75 kW medium-wave transmitter in the near future. This increase in transmission power plus improved linkage between the studios and transmitters will overcome several technical problems and will ensure a better reception both at home and abroad. The two 50 kW short-wave transmitters will be employed simultaneously or will alternatively serve external programmes.

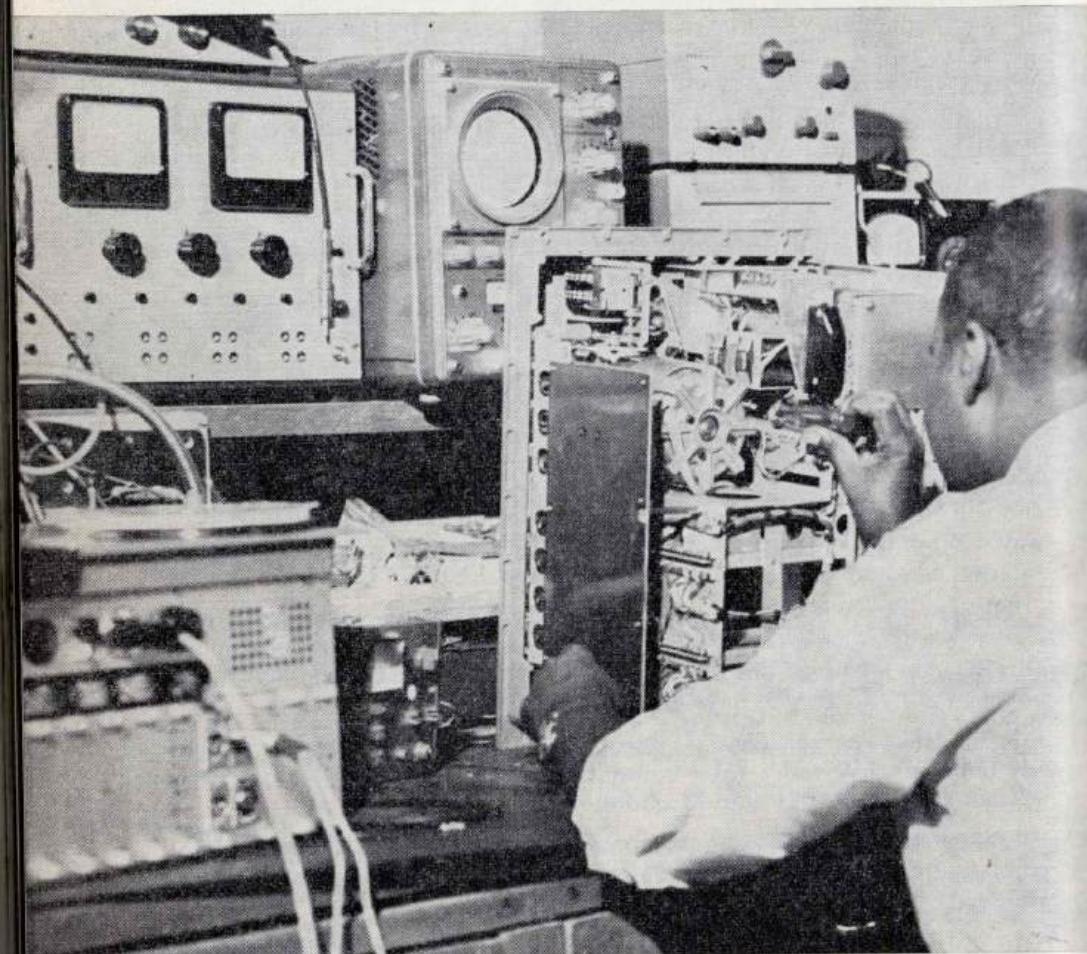
The new 75 kW medium-wave transmitter will be used for the National Service where it will provide better reception for our listeners at home. An important advantage in the use of this MW transmitter besides better reception is that it can be received by those who have only medium-wave sets.

Radio Hargeisa, which has at present three short-wave transmitters will have an additional 25 kW short-wave transmitter which will give the station similar advantages as those of Radio Mogadishu.

Construction work is at present underway on Radio Hargeisa's studio and offices but there is also a plan for a complete reconstruction of the Broadcasting House and the building of yet more studios and offices.

In order to cope with the above development, more technical equipment is planned for the future.

As about 70% of the Somali population is nomadic, the SBS plans to buy a fleet of tough vehicles which will serve many purposes, enabling broadcasters, for example, to reach the remotest areas in the country to record programmes, obtain opinions and other general information. Above all, this means of contact makes direct communication possible and in this way the nomadic people can be orientated and mobilised towards active participation in nation building.



Inspecting modern equipment.

As and when the above mentioned plans materialise, a considerable change will occur in the transmission time and quality of programmes which will enable the SBS to play an even more important role in the realisation of our revolutionary goals.

The improvement in the production of programmes has gone hand in hand with

technical progress not so much in the acquiring of equipment but in the ability of the technical staff to achieve maximum performance with the available equipment.

Another development is the introduction in the capital of Listening Centres which provide the inhabitants with the opportunity of listening to Radio Mogadishu. These centres are generally located at orientation centres, public gardens and other places frequented by members of the general public.

(b) Programmes

1 Somali Programmes

The authorities responsible for the national broadcasting system have also effected fundamental changes in the content of programmes. There are now programmes such as 'Work and Workers', 'Guulwade', 'Achievements of the Revolution', Livestock and Agricultural programmes, 'The voice of the University', Somali by Radio, Kedis, 'Child Care', 'Public Health' and many others. These do much to familiarise the people with the aims of the October Revolution.

Radio journalists today, unlike those previously, are given every opportunity to travel in the country and to send on the spot reports from the remotest parts of the Republic. The giving of national publicity to local initiatives in the country serves a two-fold objective - to give publicity and encouragement to those people who use their own initiative in serving the common good and to encourage others to emulate their example.

The Somali Broadcasting Service's two stations transmit over 50 feature programmes every week. Additionally there are daily news bulletins, commentaries and songs. These transmissions are intended to meet public welfare demands and to strive for sound development in accordance with the principles of the Revolution.

Apart from the above regular features, special programmes are transmitted as the occasion arises. Special feature programmes are also compiled on holidays and memorial days as well as for unexpected events within the Somali Democratic Republic and in the world at large.

All the above programmes help in the striving to achieve the goals of the Revolution through entertaining, educating and informing people about the progress being made in the task of reconstructing the Somali nation.

2 Foreign Language Programmes

The external branch of the Somali Broadcasting Service which transmits in ten languages aims at promoting a correct understanding of the Somali Democratic Republic abroad through the presentation of cultural, economic, political



The Somali Broadcasting Service has regular transmissions in ten languages. Shown here is an announcer in the Swahili service.

and other facets of Somalia. The service expresses our national feeling and opinion on African and international affairs and builds a spirit of solidarity between Somalia and our friends abroad.

Arabic is the oldest foreign language service, transmissions in Arabic having started from Radio Kudu, the quaint British name for Radio Hargeisa, primarily for the benefit of the present People's Republic of Yemen. The French service was the most recently founded, and takes account of the fact that a good number of countries in Africa as a result of their colonial history are French speaking. It is important that Somalia's voice is heard in these parts.

The Somali National News Agency

Another key department of the Ministry that has undergone basic restructuring designed to improve its services is SONNA, the Somali National News Agency which provides both the Broadcasting Service and the press with news in both Somali and English.

SONNA also publishes a daily English News Bulletin for the benefit of the foreign community.

The Agency's coverage of domestic news has greatly improved due to the increasing cooperation it now receives by way of despatches from the Chairmen of the Regional and District Local Government Councils.

1 Production of News

15,000 items per year

2 Monitoring Service

8 radio stations are monitored

3 Production of News Bulletin in English

50,000 copies per year

Production of Special Bulletin

10,000 copies

It can be realised that the Press has been the only major mass medium which has been fundamentally changed by the introduction of the Somali script. The two daily newspapers, the Arabic 'Najmat October' and the Italian 'Stella d'Ottobre' as well as the weekly English 'Dawn' ceased publication on 21 January 1973. A Somali daily newspaper 'Xiddigta Oktoobar' replaced these but with a much higher circulation. Xiddigta Oktoobar has a circulation of 10,000 copies per day and great efforts are made to ensure that it is distributed rapidly each day.

As a transitional measure and an important means for the projection of Somalia's image abroad, 'New Era' magazine is published monthly in Arabic, Italian and English, as well as in Somali.

A commendable achievement in regard to the mass media by the Ministry has been increasing coordination among the journalists and a greater sharing of news and features.

The Somali Films Agency

The visual aids arm of the Ministry has also undergone a transformation. First it was elevated to the level of an autonomous agency known as the Somali Films Agency which was given the responsibility, in addition to its normal visual aids services for the press and public display panels, of importing and distributing films



to the Cinema-Theatres around the country, a function previously undertaken by the National Censorship Board of the Ministry.

Later the Agency was authorised to raise loans through the banks and start film production locally – the first film it produced 'Dan Iyo Xarrago' is now on general release. The Agency is planning more films as soon as its own film studios are built.

1 Films

Imported films –
450 commercial films
Somali produced films
(a) Documentaries 9
(b) Features 1

2 Photographs

Photos produced – 93,700 copies
Distribution of photos:
1 Regions and Districts – 2,240 a month.
2 Orientation Centres – 1,000 a month
3 Somali Embassies and Student Communities abroad – 1,200 a month
4 Newspapers, posters and books etc – 300 a month.

3 Film shows

1 Internal – 700,000 people or 75% of the Somali urban population.
2 External – 150 million people (Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa through television).

State Printing Agency

Of all the Ministry's organs the National Printing Agency has undergone the greatest reorganisation and restructuring which has come about in two phases.

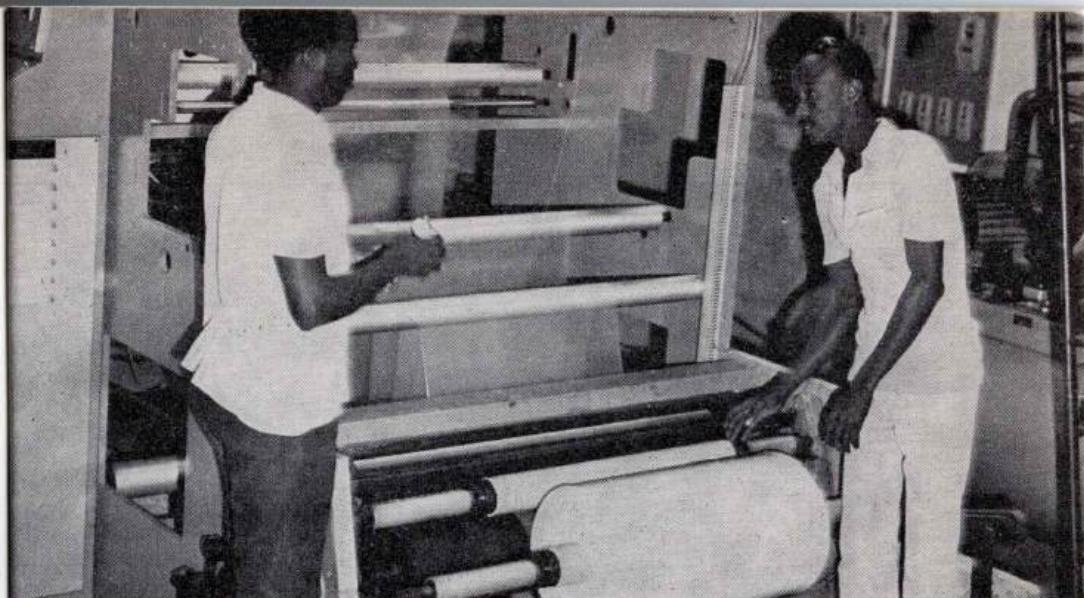
The first phase began with a law enacted on 1 January 1971 to effect changes in the administrative and financial organisation of the Printing Agency. As a result of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission as regards organisation, administration and development of the Agency there was a tightening up of control over the finances of the Agency.

After reorganisation, the Agency has had a number of achievements, the major ones being the inception of local printing of revenue stamped papers, commercial labels for the products of Somali industrial enterprises and publishing facilities for local authors.

The Agency has also been charged with the responsibility for the printing and sale of the Official Bulletin as well as all government stationery.

As a result of this reorganisation under new management, the Agency began to show a profit for the first time.

The Agency has also submitted a proposal that it should print all revenue receipt books, cheques, serialised revenue collection tickets, passports etc, under tight security precautions. This plan still awaits approval by the authorities concerned.



The presses of the State Printing Agency play a vital role in furthering the work of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance.

The second phase of the Agency's reorganisation was concerned with the introduction of the Somali script and the concurrent nationalisation of all private printing works in the country which occurred on 21 October 1972.

As soon as the takeover of these private printing works was complete, the Agency began to plan the relocation of many of them so that every region had printing facilities. Kismayo, Baidoa, Hargeisa, Burao and Bossaso regional printing works were reinforced and new ones set up in those areas where none existed.

The following statistical data relate only to the financial projections of the State Printing Agency for the years 1971, 1972 and the first half of 1973 in Somali Shillings.

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Profit
1971	6,392,055.70	4,973,453.67	1,418,602.03
1972	8,314,599.60	5,181,099.86	3,133,498.74
1973	13,143,000.00	10,576,000.00	3,433,000.00

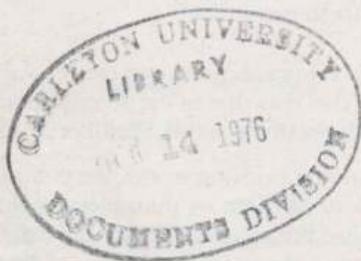
N.B. Expenditure includes many items of capital investment.

Conclusion

The work of the Ministry of Information & National Guidance is fundamental to the successful inculcation throughout the Republic of the ideas that are leading to the successful transformation of life in Somalia. It is important to note that the activities of the Ministry are not merely confined to Mogadishu and Hargeisa but extend throughout the Republic through the establishment of regional information centres in ten of the regions.

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SOMALIA



FIVE YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY PROGRESS