

*Towards
Our Goal*



Sessional review
of the second session
of the first Parliament
of the Republic of Ghana
by Osagyefo the President
on 14 September, 1962



Price: 3d.

SESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Mr. Speaker, Members of the National Assembly,

I am commanded by Osagyefo, The President to deliver the following message which contains a Report of the Second Session of the First Parliament of the Republic of Ghana.:-

It is a little over a year ago when I addressed you. Once again the time has come for me to present to you a review of the significant events that have taken place during the past session. Many important developments have occurred both in Africa and the world which have proved to us the soundness of the basic conceptions of our policy.

The two fundamental objectives which govern our foreign policy are African Independence and African Unity. Our primary aim is to see that all the peoples of Africa are free from colonial domination. It is also our desire that all the peoples of Africa should come together and unite as one people of one continent. It is our view that it is only when Africa is united that they can withstand and foil the various subtle manoeuvres of neo-colonialism.

Another aim of our foreign policy is World Peace. I have said time and again that we in Africa have a vested interest in World Peace, because we hope to achieve the reconstruction of our new nations and the consolidation of our newly-won independence. It is for these reasons that we have striven and are still striving to persuade the nuclear powers to avoid making the mistake of resorting to the use of the lethal weapons at their disposal as a means of settling their disputes and by so doing endanger the lives of innocent people throughout the world. We have laboured for too long under colonial rule and suppression; now that we have won our independence and nationhood we desire to be left in peace in order to reconstruct and build our nation and society with the ultimate aim of contributing in our own way towards the betterment of the life of our people. We therefore appeal to our friends in non-aligned countries to rise up as one force and bring reason to bear on the great powers to stop nuclear testing and all preparations for world destruction.

In pursuit of our foreign policy of African Independence we have expressed our views and have condemned vehemently in international organisations, actions which have been taken by colonial powers to perpetuate colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination against African peoples. Ghana played an active role at the United Nations in exposing the evils of apartheid by her persistent and unreserved condemnation of the practice. Ghana was chiefly instrumental in getting the International Labour Organisation to conduct an investigation into conditions of forced labour in Angola and other Portuguese territories; we also actively advocated the expulsion of South Africa from the International Labour Organisation.

We have given eloquent expression to the other facet of our foreign policy, which is positive neutralism and non-alignment. We have done this by participating in international conferences held either in the East or the West. Members of this honourable House will recall that in July, last year, I personally led a Ghana delegation on a visit to the U.S.S.R., a number of Eastern European countries and China. During the visits to these countries, discussions were held on important matters of mutual interest in regard to trade and cultural exchanges between us and the host countries. As a result of these friendly discussions we have been able to sign a number of useful trade and payments and cultural exchange agreements which will benefit Ghana. We have also established diplomatic missions in the socialist countries of Bulgaria, Poland, Rumania, Albania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. In addition to these Missions in Eastern European countries, new Embassies have been established in the Latin American countries of Brazil, Cuba and New Mexico. Ghana is thus effectively represented in both the East, and the West, in Asia, South America and in Africa.

During the session under review Ghana played host to foreign dignitaries representing the East, the West and Africa. I refer to the memorable visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England, Head of the Commonwealth, the friendly visit of Mr. Anastas Ivanovitch Mikoyan, First Deputy Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, the brotherly visits of His Excellencies Hamani Diori, President of the Republic of Niger, Ould Mokhtar Daddah, President of the Islamic Republic of Somalia, and finally the exciting visit of the first Soviet spaceman, Major Yuri Gagarin.

Members of the Commonwealth are now discussing the terms of Britain's application to enter the European Economic Community. Ghana has made her position and attitude clear towards Britain's move in this direction. We are not opposed to Britain's entry into the European Common Market, but we will not allow ourselves to be pressed into an association which will stem our economic development and reduce our political sovereignty to impotent verbiage. Contacts have been made with other member countries of the Commonwealth on this subject. All that need be said is that we will put our views across and with all the force at our command to the other members of the Commonwealth at the Prime Ministers' meeting now being held in London.

We have proposed that an African Common Market should be established as an alternative to the European Common Market; action has been initiated to consult other African States on this matter.

Now to the subject of World Peace, the third pre-occupation in our foreign policy. In our general relations with other countries of the World whether in the East or the West, we have consistently applied our policy regarding the maintenance and preservation of World peace. We have appealed to the major powers to refrain from nuclear testing in the atmosphere, underground and under water. We have urged that a spirit of compromise should be maintained on the disarmament negotiation so that mankind may be spared the horrors of another world-wide holocaust. Throughout the world there is deep but inarticulate desire for peace. It is therefore the duty of countries which follow a policy of positive neutralism like ourselves to help to stir up this world desire and assert its full weight.

You as Members of Parliament, realized the extreme urgency of the question of disarmament and therefore when an appeal was made to you, you made available the generous sum of £G50,000 to cover the expenses of the Accra Assembly on the World Without the Bomb. I am sure you all recall the meeting of the Accra Assembly which was a tremendous success. The Assembly met for eight days here in Accra. There were 150 participants, made up of experts and observers who attended the Assembly not as representatives of their countries but as individuals whose convictions on the subject of peace have earned them world acclamation. They spoke and acted with an independent mind. They were free to consider

objectively a number of problems including the reduction of international tension, and the methods of effective inspection and control of disarmament. This unique gathering of individuals held many useful discussions and offered concrete proposals which though may not offer an immediate solution to the problems of peace nevertheless have indicated at least a line of approach which may lead to fruitful discussions and negotiations. A skeleton Secretariat has been established under the direct supervision of the Council of the Accra Assembly. It has been proposed that the Accra Assembly should hold another meeting in Accra in September next year. Thereafter, regular meetings will be held in other non-aligned countries until the problem of disarmament is fully resolved and international peace firmly guaranteed.

Ghana sent a strong delegation under my leadership to the Belgrade Conference of Non-aligned States. At this Conference we emphasized once again the vested interests that Ghana has in world peace.

And now to come nearer home to our own Africa. I have stated earlier on that the foremost aim of our foreign policy is our desire for African independence and African Unity. To this end we have continued to take effective measures to foster independence for African peoples still under colonial rule. We participated in a number of conferences designed to achieve political, cultural and economic co-operation not only among the member states of the Union of African States—Ghana, Guinea and Mali—and the Cassablanca Group but also among other African countries. We have organised various conferences for the youth of Africa to come together here in Accra in order to bring home to them more forcefully their role in the new Africa that is emerging. We also convened a conference of African Women representing various women's organisations in Africa to inspire and to develop the new womanhood Africa needs today. And more recently we called together African farmers for a conference in Accra to discuss among themselves their common problems and to generate in them the new type of African farmer required to produce abundant crops to feed the growing populations of Africa. At a meeting held in Accra in January this year by members of our brothers of the Cassablanca Group, it was decided that we should not participate in the Lagos Conference of African Heads of State. Our decision was based on the grounds that the sponsors of the Conference failed to invite our heroic

Algerian brothers who were then on the verge of winning their long and courageous battle against the French imperialists. We declined the invitation to attend this Conference because we also felt that our individual states were not properly consulted in regard to the preliminary arrangements made for the Conference.

To quicken the pace of African independence we sponsored in Ghana, this year, one of the most important Conferences of Freedom Fighters. Delegates from almost all African countries still dependent who are actively engaged in the struggle to liberate themselves from colonial domination attended this Conference. Observers from independent African States also attended the Conference. The meeting together of all freedom fighters and their supporters gave us an opportunity to re-examine critically the trend of events in regard to our common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. We reviewed our strength and strategy as well as that of the common enemy, and we re-organised our plans and moves and reinforced our energy to carry the struggle forward to a successful end.

In my statement to Parliament on 20th January, 1962, I informed Members that the main contract for the construction of the Volta Dam and the Power Plant in connection with our gigantic Volta River Project had been awarded to Impregilo, an Italian Consortium. Since then arrangements have been concluded for the signing of the master agreement with the Volta Aluminium Company. We have also concluded agreements for loans from the International Monetary Fund, the United Kingdom Government and the Government of the United States of America. We have also awarded the contracts for the supply of equipment and the construction of transmission lines. All the contracts for the Volta River Project have been awarded and we are now looking forward confidently to the successful completion of this Project. The construction activity of the Project to date has been concentrated on those items pertaining to the diversion of the Volta River and the preparation of watering the power dam foundation. The diversion tunnel which is capable of carrying the entire river flow except during flood periods was completed in June of this year. The up-stream coffer dam will be completed by December this year. By the end of June this year over 10 per cent of the overall construction programme at Akosombo had been completed. The whole of the Akosombo area has been planned for development as a modern township.

Whilst the Dam construction is going on, preparations have been made for resettling the 67,000 people living in the areas to be inundated by the lake. Various Ministries, Departments and Agencies are doing detailed field work required to demarcate the lake boundary, assess value of properties, study the social structure of the population in the areas to be inundated, plan towns and settlements in the Lake basin, secure land, organise agriculture, provide water and roads and assist the people to construct their own houses. Government is taking necessary measures to ensure that no one suffers any hardship as a result of the implementation of this project. Already the project employs in all over 3,000 Ghanaians and some 300 overseas personnel. Construction of the dam at Akosombo has so far attracted about 40,000 visitors including local and foreign dignitaries. Relations between workers and employment organisations have been excellent and most of the trade disputes were settled peaceably through the established machinery provided under the Industrial Relations Act.

A national system of vocational guidance and vocational training has been set up. Public employment centres throughout the country increased from 19 to 40 and these placed 55,924 persons in employment during the period. Leaflets have been prepared as a guidance for school leavers. To increase the level of skills attained by many tradesmen, the Government has set up an Apprenticeship Board to co-ordinate and standardize training in all trades throughout the country.

160 day nurseries have been established to cater for more than 11,000 children. The training of the staff of these Day Nurseries has also been accelerated.

The Young Pioneer Movement continues to grow rapidly in membership and organizational strength. The movement has been established in every Region and has offices in all districts of the country. A contingent of 100 Gambian Youth is receiving training at the Kwame Nkrumah Youth Training Centre at Teshie.

In furtherance of our avowed aim of providing adequate facilities for education to the vast masses of the people, 2,493 new Primary and 374 new Middle Schools were opened during the year under review. The provision of Secondary Education is also proceeding at a fast rate. The target of 6,000 Form 1 intakes proposed for 1964 was almost reached in 1961 when the number of intake of new pupils rose to 5,500. As a result of the increased output of our universities and the operation

of technical agreement programmes it has been possible during the year to allot many more graduate teachers to secondary schools and training colleges. This year has seen the first output of technical teachers. These teachers have been employed in the technical institutes. Far-reaching fundamental changes in education have been made, for example a shortened primary school course is now followed by vocational training. An inspectorate has been established for the inspection and supervision of the work of secondary schools and training colleges. The teaching of science has received new impetus at all levels of the educational system, thus a firm foundation is being laid for the production of future scientists for Ghana. In the field of scientific research Ghana has made a notable start with the creation of the National Research Council and the Ghana Academy of Sciences both under my chairmanship. These organisations which will soon merge as the Ghana Academy of Sciences now conduct research into Agriculture, Building, Road Construction, Utilization of Forest Products, Mining, Metallurgy and Geology. Their activities are being co-ordinated with those of the University of Ghana and the Kwame Nkrumah University Kumasi. The University of Ghana and the Kwame Nkrumah University, now independent, have maintained their high academic standards.

In October last year, two permanent Commissions were set up by the Government, the National Planning Commission and the State Control Commission. The State Control Commission has been charged with the responsibility of ensuring that expenditure in all directions is properly controlled. The Planning Commission has the vital task of drawing up a new comprehensive Seven-year Plan for the social and economic development of the country.

I am glad to say that the first comprehensive Seven-year Plan which will completely transform the economy of Ghana and accelerate industrialisation has now been drawn up and will be implemented as from January, 1963. The preparation of the new Plan based on modern scientific techniques reveals the importance and value of economic and social statistics, and the Central Bureau of Statistics has made considerable progress in its attempt to develop an efficient statistical service for the nation.

The analysis of the 1960 Population Census has resulted in the publication of the first two volumes of the Census Report. The First Phase of a National Census of Industrial Production

and Distribution has been completed. A National Census of Agriculture is scheduled to start soon. This is expected to provide statistics on the structure and organisation of the agricultural sector of the national economy. The Government attaches great importance to the work connected with these censuses without which it would be almost impossible to carry through our policy of development planning and provide targets for the various sectors of our economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been re-organised to undertake large-scale mechanised farming. The State Farms Division formed a few months ago has already achieved spectacular progress, with well over 3,000 acres planted in annuals such as ground-nuts, maize and guinea corn. Besides large plantations of tree-crop such as citrus, cola, oil palm as well as tobacco have been established. Cattle ranches in Pong-Tamale and Damongo alone hold between them some 1,400 cattle. In Damongo alone about 200 sheep are reared. The Workers' Brigade increased its acreage under cultivation from 3,600 in 1961 to over 6,000 acres in the first season in 1962. Storage centres have been established by the Agriculture Produce Marketing Board in both production and distribution centres. Many of you have no doubt read of the reported survey by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of U.N.O. which records 30 per cent to 120 per cent increased crop yield in Ghana due to the introduction of fertilizers.

A firm basis for Inter-African Trade was laid by our trade and payments agreements with Mali, Dahomey and Upper Volta on the basis of most favoured nation treatment. As a result of the customs Union treaty of the Cassablanca States the African Common Market has been virtually created and will become fully operative when the treaty is ratified. As a result of the Government's new Import/Export Control Policy, the deterioration in Ghana's balance of payments position has been arrested and the inflationary pressure on our economy counteracted.

The Ghana National Trading Corporation has been set up in an effort to reduce the price of goods. The Corporation has absorbed the trading interests of Commonwealth Trust Limited, Laco Stores and A. G. Leventis. A number of industries have been established throughout the country. Early in June, I cut the sod to mark the beginning of the first steel works at Tema, which will doubtless make a worthy contribution to the reconstruction of Ghana. In addition to this,

a paper conversion factory has been established at Takoradi; a jute bag factory capable of producing all our requirements of cocoa bags is being constructed at Kumasi; and work is in progress on the construction of a plastic shoe factory at Tema. Industrial Development will be accelerated when power from the Volta and other sources of power become available.

In the field of small industries, factories have been built at Denu, Asewewa, Attebubu, Tamale and Bawku for the milling of edible oils and a number of motor car repair depots are being established at Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Sunyani and Swedru. Contracts have also been signed for the supply of plant and machinery for the setting up of a number of other industries including factories for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, aluminium cutlery, aluminium cables and electrical appliances. Tema Harbour was officially opened in February, 1962, and nine out of its ten quays are now in use.

Detailed surveys for complete electrification of the country have been undertaken and already 55 towns have been selected for this purpose. It is expected that when the Bui and Volta River Projects are completed there will be enough supply of electricity for distribution to all the important towns and villages in the country.

The supply of adequate drinking water was undertaken for a number of towns throughout the country.

The scheme for modernizing our hospitals which was mentioned in my last review has been carried out with great success in many parts of the country. Those of you who have visited Korle Bu recently will find adequate testimony of this. Almost on all sides new constructions are still in progress. Major extensions have also been started on hospitals at Sekondi, Mpraeso, Oda and Axim. Dental clinics have been opened at the Accra Ridge Hospital, Ho, Koforidua and Sunyani and it is expected to establish another one at Wa soon. To reduce congestion in the large towns while at the same time bringing medical facilities closer to the people, urban health centres are being built. One of these health centres was opened recently in Tema and seven more are under construction at Accra, Kumasi, and Sekondi. Rural health centres and doctors' bungalows have been constructed at Agona Nkwanta, New Tafo, Anyinase, Anyinam and Juaso while work on 18 more is continuing.

The problem of shortage of nurses and midwives has also been seriously tackled. In addition to providing increased training institutions for these, the conditions of service for nurses and midwives have been radically improved, and 39 scholarships have been awarded to doctors to do courses leading to specialist qualifications.

Expansion, modernisation and re-equipment of the armed forces have continued apace and I am glad to say that except for a few medical and engineering specialists, the Africanisation of the armed forces is now virtually complete. As a result of the Government's firm policy, the internal security of the state has been maintained intact and calm and orderly progress of Ghana continues without disruption. In this the masses of our people have co-operated whole-heartedly.

And now, Members of the National Assembly, you all remember too well what took place at Kulungugu. I and a Ghana delegation, having successfully negotiated on behalf of the Government a free trade and payments agreement with the Government of Upper Volta, were returning home. In the border village of Kulungugu we were brutally attacked with bomb explosion. As you know, four persons died and seventy-seven were wounded, many very seriously. That I am here with you today can only be attributed to a miracle. Members of the National Assembly of Ghana, these attacks show only too clearly how desperate the enemy now is. But let me remind all believers in violence that the Government has a clear mandate from the people of Ghana to lead this country and has no intention of shirking its responsibilities.

Ever since the Kulungugu incident the people of Ghana have deplored the incident in no uncertain terms and in various ways demonstrated their loyalty to me personally and to the Government.

The very big strides we are making in industry and agriculture are proof of our economic and political stability and we are determined to maintain this stability under which our second revolution will be carried out to a successful and final conclusion.

Members of the National Assembly, I thank you for the funds which you voted for the public services during the period under review.

(Read by the Leader of the House).

PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PRINTED BY
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT, ACCRA, GHANA