

Note from the Colonial Office on the Sierra Leone Independence Movement (15 April 1957)

Caption: In a note dated 15 April 1957, the British Colonial Office reports on the development of the Sierra Leone Independence Movement (SLIM) and particularly focuses on its founder, Edward Wilmot Blyden III.

Copyright: (c) The National Archives of the United Kingdom

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_colonial_office_on_the_sierra_leone_independence_movement_15_april_1957-en-24066979-b390-4e6a-a60d-643a3f71c88a.html



Last updated: 01/03/2017

NOTE ON THE SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (S. L. I. M.)

1. The Sierra Leone Independence Movement was formed by Edward BLYDEN in November, 1956. Its inaugural meeting on 26th November, 1956, was followed by a series of political lectures in Freetown which were attended by crowds of approximately 300 people drawn from all political parties. The Chairman on each occasion was BALOGUN PALMER of the National Council of Sierra Leone.
2. It is usual for BLYDEN to be the only speaker at meetings of the Movement and, on every occasion, he has developed an "anti-Imperialist" theme which has had a strong appeal. Most of his speeches are centred round a "text" drawn from his studies of political works and quoted with a carefully rehearsed spontaneity which only informs the "intellectuals" in the audience and leaves the remainder impressed but confused.
3. At the outset, BLYDEN explained that S.L.I.M. was not a Political Party but only a 'Movement'. He claims that a Party system of Government is impossible under "Colonial rule" in which the Governor has over-riding powers. Initially, he declared that he hoped the Movement would draw together all the Political groups in Sierra Leone and unite them in the common aim of "immediate self-government". He appears to have realised, however, that the clash of personalities and private ambition amongst Freetown "politicians" precludes any fusion of Political Parties and recently he has laid less emphasis on this theme.
4. In the last month or so the attendance at his meetings has dropped to an average of about 200. This is probably due to an intensification of pre-election campaigning by Political Parties - claiming increased allegiance from Party members who have shown interest at meetings of the Movement.
5. The Movement does not issue or sell Membership Cards and a list of members is not kept. Adult support is probably in the region of about 1,000 - the majority of which are pseudo-intellectuals fascinated by BLYDEN's superficial erudition. BLYDEN is now attempting to foster support amongst youth in Freetown. In the last few days some have been attracted by flag-waving slogan-shouting tours of Freetown by lorry.
6. In the Protectorate the Movement has had no influence. BLYDEN has declared that he will not extend propaganda for the Movement to the Protectorate until he has "appreciated the political implications of it in Freetown." He pays periodical visits to KONO District where he is friendly with Tom MBRIWA of the KONO District Council.
7. It is apparent that BLYDEN hoped that his Movement would unify the three opposition Parties and draw support also from the S.L.P.P. In this he has failed. The U.P.P. hotly deny any association with S.L.I.M.
8. The influence of S.L.I.M. on Freetown politics has been to focus attention on the anti-Imperialist and anti-white themes. In this respect all other Political groups have in campaign speeches increased their emphasis on such matters as Africanisation, Colonial interference, etc. etc. It is probable that this would have occurred in any case shortly before election time, but the influence of BLYDEN has increased the degree of such emphasis.

/ 9. There

9. There is, as yet, no indication that the Movement seeks representation in the new Legislative Council; although it is likely that BLYDEN, K.DURING, and BALOGUN PALMER may stand as Independents.

10. The Movement is little more than a series of meetings addressed by BLYDEN whose appeal rests on the reputation of his grandfather, his apparent erudition, and his anti-European sentiments - easily comprehended by an electorate approaching Self-Government. He has been at pains to advocate non-violence and the use of constitutional means to achieve independence. There is no evidence of his having communist sympathies or revolutionary ideals. (An orthodox Communist would describe him as a right-wing, deviationist, bourgeois-intellectual and would disown him!) He will be careful to keep within the law but his personal hatred of the European may tempt him to slanderous excess.

(signed) J.H. ELLEN

Actg. Assistant Commissioner,
Special Branch

15 April 1957

SECRET

CONSTITUTION AND CHARTER
OF THE
SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

The Aims of the Sierra Leone Independence Movement

Name

1. The name of the MOVEMENT shall be The Sierra Leone Independence Movement.

Aims and Objects

2. The aims and objects of the Sierra Leone Independence Movement shall be:
 - (a) The replacement of our present colonial/status by a system of government vested in THE PEOPLE, i.e. a system of democratic Self-Government in the internal affairs of the country by 1958, (the one hundred and seventieth anniversary of the signing of Treaty No. 1 between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the original Natural, Hereditary Rulers of Sierra Leone; and the sixtieth anniversary of the peaceful conclusion of relations between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and our Natural Rulers of the Protectorate) and Dominion Status within the Commonwealth by 1961.
 - (b) The promotion of the progress of Sierra Leone in all fields - political, economic, social, educational, moral and cultural - with special emphasis on -
 - (i) the political education of the people;
 - (ii) unity among the different tribal and social groups throughout the country, and the protection of foreign minorities under law and order;
 - (iii) equality of educational and job opportunity for all regardless of tribal or social origins and status;
 - (iv) social security for all, especially for workers, aged and infirm persons and others incapacitated by illness, accidents or other Acts of God;
 - (v) the furtherance of effective democratic trade unions;
 - (vi) the promotion of a higher standard of living for all and the provision of adequate recreational and other leisure facilities for young and old but with greater leisure facilities for children and young people;
 - (vii) the encouragement of respect for those aspects of our Sierra Leone culture and traditions which are not in violent or flagrant contradiction of accepted codes of conduct and behaviour in the modern world as suggested in the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.
 - (c) Co-operation and collaboration with all West African countries in matters pertaining to our common interest and for the defence of freedom and individual liberty and for the more effective uses of the natural resources of our respective countries in bringing about greater material prosperity to the African peoples of the region.
 - (d) Co-operation and collaboration with progressive peoples throughout the world, and particularly the people of the newly established sovereign states of Asia, the Near and Far East and Latin America whose recent history of

/emergence

SECRET

- 2 -

emergence from colonialism into sovereign status affords us useful lessons for the working out of our future along democratic lines.

- (c) Continued co-operation and friendship with Great Britain in a manner not dissimilar to the pattern of relationship which has continued to exist between the United States of America (Britain's former "Thirteen Colonies") and Great Britain.

Membership

3 (A) Individual

(i) Eligibility:

ANY PERSON is eligible to become a member of the MOVEMENT who

- (a) has attained the age of 18 years;
- (b) is a citizen of the Sierra Leone Colony or Protectorate;
- (c) is ordinarily resident in Sierra Leone
- (d) is willing to work for the aims and aspirations of the MOVEMENT, namely, the elimination of unequal opportunities in the country; the eradication of every vestige of racial discrimination in the public life of the country, i.e., social, economic, political, educational, religious, and otherwise;
- (e) agrees to abide by the Constitution, decisions and disciplines of the MOVEMENT;

(ii) Procedure

To become a member of the MOVEMENT a person must make an application in writing or call at the headquarters in person to fill out an application form provided for the purpose or indicate verbally a desire to be enrolled as a member and demand from the secretary or any other accredited officer or agent of the organisation a membership card duly signed or with the person's mark "X" affixed in the presence of the secretary or any other responsible officer designated for the purpose in places outside of headquarters and in all branch offices;

Upon enrolment a new adult member must pay the fee of 1/- (One shilling)

(iii) Admission

On admission such a member shall pay a monthly subscription of Six Pence.

This due shall be paid at the first regular meeting of the MOVEMENT following the last day of the preceding month or to a duly accredited representative of the MOVEMENT or at headquarters.

Whenever the need arises, members may be asked to make special donation or contributions in cash or kind to meet contingencies, arising out of extra-curricular activities of the MOVEMENT, e.g., sending a delegation abroad for any major issues affecting the country; or holding major conventions in various sections of the country. Voluntary donations and contributions by members, friends and well-wishers will also be gratefully acknowledged and made known to the organization.

The temporary headquarters of the MOVEMENT are at the following address: 9, Fifth, Street, Freetown.

/A(a) Eligibility

SECRET

- 3 -

4 (a) Eligibility

Any organization in Sierra Leone - political party or its branches, trade unions, friendly or co-operative or credit societies, professional, technical, educational, religious, social, cultural or sports associations, women's clubs or youth groups may apply for affiliation with the MOVEMENT so long as it is willing to accept the overall principles and programme of the MOVEMENT and is not in any way associated with any subversive organization or any organization hostile to the principles and programme of the MOVEMENT.

(b) Procedure.

To become affiliated to the MOVEMENT such an organization must

- (i) make an application on the prescribed form to the General Secretary;
- (ii) submit with its application an authenticated copy of its Constitution Rules and a list of its officers with its total membership;
- (iii) pay together with its application an annual affiliation fee of
 - (A) ONE GUINEA in the case of organizations with less than 1,000 members;
 - (B) TWO GUINEAS in the case of organizations with over 1,000 but less than 5,000 members;
 - (C) FIVE GUINEAS in the case of organizations with more than 5,000 members, but less than 10,000 members;
 - (D) TEN GUINEAS in the case of organizations with more than 10,000 but less than 25,000 members;
 - (E) TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS in the case of organizations with more than 25,000 but not more than 50,000 members;
 - (F) FIFTY GUINEAS in the case of organizations with more than 50,000 members and above.

(c) Admission

On Admission such an organization shall receive an Affiliation Certificate.

THE CHARTER

1. Full and Complete Self-Government for Sierra Leone in internal affairs by 1958 through constitutional reforms based at this stage on:

(i) A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE consisting of:

- (a) AN ELECTED CHAMBER with the conventional fundamental powers over legislation and particularly money bills;
- (b) A NOMINATED SECOND CHAMBER in which self-chosen representatives of Paramount Chiefs, religious denominations and eminent Sierra Leoneans particularly in the technical educational and professional fields nominated by the Prime Minister, and not by the Governor, will be associated with representatives of the principal economic interests of the country, and such officials as may be retained pending the complete transfer, after not more than three years, of the portfolios of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary to the representatives of the people.

/(ii) A system

SECRET

- 4 -

- (ii) A system of MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT whereby a political combination in power may govern so long as it maintains the confidence of the elected chamber, and, in the final analysis, of the electorate.
- (iii) Priority to suitably qualified Sierra Leoneans, irrespective of race or religion, colour or class, in appointment to, and promotions in, the public service.

2. Dominion Status to commence on 1st January, 1961

- (i) SELF-GOVERNMENT in financial matters and in international trade negotiations as the essential prerequisite to economic development;
- (ii) the LIMITATION OF THE RESERVE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL exclusively to defence, international obligations involving defence, and currency for a maximum period of five years;

3. Rigid maintenance of proper standards of honesty, integrity and incorruptibility in the public service, with the corollaries of:

- (i) denunciation, without fear or favour, of any deviation from these standards;
- (ii) elimination of nepotism, favouritism and discrimination in appointment to the public service;
- (iii) insistence on the impartiality of the public service by
 - (a) recognition of the right of public servants to entertain private political opinion without fear of victimisation;
 - (b) stern measures against the growing tendency of public servants to curry favour with Government;
 - (c) a comprehensive survey of the entire public establishment.

4. Local Government Reform based on:

- (i) a comprehensive review of the fiscal relationships between the Central Government and Local Government authorities in order that the latter may be operated more efficiently.
- (ii) the grant of wider powers to all local government bodies to enable them to exercise greater initiative and responsibility, to encourage the active participation of the greatest number in the management of their country's affairs, and to prove the training ground for the future Legislators of Sierra Leone.

5. Promotion of the POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE of Sierra Leone, the paramount political need of our age by:

- (i) intense educational and public relations activities, public lectures and discussion, ~~work-~~ schools, leaflets, pamphlets and other literatures;
- (ii) complete re-organisation of the Government Information Services especially the P.R.O. so as to keep the people of Sierra Leone constantly informed on all aspects of government policy, and of happenings in other Commonwealth countries and in the international community.

6. Assistance from all sources, for the general development

SECRET

8

- 5 -

THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME OF THE SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement announces as the basis of its social programme the following principles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December, 10, 1948:

"Everyone as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality."

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."

"Everyone, without discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work,"

"Everyone who works has the right to work, to just and favourable remuneration, insuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection."

"Everyone has the right to form and join Trade Unions for the protection of his interests."

"Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay."

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including foods, clothing, housing and medical care, necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

"Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection."

"Everyone has the right to education. EDUCATION SHALL BE FREE AT LEAST IN THE ELEMENTARY AND FUNDAMENTAL STAGES. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MUST BE COMPULSORY. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit."

"Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace."

"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."

1. Promotion of Effective Trade Unions with a clear recognition of the Workers' right to choose their own representatives.
2. Adoption of a comprehensive modern Labour Code based on the following accepted international standards and practices:
 - (i) improvement of the conditions of labour with special respect to hours of work, minimum wages, guaranteed

/wages

- wages, paid weekly rest, paid public holidays, annual holidays with pay, severance pay in the event of dismissal due to no fault of the worker, protection of the health and safety of the worker;
- (ii) protection of women, young persons and children - including maternity protection, abolition of child labour, limitation of hours of work of women and young persons, equal pay with men for women performing equal work;
 - (iii) special security - including workmen's compensation, sickness and invalidity insurance, unemployment insurance, old age pensions;
 - (iv) special incentives to the workers - including profit sharing, guaranteed employment, prosperity bonuses enabling the workers to participate in the benefits of higher prices.
3. Re-organisation of the Department of Labour to make it an active agent for the protection of the rights of the workers, for the education of the workers in the knowledge of these rights, for the training of trade union leaders through appropriate courses and for the constant review of international labour standards and practices.
4. Adequate provision of training facilities for all grades of labour and for educating them to realise their responsibilities.
5. Fair employment practices for all regardless of social or tribal origins.
6. Insistence that employers train Sierra Leoneans for the highest positions on the senior staff in all industries, and promote them when they have been so trained.
7. Representation of the workers on public corporations, statutory boards, committees for public purposes, and in regional or international commodity negotiations.

EDUCATION POLICY

The Education system of Sierra Leone necessarily reflects foreign domination and its principal features have been:

- (i) the uncritical imposition of alien standards and curricula unrelated to local needs; developed in a different climate for people with a different history and different traditions, and as an inevitable consequence of this, the disparagement of the local culture, standards and traditions;
- (ii) concentration on the small group needed to fill a few positions opened to them at the expense of the needs of the masses;
- (iii) the abdication by the State of its educational responsibilities to the point where, had it not been for the Christian Churches, the Christian population would have been neglected as the non-Christian population had until recently been.

The educational system needed to-day, is by contrast, one which must be worked out by the people of Sierra Leone themselves and designed:

- (a) to satisfy the legitimate demand of the people for education as their democratic right;

/(b) to realise

SECRET

10

- 7 -

- (b) to relate education to the local environment and local needs;
- (c) to produce the highly trained workers and the responsible citizens needed in the age of self-government;
- (d) to ease the strain on the labour market by keeping juvenile workers out of it and retaining them in school.

Accordingly the measures to which we pledge ourselves are as follows:

1. The appointment of a Commission of Inquiry including the governing bodies, the teachers and the parents designed to:-
 - (i) relate the educational system more closely to the political, social and economic needs of the country;
 - (ii) achieve the maximum possible integration of the diverse elements which comprise our population;
 - (iii) ensure the highest possible academic and other standards in all schools.
2. The provision of an adequate number of schools at all levels, well designed, with appropriate alterations to existing unsuitable buildings.
3. The enforcement of a COMPULSORY EDUCATION ORDINANCE AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL, with the extension of assistance to necessitous children. No democratic state can complacently envisage the indefinite perpetuation of illiteracy. The enforcement of compulsory education is without prejudice to the right of the parent to send his child to the school of his own choice.
4. Steady increase of the number of bachelors to secondary schools. Our goal is FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION WITHIN A TEN-YEAR PERIOD for all children capable of benefiting from it.
5. Expansion of science, technical and business education as integral parts of secondary education.
6. Survey of the private school system to determine its scope, appraise its standards, and make recommendations as to means of increasing its contribution to the education of the community.
7. Expansion and improvement of facilities for the training of teachers.
8. Raising of the status of teachers and improvement of their conditions of service, including recognition of their right to the practice of trade unionism in the manner considered by them to be in the best interests of their profession.
9. A large increase in the number of students sent abroad for advanced training, to supply the social scientists and physical scientists needed for the economic programme and for the AFRICANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.
10. A COMPREHENSIVE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME with Public Service Broadcasting as an integral part, designed to foster responsible citizenship and raise the standard of living,

/ especially

SECRET

- 8 -

especially in the Protectorate and rural areas, and paying particular attention to the special needs of women and young people forced to leave school at an early age.

11. Re-organisation of the Board of Education to make it more representative of the principal interests directly or indirectly concerned with education by including on it representatives of parents, employers, trade unions, municipal, district and rural areas councils.

12. Active steps to REFORM Fourah Bay College OR alternatively to PROVIDE A UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SIERRA LEONE, a fully autonomous university, emphasising the disciplines needed in the community to-day and bringing university education to Sierra Leone over the widest possible circle.

HOUSING POLICY

The achievement of a high standard of living necessarily includes adequate provision for workers and middle class housing.

The problem is one not only of the quantity of houses, but also of their quality. The majority of houses in Sierra Leone to-day consist of one or two rooms, with a pit latrine where toilet facilities are not available at all, dependent on stand pipes for water, lit by an oil lamp, with kitchen or bath outside.

Our goal is decent homes for the population with living space adequate for the development of proper moral standards in children, and with the necessary amenities for the housewife - running water, electric light and adequate sanitary facilities.

We therefore pledge ourselves to the following measures towards the attainment of this goal.

1. Establishment of a National Housing Board, with specific departments for individual aspects of the overall problem, representative of employers, workers, the religious denominations and social workers.
2. A comprehensive survey of the existing housing situation in Sierra Leone.
3. A vigorous and comprehensive slum clearance and re-settlement programme at Upper Kissy Road, the South, and Southeast and districts of Freetown, Brockfields, Kroc Town Rd, Fourah Bay, Grassfields, etc, and the bringing of modern housing schemes into the protectorate.
4. Government concessions and incentives for housing construction in order to accelerate middle class and working class housing.
5. Promotion of research in technical, sociological, engineering and planning aspects of housing.

HEALTH POLICY

1. A survey of existing medical and nursing public facilities.
2. Expansion and modernisation of existing hospital facilities in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Sefadu, Magburaka, Fajehun, etc, and the establishment of hospitals in other areas still lacking in health facilities.

/3. Improvement

SECRET

- 9 -

12

3. Improvement of the medical services, especially of the hospitals and clinics, priority being given to the Protectorate and rural areas in Freetown.
4. Expansion of the medical and dental services in schools.
5. Promotion and support of a National Health Insurance Scheme.

WATER SUPPLY

1. A survey of the water needs of the country and an assessment of the various sources of supply. The Guma Valley Scheme is long overdue.
2. The preparation of a sound programme designed to make the optimum use of all water resources and to provide water as cheaply as possible with a view to achieving its ultimate goal - a pipe-borne water system in every household.
3. A review of the relationship between local government authorities and the central government in the fields of water supply as a major function of government.

ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

The policies of social security, education, housing, health, and other social services outlined above will require large sums of money. These sums can only be obtained by large-scale economic development.

Up to the present the economic development of Sierra Leone has been dominated to a considerable extent by the interest of external capital protected by the Crown Colony system of Government. That development has been based principally on :

- (i) Palm Produce and Mineral ores where all the evidence indicates a subordination of local interests to those of external capital;
- (ii) the production of export crops, in the raw state, for processing abroad.
- (iii) the neglect of production of local food crops;
- (iv) the total neglect in the past, modified in more recent years by lip-service encouragement, to secondary industries.

This pattern of economic development has brought the people of Sierra Leone neither full use of all resources nor material prosperity, nor full employment.

Its principal results have been:

- (i) the existence of large areas of idle arable land throughout the country.
- (ii) the importation of large quantities of foodstuffs, meat and rice, palm oil and products which can be produced in larger quantities at home;
- (iii) a steady increase in the cost of living as a consequence of the rise in price of basic foodstuffs;
- (iv) a haphazard policy of industrial development and half measures for protection of local industries.

Our economic programme is therefore designed to make the fullest use of all the resources of Sierra Leone and so to provide jobs for the present and future population.

/Priority

SECRET

13

- 10 -

Priority will be given to the extension of agriculture and the intelligent development of secondary industries. Each job in these basic occupations may confidently be expected to provide indirect jobs for two persons in other occupations. Agricultural development will provide the food for the industrial and urban populations; industrial development will utilise the raw materials provided by agriculture and will absorb some of the workers displaced by mechanisation in agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Maximum utilisation of all arable land.
2. Extension of drainage, reclamation and irrigation projects designed to bring more land under cultivation.
3. Better land utilisation based on comprehensive soil and land use surveys.
4. Expansion of agricultural credit facilities, extension services and mechanisation facilities.
5. Greater production of local vegetables, cereals, root crops, fruits, meat and dairy products, with particular attention to the potential of Sierra Leone.
6. Improved marketing facilities with particular attention to refrigeration standardisation, grading and packing.
7. Government land settlements aiming at the encouragement of present production.
8. Scientific training for the farmers themselves.
9. Continued encouragement to the co-operative movement as a means of improving peasant production whilst at the same time promoting thrift, foster the spirit of self-help, and assisting in the reduction of cost of living.
10. A thorough survey of the cost of living and its steady increase in the past few years in relation to the policy of greater local food production.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Encouragement to the Palmoil, copra and piassava industry.
2. Encouragement of a chemicals industry based on oil seeds, barks of trees, etc., guavas, berries and plums.
3. Encouragement of industries based on - e.g. jams and jellies.
4. Canning of vegetables and fruits, with particular attention to citrus and pineapples.
5. Development of clothing, building materials, furniture, light engineering and fertiliser industries.
6. Reasonable incentives to industrial production, including
 - (i) such financial aid as the tax holiday and factory construction
 - (ii) reasonable but adequate protection for local products;
 - (iii) encouragement of consumption of local products including government purchase in suitable cases.

/OTHER ECONOMIC

OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Expansion of the fishing industry by such means as loans to fishermen for the installation of engines and improvement of fishing techniques and by the provision of adequate transport, marketing, distribution and cold storage facilities.
2. Expansion of forestry, the lumber trade and the furniture industry with a view to achieving greater local self-sufficiency.
3. Development of adequate hotel facilities, as well as beach amenities, adequate consideration being given to the needs of the people of Sierra Leone and to the prevention of discriminatory practices in places of public entertainment and amusement.
4. A road building programme, as an incentive to tourism and agricultural development.
5. Improvement of existing transport, by both land, sea and air, between Freetown and the interior regions.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

1. Creation of a Ministry of Production to co-ordinate the various aspects of the programme.
2. Establishment of :
 - an Industrial Development Corporation, with responsibility for the increase of agricultural production, special attention being given to the problem of credit for small farmers;

FINANCING OF THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement recognises that it is the Government's responsibility to secure the investment of the necessary capital from whatever source, either by private investors or by the Government itself where the national interest demands it and where private capital is unwilling or unable to come forward.

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement anticipates no difficulty in raising the necessary capital. A powerful political organisation, a careful plan, an energetic people, a contented and well-trained labour force are no barriers to investment. Quite the contrary.

The necessary funds will come from

- (i) Private capital, both local and external. To this end Sierra Leone Independence Movement will
 - (a) give priority to the encouragement of local people to invest their funds in the development of the country;
 - (ii) encourage the investment of foreign capital for the development of the country's resources on a profit-sharing basis;
 - (iii) establish publicity offices or agencies in Freetown, London, New York, Hamburg, Bonn, France, New Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Lagos, Accra, Dakar and Monrovia.
- (ii) Loans - on a larger scale than ever before envisaged from:
 - (a) the money

SECRET

15

- 12 -

- (a) the money markets of London, New York and Montreal;
 - (b) Sierra Leone, through Government Bonds or Savings Certificates;
 - (c) international agencies such as the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the Export-Import Bank of the United States.
- (iii) Local Revenue through:
- (a) normal appropriations, increase by rigid economy in the cost of government and the Legislature;
 - (b) anti-inflation measures;
- (iv) Grants from the United Kingdom

PLANNING

The economic programme of any country requires three essentials:

- (i) A comprehensive survey of national resources, both human and physical.
- (ii) A definite plan with precise goal and targets, and facilities for assessing potential and progress at various periods.
- (iii) Research and statistical services designed to provide basic data in such fields as production, employment and unemployment, costs of production and distribution, existing and potential markets etc.,

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement will therefore establish a Planning Unit, which will give priority to the following essential measures:

1. A comprehensive geological survey;
2. A comprehensive census of population, employment and unemployment, agriculture and manufacture.
3. A comprehensive soil survey and land use survey;
4. A comprehensive production plan based on definite production and employment goals and priorities among the different needs and services;
5. An efficient department of research and statistics.
6. A zoning plan for the urban areas with a view to the maximum and most rational utilisation of limited land space and the proper development of amenities.

FEDERATION

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement accordingly pledges itself to collaborate with political organisations and leaders in other West African territories in taking immediate measures to:

- This rather conflicts with earlier proposals.*
- (i) promote regional planning and eliminate undesirable duplication of industries and crops;
 - (ii) encourage and promote trade between all West African territories;

(iii) strengthen

SECRET

- 13 -

(iii) strengthen the economy of the West African economy in export markets by increased trade representation abroad and by inter-change of trade missions with other countries, particularly the U.S.A., Germany, India and Japan.

CONCLUSION

The Sierra Leone Independence Movement makes no promises that you should hope to achieve all these goals in five, ten or fifteen years; for after all, you have not had any of them at minimum levels for all in one hundred and seventy years as a colony. But just as in India, Mr. Nehru and his government were able to electrify the whole of rural India within the first five years of the Congress regime; so can we assure you that with your understanding and co-operation, five-year projects will be undertaken in turn to provide the services which call for immediate attention e.g. better housing; free schools and meals for our children in schools; water supply for the villages and the Protectorate, etc.,

That is The Sierra Leone Independence Movement.

That is The Charter of the People.