

INTERNATIONAL

World mayors to visit Nigeria's new mayors

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The World Conference of Mayors (WCM) will convene its annual meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, Nov. 15-20 and share their experiences with representatives of Nigeria's more than 700 newly elected mayors. According to Marie Atkins, president of the World Conference of Mayors and mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, "we are delighted that we have been invited to convene in Abuja, giving those of us who are more experienced mayors an opportunity to share our knowledge with our brothers and sisters who have recently been elected to mayors and heads of local councils. There is much we can share with them. Of course, we can learn from them as well."

WCM voted during its June meeting in Washington, D.C., to accept the invitation to meet in Nigeria following a positive report presented by delegation of seven U.S. mayors who

journeyed chairman of the WCM/Nigerian convention committee, "after we visited Nigeria and had an opportunity to talk to their mayors first hand, we were anxious to share with the members of the WCM, the positive results of our trip. The Nigerian mayors are excited about our coming and they are looking forward to the convention."

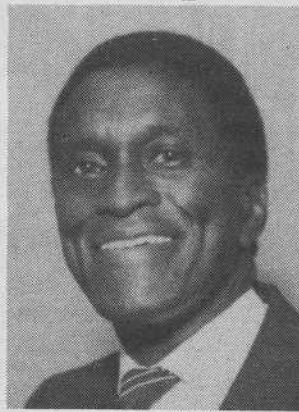
According to the director general, Johnny Ford, former mayor of Tuskegee, Ala., and founder of the group, "mayors have decided to go to Nigeria to build bridges of trust, trade, tourism, technology, twin cities, and treasury between the newly elected mayors in Nigeria and our more experienced mayors who make up our membership from around the globe."

"The first thing we want to stress is that the mayors decided to go, not for the purpose of the 'Nigerian debate,' or to interfere in the local or national

politics of Nigeria. Those who wish to continue the debate of the pros and cons of visiting Nigeria, we encourage them to continue that debate. However, we cannot afford to not respond to an opportunity to develop a genuine working relationship between mayors in Nigeria, China, South Africa, or any other country."

The delegation will be made up of mayors, other municipal officials, business leaders, education leaders and media personnel who will journey from New York to Accra, Ghana and on to Abuja. Plans are being finalized for the group on the return trip to spend a day in Accra, Ghana, meeting with mayors and business leaders.

Mayor Mamadou Diop, past president of the WCM and current mayor of Dakar, Senegal, is coordinating the participation of mayors from other countries across the African continent. Mayor Diop



JOHNNY FORD, SR.

is also expected to address the conference and extend an invitation to mayors to attend the trade and its present impact on the American, Europe, and the Caribbean.

The World Conference of Mayors is a non-partisan, tax exempt organization. It was organized in 1984 and grew out of an organizational meeting held between the National conference of Black Mayors and the Union of African Cities.

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific pact up for review

By Paul Ejime

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (PANA) - Leaders of 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations began a crucial summit Nov. 6 in the Gabonese capital, Libreville, to revamp the group's traditional trade and aid dominated relationship with the 15-nation European Union (EU).

An umbrella agreement known as the Lome Convention has bound together these two groups of developing and industrialized nations.

However the treaty, which went into effect in 1975, has come under intense pressure for a radical overhaul in view of intervening global economic forces. It is due to terminate in the year 2000.

"The question is no longer whether there will be a new ACP-EU agreement but what shape or form this will take," a delegate said.

The leaders are to consider policy documents to this effect prepared by the group's 66th session of the Council of Ministers, which met in the Gabonese capital ahead of the two-day summit.

Poor ACP countries, which produce mainly primary products, are worried that the fourth Lome convention, known as Lome IV, cannot meet their expectations.

On the other hand, with the end of the cold war, the industrialized North is de-emphasizing aid and focusing more on how to help their poor former communist states, thereby leaving the poor South in the lurch.

Another bane of the ACP-EU relationship has been the lack of unity among developing countries in their negotiations with the North, which often puts them at a disadvantage.

ACP president and Zimbabwe's industry and commerce minister, Nathan Shamuyarira, touched on this sore point when he opened the ministerial council in Libreville.

His advocacy for ACP members to present a common mutually beneficial position in future negotiations for a new ACP-EU protocol is a common

talk among delegates.

But as one observer noted, "it is one thing to talk laudably about these issues, the reality is that poverty robs many ACP nations of the political will to resist breaking ranks."

The ACP secretariat, with a limited annual budget of some 6.9 million ECU (\$7.5 million U.S.) and an 80-member strong staff, is also said to be in a weak position to influence its leaders.

"We are hoping to receive political direction from our leaders on how to strengthen our dialogue with the EU,"

Cultural & Community Affairs Division

City of Las Vegas Department of Parks & Leisure Activities, West Las Vegas Arts Center

proudly sponsor



"Blues" Informing the Neighborhood

presented by Dr. Jazz (KCEP)

This session chronicles the progression from folk blues to contemporary rhythm and blues in the African-American community.

FREE

Saturday
Nov. 22, 1997
1:00 p.m.

West Las Vegas Arts Center
947 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Please call 229-4800 to reserve a seat.

This program, part of the series *Humanities and Language Through the Black Experience*, is made possible, in part, by a grant to the Cultural & Community Affairs Division of Las Vegas Department of Parks & Leisure Activities from the Nevada Humanities Committee, the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities Committee, and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

WORLD BRIEFS

REPORT: GHANA'S ECONOMY NOT EXPORT-ORIENTED

ACCRA, Ghana (PANA) — The Ghanaian economy has failed to be export-oriented in spite of the dramatic improvement it has undergone since the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), a report has shown. The 1996 study, conducted by the UK-based Centre for the Study of African Economies, noted that the improvement has not been translated into high rates of growth. It further pointed out that inflation was twice reduced to 10 percent but was not sustained. It attributed the inability to sustain macroeconomic reform to weakness in the growth of exports. "Research on the manufacturing sector in Ghana shows that manufacturing firms have not moved substantially into exporting. Indeed, the evidence from the survey strongly suggests that the only sector which is export-oriented is the wood-processing sector," the document details. It said the reasons why the growth of labor-intensive manufacturing has been so limited, is the subject of current research. The study also commented on the fall in real wages, saying this resulted from the limited extent of investment in the manufacturing sector. "Unemployment is not growing, but workers are being absorbed into more labor-intensive industries at lower real wages," the report concluded.

SECURITY TIGHT AS ZAMBIA REMEMBERS WAR HEROES

LUSAKA, Zambia (PANA) — Tight security was evident in Lusaka on Sunday, Nov. 2, as President Frederick Chiluba laid a wreath in memory of Zambian soldiers killed during the first and second world wars. Chiluba led defense and security chiefs, as well as diplomats at the wreath-laying ceremony, the first major national event involving soldiers since the failed coup attempt of Oct. 28. Chiluba declared Oct. 28 an annual holiday, saying Zambians should use the occasion to meditate and thank God for saving the nation from the military coup. "People should not drink but pray on October 28. Every year that day has to be remembered. God freed us from the enemies," Chiluba said. About 30 rebel soldiers have reportedly been arrested and an unspecified number on the run since the abortive military putsch.

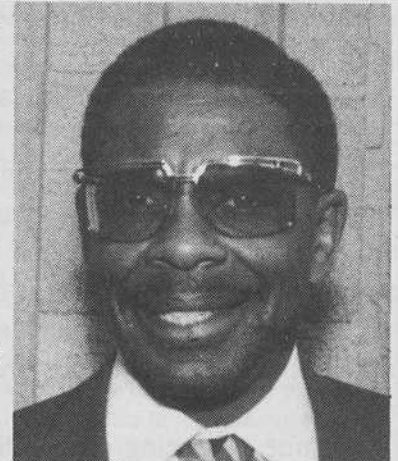
Need a New or Used Automobile or Truck?

HENRY CROCKETT
Integrity • Honesty

**Bad Credit • No Credit
It Doesn't Matter...**

You could be driving today!!
\$0 Down Financing Available**

**Hundreds of Cars
to choose from**



HENRY CROCKETT

**Send a Friend or Relative and Earn Cash
\$100 to \$500 Reward***

NISSAN West



*After transaction is completed ** On Approved Credit
Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



871-7000 • 264-8739

5050 West Sahara Avenue at Decatur • Las Vegas, Nevada