

INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS

CJP - 16
Nigerianizing, De-Anglicizing and Americanizing

February 25 1964
60 Netherhall Way
Cambridge, England

Mr. Richard H. Nolte
Institute of Current World Affairs
366 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Nolte:

The de-Anglicizing and Nigerianization of the University of Ibadan includes a certain amount of Americanization. On November 18, 1963 fifteen years of tutelage from the University of London ended (CJP-14), but on the next day in his Foundation Day address, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K. O. Dike, intimated that Ibadan had been moving from one kind of dependence to another, from complete dependence on British outsiders for academic standards to partial but heavy dependence on American outsiders for the funds necessary to carry out a "programme designed to make Ibadan an indigenous university concerned with the problems of the African situation and rooted in the culture and aspirations of Nigeria".

Recurrent capital expenditures are borne by the Nigerian government*, but, said the Vice-Chancellor, all major projects of growth and development are dependent upon outside sources, and so far "this support has come largely from the United States of America, and almost entirely from the great American foundations, Ford, Rockefeller and Carnegie".

A compilation of figures from the University of Ibadan Gazette shows that between April 1961 and October 1963 \$4,898,927** was received from the three foundations and five other American sources. This two and a half year influx of American money roughly coincides with the office tenure of Dr. Dike, the first Nigerian to head the University, and follows hard upon the heels of Nigerian nationhood. Untainted by colonial authority and unbound by British educational tradition, the funds have been welcomed with Nigerian delight and British caution.

* For the fiscal year of June 30, 1961 to June 30, 1962 the University received \$2,869,932 from the government as annual subvention and annual endowment allocation.

** See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of this figure by source, amount and purpose.



Dr. Ruben Frodin
Ford Foundation Consultant

Also coinciding with the coming of American money has been a jump in the size of the University's American population. This has been received with diminished Nigerian delight and even more British caution.

In the 1961-62 school year six Americans made up 2.4% of the academic staff. In the 1962-63 year the presence of seventeen Americans raised the percentage to 6.4%. In 1963-64 the seventeen became thirty-nine and the percentage rose to 11.3%. The following table* shows how the American increases fit into the overall three year growth

of the academic staff.

	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
NIGERIAN	77 (31.1%)	74 (28.1%)	122 (35.3%)
BRITISH	148 (59.9%)	147 (55%)	143 (41.3%)
AMERICAN	6 (2.4%)	17 (6.4%)	39 (11.3%)
OTHER	16 (6.6%)	26 (9.8%)	42 (12.1%)

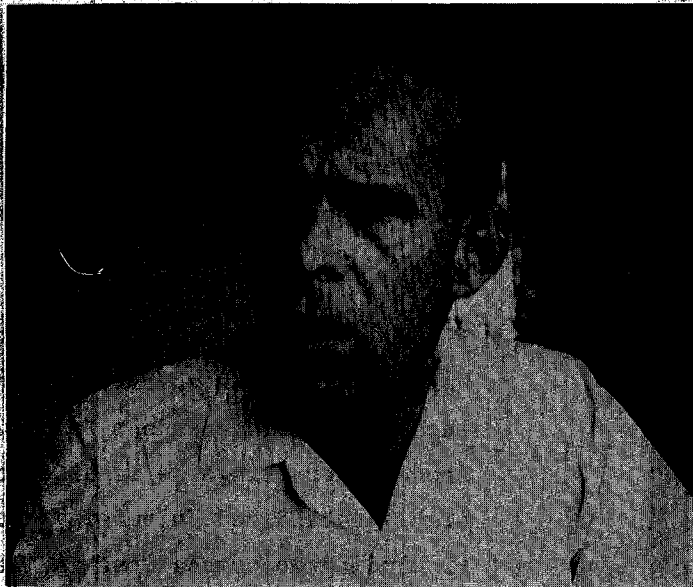
Only the British have not shared in the general growth. Although their number has been relatively constant their percentage has steadily declined. The reasons for this lack of growth include the career insecurity that goes with having qualified indigenous candidates eagerly waiting to replace one, isolation from the mainstream of Western intellectual and scientific life, the cost of family displacement and resettlement, and the growing awareness that Nigeria is no longer British territory. Still, these factors have not prevented some turnover within the stable British population.

* These figures are drawn from the Calendars of the University of Ibadan for 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64.

The increase of the number of Nigerian academics over the three years is impressive, but the percentage of increase is only 4.2%. This would appear to be a slow rate of Nigerianization, especially since the second year ratio represents a drop of 3%. However the circumstances during this period were unusual; four other universities were being founded in Nigeria and Ibadan was the prime source for Nigerian staff. Had those Nigerians who left for the new universities remained, Ibadan's Nigerian ratio would now be much higher.

Perhaps a truer indicator of the pace of Nigerianization at Ibadan are the forty-six Nigerians on the academic staff who are graduates of Ibadan. They, in the words of Dr. Dike, "won their positions in open competition in the world academic market and many of them are scholars of international repute".

Evidence of the "world academic market" is present at Ibadan in that group I have labeled "others". Primarily the "others" are East Indians and West Indians, but there are also Poles, Germans, Frenchwomen, a Maltese, a Senegalese, a Sudanese, Ghanaians, Sierra Leonians, a Lebanese, Netherlands, Irishmen, Swedes, Austrians, South Africans, a Japanese, a Filipino, and a Persian. Their number has doubled and their percentage has almost doubled.

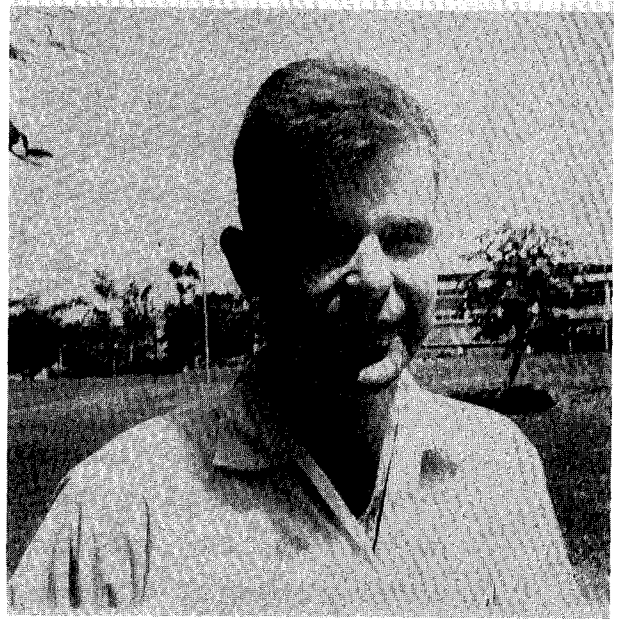


Dr. E. J. Ryan
Associate Research Fellow
NISER

The most dramatic change in the composition of the academic staff is in both the percentage and number of Americans. The former has quintupled and the latter has multiplied by more than six times.

A few early American arrivals came well in advance of Ibadan's foundation financial flow. They had come for such personal reasons as general curiosity about Africa, a desire to help the under-developed, or a chance to expand their professional competence in some uniquely African field of study. They were hired by the University as teachers and were paid from the funds allocated by the Federal government.

The next overlapping wave of Americans was dominated by independent researchers, individuals who were traveling and working on fellowships from American foundations and universities. The majority of the seventeen Americans on the academic staff in 1962-63 were in this category. They became a part of the staff if granted an association or affiliation



Mr. C. V. Brown, Lecturer in the Department of Economics



Dr. M. S. Baratz, Head of the Department of Economics

with one of the research facilities of the University, such as the Institute of African Studies, the Institute of Child Health, the Institute of Education and the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. The latter Institute is the only one of these that has not shared in the foundation bounty of the last two years.

Associate status at the University is a wonderful convenience for the independent fellow. Among other things he is able to rent highly subsidized University housing (including accommodations in the "Ford Flats" that were especially built for visiting academics), to become a member of the faculty club

with its gleaming swimming pool and well stocked bar, to secure an automobile loan from the University, to use the University medical service free of charge, to attend official social events, to march in academic processions, and to have limited participation in the Congregation of the University. More important for the purposes of research is the acquisition of his own office, use of the University library, and access to the knowledge and talents of older African hands.

In return for all of this Ibadan only asks that the visiting associate be willing to lend a hand if by some chance the University finds itself shorthanded in an area of a visitor's particular competence.

The Nigerian academic generosity does not always meet with full British approval. Ten busy and inquisitive American scholars hustling about the University community, often with their blatantly American families in tow, established at Ibadan a visible and concrete American presence that has attracted a great deal of British attention, both baleful and benign. This comment from Professor L. J. Lewis* of London University is typical of the mixed British reaction:

"One group of difficulties and irritations is directly the consequence of the zeal, exuberance and lack of experience of the young research worker on his first overseas assignment. A project which, when discussed in the study of the Dean or Professor in the U.S.A. or elaborated in a paper submitted to a foundation, seemed to be of great significance may well appear, in the eyes of teachers and administrators in an African institution, to be somewhat remote from the more immediate needs. The zealous pursuit of officials, businessmen, traders, missionaries and the like for information is a fresh and necessary activity for the young research worker: but for some of the recipients of the inquiries it is a time-consuming irritation that happens too frequently. When such inquiries are carried out by means of questionnaires, tape-recorders, cameras and other "informal machinery", suspicion hardens. The addition of gratuitous criticism of colonialism and imperialism, and undiluted adulation of the local politicians or the traditional 'culture', arouses chauvinism in representatives of the former colonial power and irritates scholar and administrator alike. If the bright young thing attempts to intrude in the government of the institution to which he is temporarily attached, and offers criticism of how its affairs are managed, public and social relations are unlikely to be improved."

*L. J. Lewis, Education and Political Independence in Africa, pp. 52-53.

The British Professor grants that "this is, of course, a caricature" but it is a firmly held one, "made up of an incident here, an incident there, each small in itself but by bush telegraph exaggerated in its importance until its shadow overcasts regions far beyond the tiny origin".

The professor reveals his personal belief in the caricature by virtuously declaring that "young British research workers commit similar gaffes, but get dealt with more quickly and rigorously by their British colleagues".

The undealt-with American research fellows at Ibadan are aware of the ambivalent attitudes held by the British, but with a certain blitheness and hardened persistence they have continued on their way, steadily tracking down Nigerians, Africans and an occasional friendly Englishman. They argue that the British academics resent American intrusion into what was once their private colonial preserve; that they are jealous of both the affluent character of American research grants and the youth of their holders; and that they are particularly incensed by the American's ability to establish intimate and egalitarian relationships with Britain's onetime vassals.

Even if these charges against the British are not wholly accurate, it is true that on the whole the American researcher has been startlingly adept at finding Nigerian intimates, securing invitations to Nigerian homes, eating Nigerian food and doing Nigerian dances.

Occasionally a research fellow can be seen decked out in Nigerian national dress. This action brings an American the ultimate in social visibility and consequently stimulates strong British reaction. They ask what is he trying to prove or argue that such behavior is condescending and the Africans will resent it. This is seldom, if ever, the case, for usually a Nigerian friend has either given the American the traditional costume or helped him find a tailor to make it. Further signs of Nigerian pride and approval of a Westerner in Nigerian dress can be found in the number of volunteers available to give lectures on the proper style of wear and the correct nomenclature for each item of dress*

*The only time British individuals seem to wear "native dress" is on the eve of their departure from Nigeria. Presented as a departure gift by Nigerian civil service or business colleagues, the set of national dress is usually worn by the British person at his official farewell party.

Miss Ruth Sutuerlin,
Associate Research
Fellow, NISER.

Dr. Babara Levine,
Associate Research
Fellow, Inst. of
Child Health

Dr. B. G. Martin, Head
of the Department of
Islamic and Arabic
Studies.



Dr. A. J. Davis (in
Nigerian dress) of
the History Department.

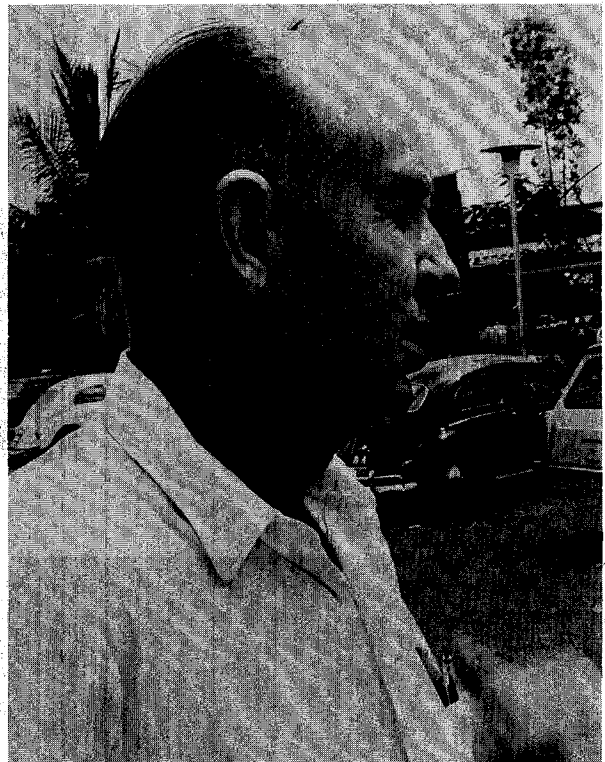
Dr. Howard Thurman
Visiting Professor,
Department of Religious
Studies.



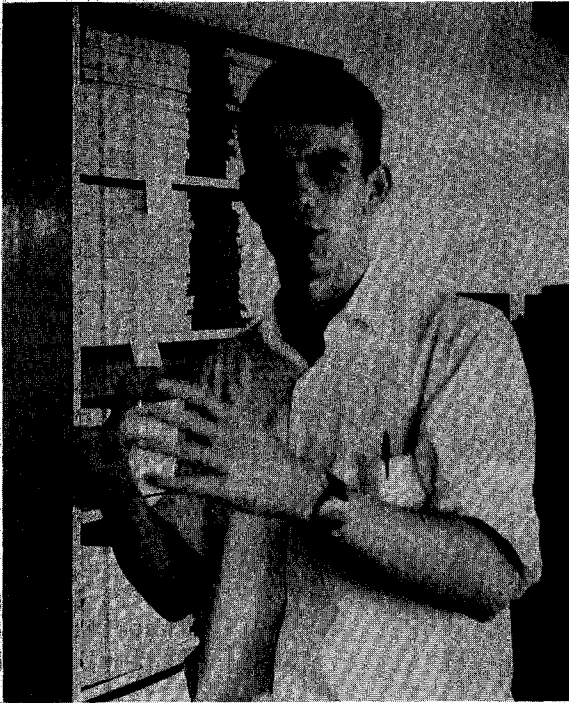
In the current year at Ibadan, 1963-64, the number of American research fellows has dropped, but the total number of American academics, forty-two, is higher than ever. This overall increase can be attributed to the activities of the foundations and to cooperative agreements worked out with American universities. One example of the latter is the arrangement between Ibadan and the Johns Hopkins Medical School whereby the two universities exchange members of their academic staffs; some of the younger Ibadan doctors are spending up to two years doing advanced study at Johns Hopkins and some of the more experienced professors at Johns Hopkins are spending periods of three to six months at Ibadan investigating problems of tropical medicine and assisting in the training of post-graduate students.

Foundation funds have enabled Ibadan to recruit Americans for important academic posts that otherwise would have been vacant or inadequately filled. A few of the more vigorously anti-American Britishers suggest that posts filled by Americans are by definition inadequately filled. However, the dominant attitude is that the visiting professor is quite "a different cup of tea" from the "itinerant research worker". Professor Lewis offers this blessing for the differentiation: "In British experience in Africa the visiting professor from the United States has been without exception an asset to the local university college".

An asset they may be to the host country, but the fertile potential for conflict between Nigeria's British and American academics remains. For as Lewis recognizes, "the approach to higher education in Britain and in America is different and consequently the individuals trained there will have different outlooks". He also recognizes that "whilst it is true that in British



Dr. J. E. Black, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies



Mr. P. C. Kissam, Assistant
Lecturer, Department of Economics

and former British territories the British tradition is at present paramount, the rate and complexities of the changes taking place are creating different needs and will result in modifications of the British tradition".

Modification along American lines will be slow indeed, for not only are the Americans outnumbered by the British at Ibadan, but the overwhelming majority of Nigerian academic are the products of British universities and hold their British education in high esteem. Yet more and more of them are beginning to see in American educational patterns a flexibility and willingness to experiment that is in keeping with the challenges of

Nigerianization. Their openness to American innovation and alternatives is being widened by the concrete dollar-giving altruism of the foundations, the growing number of British-trained Nigerians now visiting the great American universities, the modesty and competence of the American visiting professors, and the exuberance and zeal of the visiting research fellows.

The willingness to pay attention to American-oriented possibilities is increased by the knowledge that Ibadan's current hopes for growth and development, and therefore many individual research and professional aspirations, are dependent upon the continuing concern and support of American institutions. Besides, the Nigerians have the certain knowledge that their American colleagues have only come to stay a little while, not to make a career in their country.

Under the circumstances, hopefully the Nigerians if not the British will continue to see clearly that their American colleagues want what the Nigerians want for themselves and that American purposes at the University of Ibadan, whether supported by visiting professor, researcher or foundation money, are consistent with Nigerianization.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Patterson
CHARLES J. PATTERSON

Received in New York March 9, 1964.

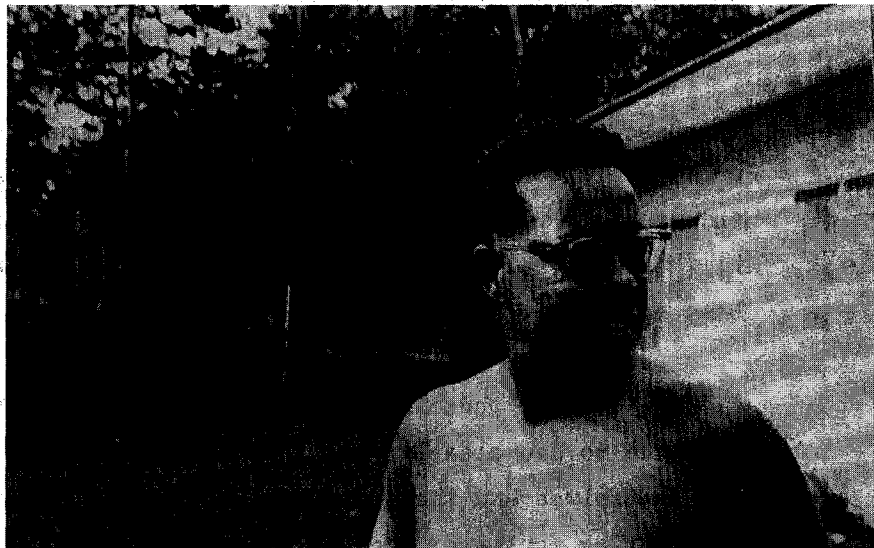
Mr. W. E. Brown,
Lecturer, School
of Drama

Miss Mary Frederick,
Assistant in the
School of Drama



Mr. D. L. Abernathy,
Associate Research
Fellow, NISER

Dr. H. P. Elam,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of
Paediatrics.



APPENDIX I

FROM THE FORD FOUNDATION -

\$42,000	for the development of a foreign advisory staff and teaching personnel and the training of African staff in connection with the University's further development.
\$ 8,000	for research and experimentation in Nigeria Education
\$ 2,750	towards the expenses of the meeting of the Committee of the Congress of Africanists held at the University on 9th September 1961
\$105,000	for further housing for visiting scholars.
\$96,000	to enable the Institute of Education to carry on an extensive music programme and also to enable the Extra-Mural Studies Department to produce films illustrating aspects of Nigerian Culture.
\$28,000	to the University for the First International Congress of Africanists.
\$115,000	as further contribution toward the programme of staff development at the University.
\$140,000	as contribution toward the establishment of an International Secondary School at the University.
\$195,300	to support the establishment of three professorial chairs in Sociology, Linguistics, and Archaeology in the Institute of African Studies.
\$2,300,000	for special assistance for this University's development over a two-year period, beginning January, 1963. A portion of the grant, \$1,200,000 for capital construction of special projects, is conditional upon matching funds from Nigerian sources. The remainder of the grant is to be used in selected areas in which post graduate development will be strengthened, and in which the range of subjects essential for Nigeria's growth can be broadened.
\$37,500	to enable a faculty member to serve as Visiting Lecturer and Research Fellow at the University of Michigan, U. S. A. and to visit the Economic Growth Centre at Yale University as well as other centres of economic research in the United States, England and France, during the academic year 1963-64.

Total

\$3,070,050

FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION -

\$28,000	for the use of the Faculty of Medicine in a programme of exchange Professors among African Medical Faculties.
\$10,000	towards the cost of a Spinco Amino Acid Analyser for the Department of Chemical Pathology.
\$6,500	in support of research on food crop production in the Faculty of Agriculture.

FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION -

- \$10,000 towards the expenses of a Psychiatric Conference on the Mental health problems of Africa, held at Aro Hospital, Abeokuta, from 12th to 18th November 1961.
- \$336,980 as contribution towards the establishment of an Institute of African Studies.
- \$2,525 to enable an Ibadan faculty member to engage in chemical research in the U. S. A.
- \$10,000 to the Department of Anatomy for research into Carbohydrate Metabolism of the foetus and investigation into glycogen metabolism and the enzymes concerned in the process. Also for the study of the ontogeny of internal secretions of the pancreas.
- \$3,800 to enable an Ibadan faculty member to visit Agricultural Research Centres in the United States.
- \$180,040 towards the expenses of research and teaching in rural paediatrics and nutrition and the extension of studies of Agricultural production.
- \$1,200 for the purchase of books for the library of the Department of Economics and Social Studies.
- \$9,000 towards the cost of a Perkin Elmer Double Beam Infra-red Spectrophotometer for the Department of Chemistry.
- \$4,316 for the initial development of an itinerant theatre group.
- \$4,315 to enable a faculty member to visit centres of research on poultry and pig production in the United States, Eire and Europe.
- \$10,000 for the development of an inter-university graduate study programme in Chemistry between University College, Ibadan and Brown University.
- \$2,700 to enable a faculty member to visit medical schools in the United States and Canada in order to observe methods of training and research in Surgery.
- \$10,000 to assist the Faculty of Agriculture in securing the services of a Lecturer in Agricultural Economics.
- \$9,856 for initial appointments of a lecturer in the English Department and a technical director in connection with the School of Drama.
- \$5,380 to enable the University to obtain the services of a Nigerian Surgeon in the Department of Surgery for a period of four months.
- \$30,000 for use by the University of Dakar, Senegal and the University College, Ibadan toward the establishment of a cooperative programme in the training of teachers of French and English.
- \$6,000 toward purchase of research and teaching equipment for the experimental embryology unit in the Department of Anatomy.
- \$3,350 to enable the Director of the School of Drama to consult with theatre specialists and visit drama centres, mainly in the United States, in connection with the development of the programme in drama at the University.

FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION -

- \$200,000 to the University over a period of 4½ years for further development of its drama programme.
- \$1,530 to the University for travel and living expenses for a Consultant on a programme of Community Mental Health.
- \$170,000 towards the cost of developing a virology unit in the Faculty of Medicine.
- \$278,496 for the establishment of a Department of Psychiatry, Neurosurgery and Neurology, and for development of a rural training and teaching centre at Igbo-Ora.
- \$3,000 to enable a faculty member to study administrative practices of universities in the United States with respect to student affairs.
- \$13,000 for the establishment of a co-operative programme, with the University of Dakar, in the training of teachers of English and French.
- \$77,730 for the construction of houses to be used by Rockefeller Foundation staff.
- \$3,000 to enable the Registrar to study administrative practices and organization of universities mainly in the United States.
- \$5,700 to enable a faculty member to serve as Visiting Lecturer and Research Fellow at the University of Michigan, U. S. A. and to visit the Economic Growth Centre at Yale University as well as other centres of economic research in the United States, England and France, during the academic year 1963-64.
- \$20,000 for continuation of the work of the Department of Arabic and Islamic studies for the academic year 1963-64.
- \$24,309 for the construction of houses to be used by Rockefeller Foundation Staff.

Total

\$1,482,027

FROM THE FARFIELD FOUNDATION -

- \$3,000 to the University Press to be used for publications programme.

FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION -

- \$22,000 in support of research entitled "Equatorial Electrojets" by the Department of Physics.

FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES -

- \$1,200 to enable a faculty member to attend the 16th International Congress in Washington D.C., U. S. A.

FROM THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK -

\$112,000 for the further support of the Institute of Librarianship.
\$54,000 to the University for Liaison between the Institute of Education and Nigerian Teachers Colleges for a period of 4 years.

Total

\$166,000

FROM THE AFRICAN AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME -

\$500 as library gift to the University for books.
\$500 as library gift to be used for books.
\$100 for a library gift to be used for books on physics.
\$1,050 to enable a member of the Physics Department to work at Stanford University, U. S. A.

Total

\$2,150

FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES -

\$27,500 for the Department of Chemical Pathology to carry out a project in Nutrition Research during 1963.
\$125,000 for Nutritional Research in the Department of Chemical Pathology.

Total

\$152,000