

Former Colonies Closely Knit But Political Union Is Remote

Political union of former British colonies in East Africa is more remote now than before they gained independence. But there are a variety of explanations offered, as shown in this report by a Canadian Press reporter who interviewed leaders in the region.

By JOSEPH MACSWEEN
NAIROBI, Kenya (CP)—A big building in Nairobi's western suburbs is the core of a network of 23 "common services" that reach out to some 26,000,000 people in East Africa.

The network linking Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania is an eye-opener for visitors from more highly developed countries who learn that the European Common Market is a toddler in point of years compared with the

East African Common Services Organization.

"The European Common Market is not functioning as well as our common market," said Adoko Nekyon, Uganda's community planning minister in a Kampala interview. "The Europeans are only getting started—they're learning from us."

That may have been stretching things a bit but EACSO, indeed, has a broad sweep including everything from railways, airlines, customs, harbors, post offices, income tax and research to the war against leprosy and malaria.

Ironically, its very scope and success dramatize the failure of an even greater concept long held in the former British territories: political union, now widely regarded as a casualty of independence.

Tanzania's President Julius

Nyerere, the apostle of an East African federation, has warned for five years or more that the independence of the three countries would make a political tie-up more difficult, not easier as some other leaders maintained.

WOULD LOSE STATUS
"What happens to my 21-gun salute?" Nyerere once quipped, underlining the point that national leaders do not often take kindly to giving up status.

But Nyerere was not in a joking mood when, interviewed at Dar es Salaam, he noted there were some charges that he had torpedoed the federation.

"I have been accused of torpedoing the idea, but I'm being accused by a bunch of ignorant fools who really don't know what has been happening."

Tanzania had decided to establish its own currency, ending its common currency arrangements with Uganda and Kenya.

Nyerere was particularly incensed by a suggestion that the move was linked with the June visit of Chinese Premier Chou En-lai to Dar es Salaam.

"It's just as stupid as stupid can be," said the president. "We've been discussing this currency for four years."

Tanzania, a poor country, was doing a "logical" thing; it needed sole control over its currency because of its big development program.

Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta and Uganda's Milton Obote have also paid at least lip service to the ideal of federation but a swing through the three countries convinced me there are deep reservations.

Nyerere recalled that his country, the first to attain inde-

8 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Tues. Nov. 9, 1965.

pendence, offered to wait for the other two so that all would become independent to join in a federation. But the other leaders said that would mean Britain—the colonial power, would have a hand in the formation of the new political structure.

"I explained the reasons, the obvious reasons, why it was easier to federate then," said Nyerere. "I quoted as an example the United States, Canada, many federations in the world which were federations before independence—not afterwards."

Kenya came to uhuru (freedom) in December, 1963, the last of the three countries to do so. Kenyatta, Nyerere and Obote joined in a call for federation by the end of that year.

Later came a strange incident. Kenyatta was reported to have told a laughing African audience that the call was merely a trick to persuade Britain to speed Kenya's independence.

"We are now proceeding with out haste," Kenyatta was quoted as saying, although he subsequently denied the "trick" remark: it raised some eyebrows.

Kenyatta's warmth to the idea is questioned although it is generally believed he would be the first president of a federation, with Nyerere the likely No. 2 man. Some observers believe Kenyatta would not like to see his Kikuyu tribe, biggest in Kenya, "submerged" in a federation.

HIT KENYA GOODS
Even before Tanzania announced its currency decision, the limited East African common market was under severe strain and Kenya, the biggest exporter of the three, had started a major search for new markets.

Ministers ranged over Africa, the Middle East, Europe and parts of North America after Tanzania and Uganda slapped restrictions on Kenyan goods, feeling they were getting the short end of the stick from Nairobi.

Business sources say that Uganda, with its relatively solvent economy and unusual monarchical tradition, could have much to lose in federating with the other two debt-burdened and socialist-inclined countries.

But Nekyon did not mention those factors in a conversation with this reporter. He said the difficulty is "definition" and the question of distribution of powers between a central government and the units.

Nekyon conceded that some "frictions or misunderstandings" had arisen over attempts to establish an East African University. It had been understood that certain courses would be left to Kampala's Makerere University, the oldest in the territories, but then the younger colleges in Kenya and Tanzania also wanted to have such things as medical schools and law schools.

OPPOSED BY NKURUMAH
Behind all this, however, is the big issue of Pan-Africanism. Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah is known to be opposed to an East African Federation as hin-

as one of the most moderate of African nationalists.

The opposite side of the coin is that Nyerere last year brought Zanzibar into union with his country when the clove island appeared destined to become the Cuba of Africa.

A. H. Jamal, one of Nyerere's key ministers, said in an interview: "The idea of Tanzania going Red is, of course, rubbish. But even if it were true, could that explain the attitude of those who oppose federation? Should they not then be taking us into their embrace?"

FORD EXPANDS BANGKOK (AP)—The Ford Motor Company has approved plans for assembly of its cars in Bangkok. Thai officials announced Sunday. The first cars are expected to begin rolling out next year from a plant being constructed.

OTTAWA (CP)—Immigration to Canada in the first nine months of this year totalled 108,409, up from 94,666 in the same period a year ago, the citizenship and immigration department has announced.

Countries showing the greatest increases in immigration to Canada in the period were Britain 29,134 (22,721 in the first nine months of 1964); Italy 19,667 (14,192); Germany 7,106 (4,728); British Crown colony of Hong Kong 1,263 (1,591); United States 11,527 (9,446); India 1,663 (781).

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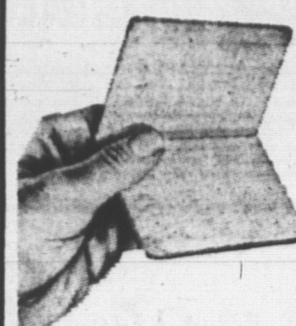
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BODIES RECOVERED

VAL GAGNE, Ont. (CP)—The bodies of two youths trapped in a car when it plunged into nearby Driftwood River Sunday were pulled from the water Monday by provincial police. The dead are Raymond Dizerre, 14, and Claude F. more, 16, both of this community 25 miles east of Timmins.

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