MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of the International Festival Committee and head of the inaugural Festival, it gives me much pleasure to present to you the first of our publication, “Festival News”.

The Festival in Nigeria is the second in this international communion of all black communities all over the world, and it is held in the city of Lagos, Nigeria. The Festival is a platform for cultural and artistic expressions, bringing together people from different parts of the world to enjoy and celebrate African culture.

Throughout the publication, you will find stories and articles that highlight the diversity and richness of African culture, and how it has influenced and shaped our world.

One of the main themes of this publication is the importance of promoting cultural exchange and understanding, and how festivals like this can bring people together to share their experiences and learn from one another.

As you read through “Festival News”, I hope that you will be inspired to engage in cultural activities in your own community, and to support the arts and culture in your area.

Thank you for being a part of this inaugural Festival, and I hope you enjoy reading “Festival News”.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

President of the International Festival Committee
The Zonal Headquarters

There are 18 principal Zones participating in the forthcoming 8th Annual Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. They are the following: the Caribbean Zone, North America, United Kingdom and Ireland, Australia, South Africa, South East Africa, Central Africa, South West Africa, Africa (Anglophone) West Africa, Francophone West Africa, Francophone North Africa, and Liberation Movements from the Caribbean. In addition to these zones, all the sub-regions of the Caribbean form part of the Caribbean Zone. The Festival Secretariat is located in Accra, Ghana.

Brazil sets up Panel

The Cultural Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Brazil has set up a four-man Commission of Experts to organise an Exhibition with the theme: "Mystique and Magic of Black Cultures in Brazil." The exhibition, which will include photographs, films, documentaries, books, and paintings, will be held at the Festival. The experts invited are Mr. Valterio Rapp (Anthropologist), Mr. Alceu Magalhães (Visual Arts), Mr. Gisela Magalhães (Architect) and Mr. Pierre Vargue (Ethnologist).

UK Government pledges support

The United Kingdom Government has pledged its support for the Zonal Festival Committee of the 2nd World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. Addressing about 300 guests of the UK. Government Committee of the festival, Lord Coronely-Roberts, Minister of State in the U.K. Foreign Office, said that the participation of the United Kingdom at the Festival will be rewarding experience. Lord Coronely-Roberts was one of the many important personalities who attended the opening ceremony of the three-week Zonal Festival at the Commonwealth Institute, London in the second half of last year. Mr. Earl Cameron, Chairman of the United Kingdom Zonal Committee of the festival explained the objectives of his committee at the gala reception. He said that the zonal festival was arranged to give the committee an opportunity to meet the various countries interested in the Festival at the World Festival in Lagos. Apart from this, he added, the Zonal Festival was designed to bring the Black Artistic Community under one roof. Already, the Zone has announced posters throughout the underground stations, buses and other important locations in London and other parts of the country. All these are in addition to the newspaper and radio announcements put out about the Festival at regular intervals.

Local gin for sale at Festival

The East African (Community) Zonal participants, will come to the Lagos Festival with gin for sale at their exhibitions. They are part of their report to the 5th Meeting of the International Festival Committee held in London.

Chunga on the Alert

Most month the Liberian National Festival of Arts and Crafts will be held and final selections for the Lagos Festival will be made. The National Commission responsible for co-ordinating the activities of Liberian participants has been hard at work throughout the country.

The West Africa (Anglophone) Zone has also recommended Professor D. N. Opoku of the University of Ghana, Legon, to represent the Zone on the Cultural Council.
The Patrons

Gowon

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He had an outstanding service at the Congo where he served with the United Nations troops from November 1960 - June 1961. General Gowon became Nigeria’s Head of State in August 1966. This was at a time when the country faced a crisis of major proportions. He rectified the great imbalance in the structure of Nigeria by the creation of twelve states in 1967, saw the country through her critical period of civil war and put into effect a constructive programme of rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Married with children, General Gowon is a keen sportsman. In spite of his heavy state responsibilities he still finds time for lawn tennis and squash.

Senghor

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Not only he also served as Minister-Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, Education and Justice in the French Government. In 1960, he was elected first President of the Republic of Senegal after the split of the Mali Federation. He has been re-elected into office ever since.

Apart from being a world-renowned poet, Dr. Senghor is an eminent representative of "Art Noire". He is also well known as the greatest protagonist of Negritude, a philosophy which influenced the emancipation of the Movement for the promotion of the world festival, first of the Negro Art and now of the World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

Dr. Senghor has been described and rightly so, as the moving spirit behind these festivals.

Festival Patron, President Senghor of Senegal (first left) meets International Secretariat delegation to Dakar International Trade Fair at FESTAC Stand. From right, Abidjan Segouga (Publicity Officer), Olu Adebanjo and Oscar Ly (Heads of Publicity and Cultural Divisions), Dr. Alouine Diop (Secretary-General) and Frank Pilgrim (International Co-ordinator).

Stands mounted in London, Dakar, Plovdiv

FESTAC ’75 AT WORLD FAIRS

THE International Secretaries on behalf of the International Festival Committee of 2nd World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture participated in a number of Trade Fairs and Book Exhibitions in some European and African countries with the sole objective of propagating the forth-coming Festival.

The venues were Plovdiv in Bulgaria, Zagreb in Yugoslavia, Frankfurt, West Germany, Dakar in Senegal and London in the U.K.

At the Frankfurt International Trade Fair, visitors from all parts of Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America mixed with German leaders of thought in Government and business to obtain information from the FESTAC Stand about the forthcoming Festival.

At the Frankfurt International Books Exhibition held in Frankfurt on the Main, West Germany in October 1974, the President of West Germany Mr. Walter Scheel, accompanied by his officials and aides visited the FESTAC Stand where they were presented information materials on the Festival. The President showed keen interest, not only in the nicely decorated stand but in the Festival itself.

In Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the Prime Minister accompanied by some of his Ministers and aides visited the FESTAC Stand and there, information materials were made available to them. The same was true in Zagreb where the Head of State General Tito and his aides were also physically present to learn about the Great Festival, its aims and objectives.

In the United Kingdom, the International Festival Committee in conjunction with the United Kingdom and Ireland Festival Committee mounted a publicity campaign in London to draw attention to the Festival.

This was at a conspicuous Holiday Exhibition held at the Olympia London from where information was relayed to all visitors. A number of guests including Ambassadors and High Commissioners of several participating countries, called at the stand to obtain literature and information materials.

At the Dakar International Trade Fair, FESTAC also mounted a stand and among the distinguished guests who visited the stand was His Excellency Sedar Leopold Sanghor, President of Senegal and Patron of the Festival. During the Fair, thousands of information materials were distributed to visitors who showed keen interest in the festival.

Traditional Regatta

All the participants for the traditional Regatta will be accommodated at a Regatta Village to be established during the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture in Lagos.

A report by the Regatta Committee disclosed that eight Nigerian State Commissioners for Culture and eight traditional rulers have been charged with the responsibility of handling the Regatta.

The Regatta will feature racing and ceremonial display.

Picture above left: Receptionist at FESTAC Stand at the London Display Festival posters to a visitor. Above the President of West Germany, Mr. Walter Scheel (second from right) goes through FESTAC information given by Mr. Smart Ebi, Information Officer at FESTAC Stand during the Frankfurt International Books Exhibition.
Cultural Council stresses quality

The high quality and technical preparation of the events of the forthcoming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture has been stressed upon.

The first meeting of the Cultural Council of the Festival which took place at the University of Ibadan early in the year recommended to the International Committee measures bearing on the Cultural Programme. It especially recommended on the organisation of and preparation for the Colloquium Exhibitions and other events.

Emphasis was laid on the need to widen the knowledge of our cultural patrimony and to extract from it some experience for the education of the youth and the training of the “New Man in the Black World”.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. A. G. Diop, Secretary-General of the International Festival Committee. He was assisted by Father Mogob, Supervisor of the Colloquium and Professor Babalola, the Nigerian officer for the event.

Other participants in the meeting included Mr. E. B. Motugi from Southern African, Mr. Oyebi Tambari from West Africa (Francophone) Zone I; Dr. I. K. Koko of the East Africa (Community); Mr. Cissy Vianda-Kpoto Yusuf from Central Africa Zone; Mr. Rene Pipilon of the Caribbean; Mr. Kenneth Timothy representing the U.K. and Ireland and Mr. Jacques Rabenandresy of Europe Zone.

IN SESSION

The Fifth Meeting of the International was opened and addressed by the State, of Nigeria Brigadier Abubacire Committee President, Chief Anthony Enechyou for Special Duties.

Representatives of participating groups were invited to make their reports.

The meeting, after reviewing progress, was satisfied that every case was being handled properly.

The President, Chief Anthony Enchanya gave progress report on internal arrangements covering the National Theatre, Venues of Festival events, Accommodation for participants, guests and visitors, hostess training, durbar events in Kaduna and Regatta events in Lagos.

The Committee adopted a number of progress reports, documents on programmes and approved various measures for fund raising to defray cost of the Festival expenses.

Members of the Committee paid a 2-day visit to Kaduna during which they watched the grand finale of the Kaduna State Festival of Traditional Dances. They also paid a courtesy call on the Military Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Audu Bala, Commissioner of Police, and were guests at a Reception and Buffet Dinner hosted by the Government of Kaduna.
IFC GOES TO NORTHERN NIGERIA

Mr. Aïloun Sène invites Mr. Jumoke Debayo, Treasurer, Festival Committee, to the floor for a dance at a reception for the IFC in Kano, the Durbar Hosted by Alhaji Umaru Dicko.

Mr. Aïloun Sène, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Senegal and Festival Vice-President (centre) receives a gift from the late Emir of Zaria, during a courtesy call on the Emir by members of the IFC.

AT KADUNA

The Festival Committee held in Kaduna’s Military Governor of North Central State, presided over by the Commissioner for Information, North Central State.

A courtesy call on the Emir of Kano and were entertained to Cultural Reception at the Palace.

In Kaduna, members of the Committee paid courtesy call on the Military Governor of the North Central State, Brigadier Abba Kyari, and were guests of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Governor and a reception by the State Government.

The Members then paid a courtesy call on the late Emir of Zaria, Alhaji Muhammadu Aminu, who entertained the Committee to traditional dances.

There was also a reception in honour of the Committee by the Supervisor of Durbar Event, Alhaji Umaru Dicko, Commissioner for Information, North Central State.

Members of the International Festival Committee photographed with the late Emir of Zaria, Alhaji Muhammadu Aminu (first from right front row) outside the Emir’s palace in Zaria.
Nigeria's new national theatre will be the centre of activities during the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. The ultra-modern 40 million dollar National Theatre stands like a jewel-like colossus over what was once the ill-paved road. It is the largest and most beautiful of its kind on the African Continent.

The Bulgarian Project Manager, Mr. Pancho Kadyov, told the "Festival News" that his men were putting finishing touches to the building and would complete the furnishing of the theatre on target. The 31 metres high National Theatre, patterned after the Palace of Culture and Sports in Varna, Bulgaria, covers some 25,000 sq. metres of ground.

A team of Bulgarian architects and engineers, with the aid of local manpower, is in charge of its construction. The round structure, set between a major network of recently built highways, adds another touch of majestic elegance to Nigeria's booming capital of over one million inhabitants.

The theatre complex comprises a Theatre Hall with seating capacity for slightly over 5,000 persons; a Conference Hall (1,000 seats); and two large Exhibition Halls and two Cinema Halls (800 seats each).

The futuristic, centrally air-conditioned structure will accommodate interpreters' booths (equipped for simultaneous translation into six major languages); a closed circuit TV system; radio, TV and jumpropa; booths; VIP rooms and garage; 80 offices; projection booths; four snack bars, a buffet... A modern multi-storey block will be equipped to service 2,000 persons at a time.

The theatre hall, with its modern system of stage and spotlights, is designed for instant conversion into a venue for film shows, meetings, variety concerts and indoor sports competitions (basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.).

The 1,000-seat Conference Hall will also be multi-purpose and serve as well as the social hall for cocktail parties and banquets.

The two Cinema Halls will provide a quiet, intimate setting for conferences as well as for the enjoyment of chamber music. The movable, rotatable stage (33 x 14 metres) is formed by a rotunda floor above ground level and further extended by an orchestra sant. Six large dressing rooms are designed to accommodate 100 persons each. In addition, there are two "Star Dressing Rooms." All are equipped with the latest in theatre and power supplies and acoustics. The Theatre is equipped with its own high-powered generator, last in case of power failure.

SEVEN THEMES FOR COLLOQUIUM

The Colloquium on "Black Civilization and Education," which will precede the second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, will focus attention on seven themes. It will last 11 days. Each of the seven themes will be handled by a committee which will produce conclusions and proposals expected to improve the understanding of the world on the Black race.

Workers fixing the seats inside the National Theatre.

MINISTERS MEET

The programme of the Colloquium will spell out specific areas around which participants will focus their discussions. On Black Civilization, five themes are being suggested for study. These are language, spiritual concience and the Black man's spiritual heritage, his historical awareness; scientific and technical experience; knowledge of history and of his traditional political and socio-economic institutions, bearing in mind the modern problems of the world and the need for action.

The meeting is expected to examine the report of the Colloquium expected to complete its eleven-day session on November 21. It is hoped that the Universities in the Black World will make invaluabl contributions to the Colloquium in all its aspects. The official languages for the Colloquium will be English, French and German.

The Colloquium will be held in the British Museum. The facade of the museum is made of 10 styles of black, grey and white. The columns on the facade were originally fitted with iron strips, which are now the dominant feature of the sculpture of the king's parapet.

The flag of the Festival is a bicolour flag of three equal perpendicular rectangles. The two outside rectangles are in black and the central rectangle is in gold. Over the gold is superimposed centrally the Festival Emblem.

Festival Emblem and Flag

The emblem is the work of Sir Ralph Moor. Today the mask is resting at the British Museum. The bas-relief design at the crest of the mask is of a black King who wears a crown and is embroidered with the King's coat of arms.

The flag is the work of the artist who carved the royal seal of the king's parapet.
The International Festival Committee

THE governing body for the 1975 Festival is the International Festival Committee.

This Committee technically includes the two Patrons of the Festival—His Excellency, Dr. Leopold Sedar Senghor, President of SENEGAL and His Excellency, General Yakubu Gowon, Head of State of NIGERIA.

Their Excellencies do not participate in the meetings of the Committee but full reports are forwarded to them by the President of the Committee, Chief Anthony Enahoro, Nigeria's Federal Commissioner for Special Duties.

The full Working Committee is as follows:

- Chief Anthony Enahoro, Federal Commissioner for Special Duties, Nigeria—President.
- VICE-PRESIDENT
  - South America: Dr. G. Akpogu (Professor) Brazil
  - Caribbean: Miss Shirley Field-Ridley (MP), Minister of Information, Culture and Youth, Guyana
  - United Kingdom & Ireland: Mr. Earl Cameron, Actor and Producer, United Kingdom
  - Europe: Mr. L. Boisset-Pelun, Barrister & Jurist—Paris
  - Australasia: Mr. Moses Basikala, Minister of Recreation and Culture, Papua, New Guinea
  - Southern Africa: Mr. A.K. Simutchina, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education, Zambia
  - Eastern Africa: Minister of Information—Ethiopia
  - West Africa (Community States):
    - Central Africa: Dr. Bikônga Ekanga (Botombele, State Commissioner for Culture and Arts, Zaire)
    - Central Africa: Minister of Culture, Republic of the Camerouns
    - West Africa (Analphonic): Dr. Edward Kassały, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Liberia
    - West Africa (Francophone): Mr. Aloune Sena, Minister of Cultural Affairs—Senegal
    - West Africa (Francophone): Mr. Jules He Na, Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs, Ivory Coast
    - North Africa: Mr. Yusuf El Shidai, Minister of Culture—Arab Republic of Egypt
  - Liberation Movements: Mr. Josee Monterio of FRELIMO
  - Secretary-General: Dr. Aloune Diop of Senegal

Enthusiasm still high in America

Mrs. Rosalie Carter, Liaison officer at the International Secretariat of the Festival, who has just completed one month tour of the North American Zone, found great activities and enthusiasm among the Festival everywhere she went in the United States and Canada.


In Canada, Mrs. Carter reported that the Government had provided funds for the Canadian National Black Coalition to handle the prenotations in the country for the world Festival.

She discovered also that the University in the United States showed keen interest in the Colloquium.

Work has already started in the country in putting together exhibits for the Lagos Festival.

Among exhibits that will be presented from the United States are:

(a) One on "Black Contributions to Science, Technology and Invention"
(b) There will also be a booth on making cheaper replicas of sculpture that could develop into a new industry for Nigeria.
(c) A planetarium has already been assembled with final stages about to begin. This will later be a permanent fixture at one of Nigeria's Universities.

Mrs. Carter predicted a record turn out from the United States and Canada especially among those who are looking forward to seeing Nige
FLATS TO BE READY
AT THE FESTIVAL VILLAGE

A large number of flats of different types are expected to be completed at the Festival Village by Mid-November, 1975. Seventy of these flats will each have four bedrooms, a guest room, sitting and dining rooms as well as other modern amenities.

The Village, being put up by the Federal Government of Nigeria to provide the main accommodation for participants and visitors to the World Black and African Festival, Five hundred and seventy-five of the flats will have three bedrooms sitting/dining rooms and the rest of the flats will have either two or three bedrooms sitting/dining rooms and modern amenities. In all, about 10,941 flats will have either four, three or two bedrooms and other facilities, but all will have sitting/dining rooms.

More than 20 contractors handling different assignments at the village are confident they would complete their jobs in time for the festival. Mr. Ennio Antonio, an Italian Bille Manager of the Novaco Building Ltd., said, "One of the important points to consider was that with 517 workers at his command he was sure of completing his tasks by August 15, 1975."

The Vice Manager of Decorin Nigeria Limited, another building firm, Ltd., S. G. FESTAC NEWS that he had eighteen buildings of 350 flats to build and with 1,650 workers there was no problem.

Mr. Pierre Fortunier of the C.J.F. (Les Constructions de L’ile de France) said his company would have no difficulties in completing its tasks in time for the festival.

Mr. Sula, a spokesman for Merry Building told FESTAC NEWS, "Our assignment is small but nine buildings and with 250 workers we have no reason why we should not complete our work in five months that is around July 1975."

Separate contracts have been awarded for other facilities in the Francophone Zones.

Consequent upon the decision of the International Festival Committee, West Africa Francophone Zone has been divided into two, West Africa (Francophone) I Zone and West Africa (Francophone) II Zone. West Africa (Francophone) Zone comprises Senegal (co-ordinating country), Mali, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania. West Africa (Francophone) II Zone comprises Ivory Coast (co-ordinating country), Niger, Togo, Dahomey and Upper Volta.

Flats to be ready at the Festival Village.

Some of the houses at the Festival Village nearing completion.

President at Vichy

The President of the International Festival Committee and Nigeria’s Federal Commissioner for Special Duties, Chief Anthony Enahoro, accompanied by the Secretary-General, Dr. Alionjo Dop, and other senior officials of the International Secretariat, paid a visit to France mid-April.

In Vichy, the President and his entourage met with H.E. General Gowan, Undergraduate studies visiting France. Further report will be published in next issue of “Festac News.”

Ingredients of Unity

By Gowan

GENERAL Yakubu Gowan, Head of State of the host Country, has described Nigeria’s national Festival of Arts, as a unique event which has brought about the ingredients that form the base of Nigeria’s identity as a Nation. Speaking at the grand finale of the Festival in Lagos, General Gowan, who is also Patron of FESTAC, added: “It is the firm belief of my Government that those common ingredients can and should be exploited for the purpose of forging National Unity.”

General Gowan also mentioned that the funds being expended on the promotion of art and culture were worthwhile because apart from knowing one another better as Nigerians, exercises such as this will also enable foreigners to have a fuller understanding which is the greatest instrument of peace in a world beleaguered by tension and conflicts.

Some interesting questions have often been asked concerning our goal on methods of approach in our efforts to revive and promote our ancient art forms. Some people have wondered whether the aim is to abandon all modern amenities and conventions and return to pre-historic times, while others doubt whether a new religion which would replace the existing one is in the offing. I wish to seize this opportunity to say that without any equivocation that these questions do not arise. Cultural reassessment is not synonymous with cultural bigotry. While admitting and even embracing what is good in other cultures, it is the belief of the Federal Military Government that the Black man also has much to offer the world. We believe that the world would be a richer and a more enlightened place to live in if it recognized the debt it owes Africa and the Black race in general.

As has been said quite often, the Festival we are about to bring to a close has been organised as a real run for the 1975 Second World Black and African Festival, judging by the standard of performance at this festival. I am confident that Nigeria’s prospects at the world festival are good. I wish therefore to appeal to all patriotic Nigerians to give our national teams the support they richly deserve.

H.E. General Yakubu Gowan
Head of States of Nigeria and Patron of the Festival.