

Africa

Miss Rockefeller is quick to point out, however, that tribal authorities do not "own" the land in any absolute way. "It is their heritage," she explains, "and belongs to future generations of the tribe as well as to the present. This is why revolts and rebellions mark the colonial era during which white settlers 'bought' land in perpetuity from African chiefs.

"When Africans began to understand that the white settlers intended to keep the land despite the Africans' increasing need for it, they realized they had unwittingly betrayed a religious trust."

It is interesting to note that Christianity made little headway in areas where land shortages grew severe, for white missionaries defended white settlers' monopolies of good land. During the "Emergency" or Mau Mau in Kenya, tribal religious practices, closely connected with the use of the land, and rites of passage were revived to promote solidarity against the encroaching settlers.

"African systems of land tenure are remarkably in the spirit of George," Miss Rockefeller points out, "in contrast to the Western laws and ethics brought by the colonists.

"Each individual's right in land is guaranteed by tribal authorities as long as the individual uses it. He may inherit the land from a relative or, as in the case of younger sons, daughters, and newcomers to the area, it may be allocated to him by the chiefs or elders."

In pre-colonial Africa, Miss Rockefeller says, no one could claim ownership to a parcel of land he did not use, if another person wished to use it. This was the case no matter how strong or clear his inheritance rights were.

Although in many parts of Africa the current trend is toward permanent ownership in the Western tradition, and lands are being surveyed and registered, most land disputes are still settled according to tribal law. The individual who can prove that he is using the land, by having planted tree crops or made other improvements, has the better claim. In more remote tribes, even today, the system of taxation is closely related to land ownership and use. Each individual must devote a specified number of days per year or give a certain amount of produce to support public administration and services, such as road construction and well digging.

This tribute is levied according to the wealth of the individual, which is a factor of how much land he has and its quality. If inequitable distribution was not prevented by taxation, the land was reallocated every ten to fifteen years.

Although many of these pre-colonial land practices prevail, the African land situation is growing to resemble that of the West. Urban land speculators are holding land until cities expand and

demand for it rises. Land registration for private ownership increasingly encroaches on the tribe's ability to maintain equitable land distribution.

"But Africa changes slowly," Miss Rockefeller says "and Africans may discover the method of land ownership, proposed by Henry George. Site value taxation would surely appeal to Africans, because it is so consistent with their traditional ethics."

Uganda Economy to Embrace All

The following is extracted from the May Day speech of Uganda General Idi Amin Dada.

The people of Uganda and indeed the whole world have been waiting for an authoritative pronouncement on the economic policy and objectives of the Government of the Second Republic. The full unfolding of these policies and plans will necessarily have to await the publication of the Third Five-Year Development Plan which will be completed by June this year. Of immediate interest, however, is the question of government participation in the economy of the country and the extent to which the Second Republic intends to implement, vary, or reverse the May Day Pronouncements made by the last Government on the 60-40 formula.

The question as to whether my Government will go Communist, Socialist, or Capitalist is of academic importance only. I am one of those who believe that pure Capitalism like pure Communism or Socialism is neither desirable nor practicable. The balance of advantage clearly lies in choosing the best elements from each of these economic systems and adapting them to the special requirements of Uganda. In other words, we believe that the private sector has an important and vital part to play in the economic development of Uganda. We also believe that the direction and impetus in the entire economic development of the country must be provided by the Government. This will be achieved by active participation where this is deemed necessary, by means of a well coordinated plan, and by a national strategy in which every person, every group, union, or organization will have a part to play.

My Government firmly believes that economic development and improvement of social welfare are generally easier to obtain by expanding the productive base of the economy and by providing additional services. A change of ownership of existing facilities and services does not necessarily bring about the desired results. It follows, therefore, that the limited resources available to Gov-

ernment should be used to promote economic development and to build health centers, schools, factories and help the farmers.

Private savings and investment are of vital importance in attaining the highest possible rate of growth for the economy. But even if it were considered desirable to do away with private enterprise, the fact is that the government does not presently have the financial and manpower resources to replace private activity. Even the Government of the First Republic expected that about 40% of investment during the Second Five-Year Plan would be made by the private sector.

I wish to make it abundantly clear that my government's policy is to see to it that Ugandas participate fully in the industrial and commercial activities of the nation. To this end all companies will be required to submit a program of Ugandanisation. Further, it is the view of my Government that all companies of reasonable size and profitability should convert themselves into public companies and thus give an opportunity to Ugandans to participate as shareholders.

We have taken a major step to restore the country's economic health. Private businessmen are now free to move forward with confidence, and to invest in the future of the nation. Furthermore, my Government is confident that the private sector will respond by taking steps to Ugandanise more rapidly, to train the workers to produce more efficiently, and to offer their shares to the public. Together with the active and dedicated support of those whom we honor today, the workers of Uganda, we shall march forward to brighter future for all.

Conference Seeks Cures to World Ills

The war, poverty, pollution, and apparently all things tending to make the future instant apoplexy will be the targets of "Adequate Action," a conference sponsored by the Heathcote School of Living and twelve other organizations, September 3-6 at Gettysburg, Pa.

The purpose of the Labor Day meeting is "to make apparent to many people that there are positive ways of working for the future, that there is no need or excuse for sitting back, giving up hope, and letting the rest of the world go by or take over." She links the difficulties confronting civilization with the policy of permitting land holders to collect rent, particularly to reap speculative gains while holding land out of use.

Details about the conference can be obtained from: School of Living/ Heathcote Road/ Route 1/ Box 129/ Freeland, Md.