

NATIONS CHEER AFRICA'S GHANA: Courier Sees Birth of Ghana

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Courier Sees Birth of Ghana

By ALEX M. RIVERA

(Courier Correspondent with Vice President Nixon)

ACCRA, Ghana—At midnight, March 6, a giant was born.

It was the birth of a new nation—Ghana—formerly known as the Gold Coast, a British West African colony.

For weeks people from all parts of the world have come here to be present at the birth of this new child into the family of free nations.

Precisely at the stroke of 12 midnight, the Union Jack was lowered and the red, green and gold flag of Ghana was raised.

Tens of thousands of people assembled at the Polo Grounds to witness the historic rites marking the forward progress of this African colony which boasts that it has never been enslaved.

This tremendous crowd of people erupted into a singing, dancing

and swirling mass of cheering humanity. It was like a New Year's celebration in Times Square, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Elys' convention in Atlantic City, all rolled into one—shouting and swaying to the beat of African drums. It was a colorful and long-to-be remembered sight. After 113 years of British rule, Ghana has won her freedom!

THE ARCHITECT of this new freedom is Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister and hero of freedom-loving Africans everywhere.

It was the finest hour and Ghanians let him know it. Dr. Nkrumah was carried out of the assembly and passed through the teeming throng on its shoulders to the speakers' stand.

"At long last, the battle has ended and thus Ghana, our beloved country, is free forever,"

Dr. Nkrumah told the Legislative Assembly.

He said, also, "When the day dawns, we shall have left behind the chains of imperialism and colonialism which have heretofore bound us to Britain."

Dr. Nkrumah never misses an opportunity to impress on all who will listen that their association with the commonwealth is based on absolute equality and friendship.

Earlier in the day the Prime Minister stated in a radio broadcast that human rights were still a long way off in Africa and other parts of the world.

"We yet have a long way to go," he continued, "in Africa and in other parts of the world toward the recognition of human rights, but let us go forward rejoicing in hope."

In a half-hour interview with Theodore W. Kheel, president of

the National Urban League, and Lester Granger, executive secretary of the same organization, just six hours before independence was proclaimed, Dr. Nkrumah intimated that he would like to come to the United States soon.

HE SAID further that he would probably come to this country on the date that Ghana is admitted to the United Nations.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, undersecretary-general of the United Nations and a representative of Dag Hammarskjöld, secretary-general of the United Nations, told reporters at the convocation exercises of the University College that Ghana will become the 81st member of the world organization.

Dr. Bunche told the Courier that over 600 million colonials

have achieved their freedom since World War II.

Following the celebration here there will be numerous others throughout this little, rich country, which is about the size of Illinois and Indiana combined.

Bands are practicing the new national anthem, "Arise, Ghana," which was written by Hector Hughes, a labor member of Parliament. The four-verse anthem is set to the tune of Edward Carpenter's "England, Arise."

As Ghana arises, it is felt that the clamor for freedom in other parts of Africa will begin to encourage dominated peoples to seek their freedom.

Dr. Nkrumah said the success or failure of efforts to make Ghana into a prosperous and happy state will extend far beyond the frontiers of Ghana itself.