NOTES FOR PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

AFTER LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT LIMANN:

13 MAY 1981

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Bicc. Full film Rick film In Ruk fig. 16.82/1). I should like to extend a most warm welcome to Your

Excellency, to your Ministerial colleagues, and
to the other members of your Party.

We are all delighted to see you here on an
official visit to Britain.

But with pleasure goes sadness.

We were sorry to hear of the recent death
of Alhaji Imoru Egala.

His loss as founder of your Party must be
deeply felt; please accept our sympathy.

Your Excellency, you will hear much this week that
reaffirms the longstanding and very friendly
ties between Ghana and Britain, based on our
Commonwealth connection and common traditions
of language, education and free speech.
We are honoured that you should make London
your first port of call outside Africa since
you assumed office.
But we would have been sad had you not done so!

You have come at a particularly important time in Ghana's history.

We have admired your success in guiding Ghana's rehabilitation as a political democracy.

We know of your determination to prove equally successful in restoring the economy to the soundest of footings.

Ghana's return to democratic, constitutional Government is something that has given much. pleasure and satisfaction to the many in this country who believe in parliamentary democracy and freedom of speech as the best framework for personal liberty.

I referred to your resolve to restore Ghana's economy.

We both understand how difficult it is to secure a wholehearted response from all sections of a community to the firm measures needed to bring an economy back on course.

Not all such decisions can be popular.

I detect a strong element of fellow feeling between us on this!

For our part, we shall continue to offer you what practical help we can.

We recently signed a further £10 million programme loan; we are willing to extend further export credit cover; our bilateral training programme runs at about £2 million per year; and we also contribute substantially to development programmes through multilateral agencies including the European Development Fund.

Personal contacts between our countries show no signs of flagging: how could they, when we here know Ghanaians to be such a friendly and exuberant people?

At ministerial level, we have recently exchanged visits at a healthy pace.

I had the pleasure of receiving your

Vice-President here a year ago; and I much
look forward to seeing Your Excellency again
soon at Melbourne.

We have just had a valuable tour d'horizon and I am glad that your Ministers will be able to follow this up by further talks with their British counterparts.

You will, I hope, have some chance to hear yourself the views of our bankers, industrialists and traders on how best they can use their great experience to help in the reconstruction of your economy.

But I should be disappointed if economic matters were the only topic of discussion during your visit!

We share many common convictions and face similar threats, not least over foreign policy.

The independence of Zimbabwe last year was a major development in Africa, and one which came about as a result of joint effort and cooperation within the Commonwealth.

We must continue to discuss the problems which remain of concern to us in Africa and elsewhere.

Over Namibia, we seek a peaceful and internationally-recognised settlement; and in South Africa we look forward to the creation of a free and just society.

You share these goals too.

It is important that, by dialogue, we move together to help achieve them.

There may of course be occasional minor bilateral issues on which we do not share an identical view.

But I see none which cannot be speedily resolved or on which we cannot amicably agree to differ.

Your Excellency, your visit this week gives me the chance to express our faith in the determination and capacity of you, your government and people to construct a lasting political democracy in Ghana and to create a resurgent economy.

You have our fullest support and our best wishes.

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