FEATURES

Commentary

Since the large influx of foreign students into the United States over the past decade, there have been numerous reports and surveys published in as many periodicals and monographs on “Brain Drain,” cross-cultural exchange, and foreign student and host-country reaction. Scant attention has been given to compiling and reviewing these materials in some detail with regard to analyzing the extent of American education’s impact on Third World nations, with particular reference to Africa. Dr. Ralston offers an informed introduction to this theme in “African and Other Foreign Students in the United States: A Bibliographical Essay,” by focusing on a “neglected variant,” the histories of foreign students in both host and donor countries. This essay is intended to serve as a base for a comprehensive bibliographical guide on African students in the United States to be published in the African Bibliographic Center’s Special Bibliographic Series, next year.

The Features section in this issue also contains a particularly useful and fairly comprehensive review of the literature relevant to the urban development of Kisumu, Kenya, by Robert A. Obudho, which, by the way, serves as an illustration of the research activities conducted by African students and instructors in this country. Urban and rural studies will be one of the central themes of African geographical research during the “Second Development Decade” and guides on specific areas such as this will be of pertinent value.

Events and trends in Southern Africa have been the topic of growing interest and articulate opinions over the last two years in the United States, with particular reference to the “grass roots” development of an informed constituency for Africa, mainly led by African-Americans. The Bibliographical Section of this journal has been expanding in covering the increased output of literature on Southern Africa in this country and abroad by such diverse groups as the Washington Task Force on African Affairs and the Africa Research Group on one hand and materials by the South African Foundation on the other hand. In addition, there has been an increase in published materials by African national liberation movements and older established groups such as the American Committee on Africa. Concern over the strategic significance of South Africa in withstanding “Communist Bloc Expansion” in the Indian Ocean region has been debated with increasing fervor during the past year and is expected to continue well into next year. This topic, frequently discussed in litera-
ture from South Africa and materials published by conservative organizations in the United States, such as the American-African Affairs Association and the Liberty Lobby over the past decade, has now centered on the editorial pages of numerous major newspapers, scholarly and popular literature, and conferences such as the seminar on the Indian Ocean held at the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., in March 1971. References to the papers published at the Georgetown seminar can be found in back issues of *A Current Bibliography on African Affairs*, within this volume. Additional resources on developments in Southern Africa are now being published in the Center's *Current Reading List Series* (see entry no. 2051). Gary Gappert’s paper published in this issue entitled: “The Emerging Political Economy of the Indian Ocean and United States Policy Toward Africa,” was prepared for U.S. Congressional hearings on “The Political and Strategic Future of the Indian Ocean Area,” held by the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on National Security Policy and Scientific Developments on July 27, 1971. The presentation of factual data by Mr. Gappert raises some crucial questions as to the conduct of South African-United States relations during the seventies. *The Congressional Record*, when published, will contain a chart on Japan’s trade with South Africa. However, this issue of *A Current Bibliography on African Affairs* includes two charts. The first deals with United States trade with selected African countries. The second focuses on Japanese trade with a number of African states, including South Africa. These charts are intended to assist the reader in developing an overall view of the total economic picture involved in the Indian Ocean question and to aid additional research on foreign economic matters in other parts of Africa, which are also beginning to be frequently cited as targets of “Communist Bloc” penetration.

The Book Review Section of this issue has been expanded to discuss in depth the prolific writings on the history of the African slave trade in the New World and an evaluation of American historiography on this topic. Dr. Rafael L. Cortada begins this section with an articulate, scholarly, and controversial assessment of recent works on slavery in the Americas based on views held by slaves. This review article is followed by additional works on the history of African peoples in the Americas, books on the history of Sierra Leone and Liberia, a number of recent works in the field of African literature, two studies on North Africa and the Arab world, Black leaders throughout the world, African music, and the history of the Caribbean.

Increased coverage in the Bibliographical Section focuses on *African Heritage Studies*, in response to the demands from the African continent for more projection of studies and materials relevant to the African diaspora; *Military Affairs & Assistance*, which reflects the increased interest on this topic for its pertinent relevance to political matters; *East Africa; Southern Africa* for reasons discussed earlier on these pages; and *West Africa*, with Ghana and Nigeria apparently receiving the most attention by Africanists over the past year.