

UGANDA

The members of the study mission conferred with Prime Minister Obote concerning Uganda's problems.

The Prime Minister spoke of U.S. involvement in the Congo during the 1965 rebellion, saying his country was particularly concerned about the use of mercenaries. It was suspected, he said, that after accomplishing their objectives in the Congo, the mercenaries would then move into surrounding states, including Uganda, to attempt to create a buffer between southern Africa and the rest of Black Africa.

In explanation of the involvement of Ministers of Government in the demonstrations against the United States during the Congo crisis, the Prime Minister said this did not indicate any lessening of Uganda's general admiration for the United States since the Ministers took their action as members of their respective political parties and not as representatives of the Government. However, the members of the study mission pointed out the considerable difficulty of separating such private acts of public officials from official action.

The study mission also met with the Minister of State. The Minister praised the work of the Peace Corps but was of the opinion that the 2-year tour in his country was too short.

In speaking of the East African Federation, he said also that since each country has its own 5-year plan for development, the formation of a federation should be brought about gradually.

Visits were made to the National Assembly where discussions were had with the Speaker and other parliamentarians.

The members of the study mission also visited AID projects in Entebbe and met with some of the U.S. missionaries in the country.

ECONOMY—COTTON AND COFFEE

Uganda, primarily an agricultural country, is overdependent on cotton and coffee. The Ugandans fear that the expansion of cotton sales under Public Law 480, title I, could seriously affect the nation's economy by a loss in cotton sales in existing world markets. Uganda is dependent on the sale of cotton for her foreign reserves.

Uganda is the greatest single producer of coffee in the British Commonwealth. Their greatest customer for coffee is the United States. However, because of worldwide overproduction, including that of other African nations, Uganda is finding it more difficult to dispose of its crop. The International Coffee Organization, of which Uganda is a member, is attempting to aid the African countries in changing to other agricultural products. Uganda is also concentrating its efforts in agricultural diversification and AID is helping in development of marketing systems for meat, dairy products, and hides and skins. Uganda has the richest soil in east Africa for growing crops which are not in surplus in the world markets.