

The primary objectives of the Ethiopian Government might be said to include (1) the continuous improvement of the governmental structure and internal administration; (2) the improvement of economic and social conditions within the country; (3) the adherence to the policies of nonalignment and the right to judge each issue on its merits; (4) support of the United Nations and the principle of collective security; and (5) progress toward African unity.

ECONOMY

Ethiopia's economy is preponderantly agricultural, with some 90 percent of the population engaged in farming or the raising of livestock. The country is largely self-sufficient in agricultural produce, except for cotton, although cotton cultivation is increasing rapidly. Roughly a third of all imports are cotton goods largely from India, Italy, and Japan.

Coffee is Ethiopia's major product, constituting over 50 percent in value of exports. Many of the coffee trees grow wild, although plantation coffee is becoming increasingly important. Most of the coffee is exported to the United States. Ethiopia is a member of the International Coffee Organization.

Cattle and good grazing lands are plentiful, and, next to coffee, cattle raising probably has the greatest economic potential for the future. Hides, skins, and meats are at present exported only in modest quantities, but with proper management this trade could become highly important. Oilseeds and oilcakes are now Ethiopia's second ranking export commodity. Pulses, spices, quat (a stimulant used by some Arab people), and civet (used in perfume), also figure in Ethiopia's export trade.

Some gold and a little platinum is mined in Ethiopia. Industry is largely limited to the processing of local agricultural products and the manufacture of a few items for local consumption—cement, bricks, shoes, scrap, and cotton textiles.

The Empire has two seaports of its own—Assab and Massawa—and also uses the port of Djibouti in French Somaliland. Djibouti is connected with Addis Ababa by rail, a distance of 500 miles, and there are now all-weather roads to both Assab and Massawa. Asmara is connected with the port of Massawa by rail as well as by road. Total all-weather road mileage is about 3,800 miles, but only about a third of this distance is asphalt surfaced. Internal surface transportation thus remains one of Ethiopia's most serious problems.

Ethiopian Air Lines, an air transport company owned by the Ethiopian Government and operated under a contract by Trans World Airlines, services more than 25 domestic airfields and has international connections in Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan, and West Africa. Efficiently run and with an impressive safety record during its more than 17 years of operation, it now has jet aircraft. Ethiopian Air Lines has been a major factor in Ethiopia's development.

Ethiopia depends upon external sources for a large part of the foreign exchange needed to carry out developmental programs. Such aid has come from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the Agency for International Development and its predecessors, as well as from Yugoslavia, West Germany, and a number of other sources. In July 1959, Ethiopia accepted a \$100 million credit offer from the Soviet Union. U.S. economic aid to Ethiopia, which commenced in the early 1950's, reached a total of \$141 million on June 30, 1965.

The official currency is the Ethiopian dollar. It is valued at US\$0.40 (Ethiopian \$2.50=US\$1.)

FOREIGN RELATIONS

An ancient kingdom with a long tradition of independence, Ethiopia has not felt as strongly as some other countries the tensions of nationalism so prevalent throughout most of the African continent. However, Emperor Haile Selassie has shown great interest in pan-Africanism and rose to the forefront of the movement for African unity through his sponsorship of the Conference of African Chiefs of State in Addis Ababa in May 1963 and his espousal of a charter for the Organization of African Unity. Addis Ababa is the seat of the permanent secretariat of the OAU.

Ethiopia is one of the original signatories of the U.N. Charter and has been active in that organization. In 1951 Ethiopia dispatched a battalion of combat troops to help the U.N. cause in Korea, and in 1960 provided troops to the United Nations for service in the Congo.