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THE PEOPLE

- Listen to the People -

OCTOBER 8, 1970

Independence Anniversary

Supplement



The Year of the Common Man

By The People features desk

"WE must not only have political but also economic democracy", was Obote's message for the eighth year of independence, a message that has been followed up most brilliantly and strenuously. "In the eighth year of our independence we must, as a people, take stronger measures towards the attainment of that goal." — to break the paradox of an almost infinite capacity of the people to produce and definite inability to control and distribute the wealth they are producing.

The eighth year of independence was to usher in a better deal for the ordinary man in Uganda. However it was to be a deal that was not to be based on dreams of manna falling down from heaven, but arduously cultivated through the hard work of everyone.

"I cannot promise Heaven to the people of Uganda in the eighth year of our independence. Even if it were within my power to promise you Heaven I would not do so. I prefer that we walk or run to Heaven rather than dream about being in Heaven."

This was the same message he reiterated in Mbale last August when he warned that those who sit back and expect things to come to them will end up having nothing at all. Ugandans were to get a better deal but they were to carve the portion out for themselves with the help of the instruments that have been put into their hands in the course of the year.

THE COMMON MAN'S INSTRUMENTS

It is now the conviction of Uganda that the people in general "are too important to be left out" to use President Obote's words on Co-operative Day, Uganda has come to the point when it is "the people to control the leaders, and not the leaders to control the people."

Very fittingly therefore the first document, the basic instrument on the road to the

that had just warmed up. This has made it all the more memorable and all the dearer. I has now gained also a symbolic besides the actual value as the basic of the new moves, described by its author Dr. A. Milton Obote as "the most important document Uganda has ever witnessed" — and "a very important pillar to the republican Constitution."

Five months after the adoption of the Charter, while opening Parliament on 20th April, 1970 President Obote gave the Common Man another important instrument now known as Document No. 3, the Communication from the Chair.

"I propose to you and to the country as the message of the seventies, that in our march through the decade into the Sunlight of political and economic freedom, the beat of our drum, and not the trumpets and bugles of

in our own style, fashion and standards, to implement article eleven of the Common Man's Charter: "The Move to the Left is the creation of a new political culture and a new way of life, whereby the people of

Uganda as a whole — their welfare and their voice in the National Government and in other local authorities — are paramount. It is, therefore, both anti-feudalism and anti-capitalism."

There was an apt comparison made after the Communication from the Chair. Uganda was compared to a plane which was now fully on the run, taxing to a

glorious take-off and unable not turn back.

This desire to eradicate exploitation is what has dictated the steps taken by the workers of Uganda this year. The Government has put in all could, true to the Party objectives "to plan Uganda's Economic Development in such a way that the Government, through Parastatal Bodies, the Cooperative Movements, Private Companies, Individuals in Industry, Commerce and Agriculture, will effectively contribute to increased production to raise the standard of living in the country."

The Common Man's Charter indicated the choice that had been taken: to adopt a programme of action based on the realities of our country and to move away from the "most irrational system of production and distribution of wealth based on alien methods". The Charter de-

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BANG - AND WE TAKE OVER FIRMS "FROM TODAY"

Labour, which in daily life initiative by individuals and groups is not rewarded. The we celebrate today. It is on Government is determined to this 1st day of May, every encourage farmers, industrial year, since 1964, that the people workers and all other persons engaged in commercial activities to recognise the dignity of toil and sweat and to celebrate the day as the hall-mark of achievement in the past and hope in the future.

The working man or woman is the pride of Uganda. I call upon all citizens to give honour to every working person in their homes and through-

ty, new sense of belonging by transforming the mental attitudes and orientation of our people, and by giving them new left in no doubt whatsoever as to our intentions. Today I make announcement on the steps that must be taken in the promotion of our new political culture.

I told my colleagues, the Presidents and Prime Ministers at the O.A.U. Conference in Addis Ababa in 1963, the important element of this revolu-



President Obote making that great speech on May 1st, 1970.

Article 38 of the Common Man's Charter commands that will continue to import and the guiding economic principles must be that the means of production and distribution be in the hands of the people as a whole. The implementation of this command will rest more upon the shoulders of the working people of Uganda than on the Government. It is the responsibility of the Government and be in a position to com-

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Very fittingly therefore the first document, the basic instrument on the road to the left is the Common Man's Charter. This epoch — making document was introduced as we entered into this eighth year, on 8th October last year, and adopted two months later on 19th December.

We all remember very well how the Charter was adopted unanimously but did not come into effect the easy way. It had to be sealed in fire and blood when some cowardly traitors tried to wreck the work

that had just warmed up. This has made it all the more memorable and all the dearer. I has now gained also a symbolic besides the actual value as the basic of the new moves, described by its author Dr. A. Milton Obote as "the most important document Uganda has ever witnessed" — and "a very important pillar to the republican Constitution."

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"I propose to you and to the country as the message of the seventies, that in our march through the decade into the Sunlight of political and economic freedom, the beat of our drum, and not the trumpets and bugles of others be the peacemaker", Obote announced to the National Assembly. He then proceeded to introduce measures which were to bring all the public bodies into line with the new moves and to serve the aspirations laid out in the Common Man's Charter.

The measures announced involve a total change of mentality and a change of direction. It is also to enable Uganda to control, manage, and direct the development

in our own style, fashion and standards, to implement article eleven of the Common Man's Charter: "The Move to the Left is the creation of a new political culture and a new way of life, whereby the people of

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The working man or woman is the pride of Uganda. I call upon all citizens to give honour to every working person in their homes and throughout the country. On this day, also, we remember the working people of the world and we share with them the international bond of the brotherhood of workers.

This year I propose not to address you at length. I have, however, certain announcements to make.

In our struggle for economic independence, it is vital that the production of wealth and its distribution should be controlled and managed with the active engagement of the people. In this struggle, Uganda must not adopt a policy which

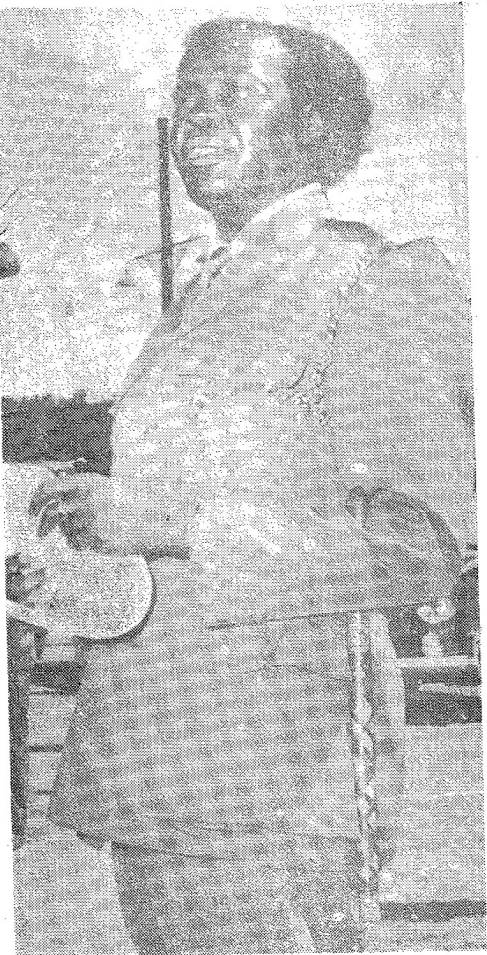
initiative by individuals and groups is not rewarded. The Government is determined to encourage farmers, industrial workers, and all other persons engaged in commercial activities to develop the economy for the good of all. This is what we can, from now onwards, refer to as active engagement in the economic life of the country.

There can be no doubt that individual or group initiative in the form of commercial or industrial private enterprises has contributed immensely to the economic development of Uganda. This method of development has also very serious and grave shortcomings.

Recently, I told the National Assembly and the whole country of the new political culture we must develop in the decade of the seventies. That political culture is all-embracing. In the field of the control of the means of production and distribution, I wish to emphasise that the new political culture is itself a revolution. It is a revolution that aims at giving a new and more

new sense of belonging by transforming the mental attitudes and orientation of our people, and by giving them new left in no doubt whatsoever as to our intentions. Today I make announcement on the steps that must be taken in the promotion of our new political culture.

I told my colleagues, the Presidents and Prime Ministers at the O.A.U. Conference in Addis Ababa in 1963, the important element of this revolution. I repeat it today. It is that the quantum and the total effectiveness of the joint effort the people are prepared to put into this revolution is the most important element. I said then, and I repeat, that I am always in favour of wielding a heavy hammer to give a definite and meaningful shape to the things that we intend to do, thus ensuring that our own people and the world at large are in no doubt whatsoever as to our intentions. Today I make announcement on the steps that must be taken in the promotion of our new political culture.



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Article 38 of the Common Man's Charter commands that the guiding economic principles must be that the means of production and distribution be in the hands of the people as a whole. The implementation of this command will rest more upon the shoulders of the working people of Uganda than on the Government. It is the responsibility of the Government to formulate the basic policy, but it is the duty and obligation of the people to execute that policy with honesty and industry.

Government's basic policy is that the people of Uganda must be actively engaged in every field of production, commerce and trade, manufacturing and plantation industries, as well as continue to produce the basic commodities we sell overseas and the food we eat.

To this effect, I announce that as from today all import and export business will be transacted by Parastatal Bodies only.

The oil companies, however, will continue to import and distribute oil and other petroleum products. From today Government will acquire 60 per cent of the shares of every oil company operating in Uganda.

One of the most important services which must always be run as efficiently as possible and be in a position to command the confidence of the people of Uganda, is transport. We have, as the country knows, numerous bus and taxi companies and yet the general public goes on complaining about the inadequacy of the service they render as well as the low standard of the facilities they

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President Obote in one whole one piece back at the Political Platform — addresses Co-operative day rally at Mbale.