

Notes and News

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'*African Abstracts*'—Cessation of Publication

THE International African Institute greatly regrets that *African Abstracts* will cease publication with vol. 23, no. 4, October 1972. That number will include the title-page and index for the year. Back numbers and complete sets from vol. 1, 1950, will continue to be available from Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd., Cannon House, Folkestone, Kent.

The great and continuing expansion in the number of periodicals and articles relating to African studies together with sharply rising overhead costs has, unfortunately, outrun both the present and prospective resources of the International African Institute for preparing and publishing *African Abstracts*. It has for some time been apparent that it was no longer proving possible, within the limitations of staff and funds, to provide the prompt and comprehensive publication of abstracts of all the relevant periodicals that should be covered. The Institute has, unfortunately, been unable to obtain the considerable and assured funds that would be needed to support a larger and more costly operation.

The circulation of *African Abstracts* has reached a plateau at around 1,100 copies, the great majority of subscriptions being from libraries of universities and other institutions from which little further expansion could be expected, and there has from the outset been a disappointingly small number of personal subscriptions. The Institute has therefore been most reluctantly forced to the conclusion that it cannot continue publication after this year.

It is to be hoped that, as the scholarly periodical publication in African studies continues to grow, means may be found to provide in some other form a systematic review of this literature. Meanwhile our thanks are due to those who have supported *African Abstracts* over its twenty-three years of publication. We are indebted to the subscribers, to the Ford Foundation, and especially to the International Council for the Humanities and Philosophy (CIPSH) which has contributed a supporting grant over so many years.

University of York: Centre for Southern African Studies

THE University of York, which already has links with Southern Africa and a core of teachers with special interest in the area, has set up a Centre for Southern African Studies under the Directorship of Christopher R. Hill, Lecturer in Politics at the University.

There has hitherto been no centre in the United Kingdom devoted to the study of Southern Africa as a whole though there are of course individual researches being carried out in a number of universities. Southern Africa, which is taken to include Malawi, Zambia, Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, South-West Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and South Africa, has had a long connection with the United Kingdom and presents unique problems which will continue to be of great importance and which concern other countries as well as other states on the African continent. The Centre at York hopes to build up its teaching and research to provide a natural focus for scholars from continental Europe and all parts of Southern Africa as well as for those based in the United Kingdom. The Director of the Centre is appointed by a standing committee of professors closely associated with the project, representing economics, politics, sociology, and history. An active fund-raising campaign is being greatly assisted by the Southern African Studies Trust, which is being formed to raise funds on the Centre's behalf. The Centre is envisaged at first as a teaching