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November 1979

Patrick Mangheni  
Peter Miller

#### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

F R I D A  
Grosvenor House  
141-143 Drury Lane  
London WC2B 5TD

29 November, 1979

The Editor,  
African Research and Documentation.

We are currently researching the feasibility of some applications of solar energy at the rural level in the Sahel - these studies could lead us on to joint ventures with local institutions or production units in the future. We feel that problems of deforestation, fuel shortage and rising fuel costs make it imperative that changes are made to the present mode of energy consumption, specifically in regard to domestic fuel consumption in rural areas. At the moment we are constructing an economic analysis paper to formally assess the viability of our project and for this we require certain information about the comparative costs of fuels, labour trends, etc....

We would be most grateful if you could aid us in our research by providing us with the following information, either by referring us to an informed person or institution or by supplying the relevant data, if you have access to it. The information we require relates to eighteen countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, but most specifically to the first six mentioned below:

- |          |            |                |
|----------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Chad  | 2. Mali    | 3. Mauritania  |
| 4. Niger | 5. Senegal | 6. Upper Volta |

Also Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Ivory Coast.

1. Annual domestic prices for the following fuels from the year 1965 to the present.

(a) Woodfuel	(b) Charcoal	(c) Electricity
(d) Kerosene	(e) Butane	

2. The minimum wage - This could be taken as the minimum agricultural wage paid to workers at present and over the past 10 years.
3. The rate of employment of the labour force at present and over the past 10 years.
4. The current costs of the initiation and maintenance of a forestry plantation (for fuelwood)... This last point would require complicated information on the costs of all materials and processes per hectare up to the actual felling of trees. We would also need to know the yield per hectare within the plantation.

F.R.I.D.A. (the Fund for Research and Investment for the Development of Africa Ltd.), is a private international foundation independent of any country and of any religious, political or financial group. It is a non-profit organisation and in the United Kingdom it has the status of a registered charity. Its main objective is to create productive employment in developing countries and particularly in the smallest and least privileged countries in Africa. F.R.I.D.A.'s statutory aims include relieving urban and rural poverty, promoting local entrepreneurship and upgrading traditional skills.

We would gratefully appreciate your collaboration in this matter if it is at all possible.

Yours faithfully,

Beth Hughes,  
Research Assistant.

EXPERTS IN AFRICA - A seminar to be held on 21st March and 22nd March 1980

The Aberdeen University African Studies Group issues a cordial invitation to a seminar to be held in the University of Aberdeen, commencing in the afternoon of Friday 21 March and continuing on Saturday 22 March 1980. Meetings will be held in the Reading and Writing Room of the Senior Common Room at King's College. The provisional programme includes four sessions with the following titles:

Historical Case Studies  
The Contemporary Scene  
The Transmission and Receipt of Expertise  
The World Context of Available Expertise

Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from Dr. J.C. Stone, Secretary, African Studies Group, University of Aberdeen, Taylor Building, King's College, Aberdeen AB9 2UB. (Tele: 0224-40241 Ext. 6390 or 357).