

Pavilion to Tell Story of Africa

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

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Twenty-four independent sub-Saharan African countries will be represented at the New York World's Fair.

The African pavilion will be a joint presentation depicting the progress and needs of these countries.

The current educational facilities will be portrayed graphically, along with housing, health and sanitation, industry, public works, and roads. Glimpses will be afforded of the continent's vast natural resources and potential for the future.

The world-famed Ntore warrior dancers, popularly known as the Watusi dancers, and the royal drummers of Burundi will be headliners all summer at the African pavilion.

Rep. Frances P. Bolton of Ohio (R), one of the principal supporters of the African pavilion, expressed appreciation to the Mwami (King) Mwambutsa IV of Burundi, who gave permission for the dancers and drummers to travel to New York under his personal auspices.

Long before the arrival of Europeans in their country, the Watusi dancers were royal guards in the service of the king. With changing conditions, these warriors were replaced by soldiers, and the former royal guards gradually became folklore.

Their present-day dances depict warlike acts, victories over the enemy, and, simultaneously, are a sign of respect toward friends, family, and king.

None of them have ever left

their native land. It is anticipated that they will provide a colorful spectacle for visitors to the fair.

Other highlights of the African pavilion will be a giant fabricated banyan tree, 15 feet in diameter at the base. Its branches embrace a tree-house restaurant capable of holding 250 diners.

There will be an outdoor amphitheater where the two exhibition groups will perform. Also there will be a Valley of Wildlife boasting two baby elephants, one lion, one leopard, two giraffes, two zebras, eight antelopes, and one camel, along with a variety of monkeys and birds.

Several individual national pavilions will be within the larger exhibit. These will consist of seven buildings, inspired by the thatched huts of Africa. They will tell the stories of the individual nations they represent.

Finally, there will be a shopping area where authentic African merchandise may be obtained, from fine jewelry to postage stamps.