THE PAVILION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

July 18, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING

AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

THE PAVILION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA WILL CONSIST OF THREE STRUCTURES SURROUNDED BY A CONTINUOUS MOAT. THE TWO SMALL HUTS WITH SIMULATED GRASS ROOFING WILL REPRESENT THE TRADITIONAL TYPE OF BUILDING SEEN IN GUINEA; HERE NATIVE CRAFTSMEN WILL MAKE ITEMS TO BE SOLD TO VISITORS. THE MAIN BUILDING WILL HAVE A STAGE WHERE THE BALLET TROUPE OF GUINEA WILL PERFORM. NOEL AND MILLER OF NEW YORK ARE THE ARCHITECTS FOR THE PAVILION.

Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by officials of the Republic of Guinea and the World's Fair at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Pavilion of the Republic of Guinea, New York World's Fair, Thursday, July 18, 1963.

DR. ROBERTO DE MENDOZA [Deputy Chief of Protocol]: Your Excellencies, Mr. Ambassador Designate, Governor Poletti, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. This significant groundbreaking is one more evidence of the imaginative, vigorous and enterprising spirit of the young Republic of Guinea. The beautiful pavilion which will rise from this ground will portray the life of the people of Guinea and the attractions, the economy and the natural resources of the country.

Before introducing the speakers I should like to have the honor of presenting four eminent ladies who are honoring us today with their presence on this important occasion: Madame Bangoura, wife of the Ambassador of Guinea to the United States; Madame Diallo Telli, wife of the Ambassador of Guinea to the United Nations; Madame Achkar Marof, wife of the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations; and Mrs. James Loeb, wife of the Ambassador Designate of the United States to the Republic of Guinea.

Our first speaker was a Justice of the State Supreme Court and a Lieutenant-Governor before being Governor of the State of New York. It is my great pleasure to present Governor Charles Poletti, vice president of the International Division of the New York World's Fair Corporation.

GOVERNOR CHARLES POLETTI: Thank you very much, Ambassador De Mendoza. Ambassador Bangoura, Ambassador Diallo Telli, Ambassador Loeb and distinguished and charming ladies. I'm very happy to be here on this occasion. I think this is one of the most important groundbreakings that we will have at the New York World's Fair, not because of the size of the pavilion that the Republic of Guinea will have, not because of the amount of money that will be spent, but because it achieves what we have worked so hard to accomplish: to bring here to Flushing Meadow pavilions of a modest nature which reflect the new countries, the new independent nations of the world. And I'm very happy, as head of the International Division, and speaking also for the Executive Committee, that we're going to have the Republic of Guinea in such an important corner on our Avenue of Africa.

Americans, particularly young Americans, are vitally interested in the continent of Africa. They are keenly

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anxious to learn more about these new countries in Africa.

I'm delighted that we're going to have this Pavilion of Guinea. It's going to be a wonderful pavilion, well designed and it's going to have demonstrations by some of the artisans of Guinea. Above all, it's going to portray for the American people and the seventy million visitors that will come here, the artistic qualities of the people of Guinea, qualities that permit their being classified as exceptional in sculpture and in music and in dance. The wonderful dancers of Guinea will be on view in the pavilion and I think these will be an eye-opener to the millions of American people that will come here.

We are happy also on this occasion to have Guinea participate in this Fair, because Guinea represents a new nation that's courageous, with lots of initiative and a desire to achieve progress.

I think it's only fitting that, while we participate in this occasion, we should remember that at the head of this Republic is one of the great figures of the present-day world. We had the great honor to meet His Excellency, President Sékou Touré in Conakry, when we were there to extend our official invitation, and Ambassador Diallo Telli was gracious enough to present us to the President. We explained to him about the World's Fair, and as a demonstration of his decisive quality of mind he listened, and then he said to me in French, "Très bien. On y sera." And here we are.

We again had the pleasure of meeting the President in Riverdale, when he was here on a visit, and I want to express on behalf of myself and the New York World's Fair our great pleasure that the President of Guinea has seen fit to have a participation of his country. We express to him our heartfelt gratitude as well as our admiration for the achievements that he's already brought about for his country, and we look forward with him to many, many more accomplishments in the years to come.

In closing, I'd like to read something that your President said a couple of years ago. It was shortly after your independence which is October 2nd, and we're looking forward to celebrating October 2nd with you here at the International Section of the World's Fair. I'd like to recall to all of us what President Sékou Touré said at the United Nations in November 1959, about a year after Guinea acquired independence. The President said this: "Populations which include more than 80% of illiterate peasants with an annual individual income of less than $100, and therefore with the most precarious conditions of life, these are the harsh realities of Africa. It is no longer masked behind the ridiculous veil of exoticism which hides from unaware eyes the colossal misery of our vast underdeveloped countries at present sparsely populated because of centuries of slavery. And yet in this poverty of which humanity should be ashamed there is man — with his invisible faith in the destiny of humanity. There is his hope, his determination to win and to grow — his immense spiritual brotherhood and harmony — his kindness still in its purest form — and at the same time his extraordinary energy and sharp sense of responsibility.

Shown in their very attractive traditional costumes are: Madame Bangoura, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States; Madame Diallo Telli, wife of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and Madame Achkar Marof, wife of the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations.

Breaking ground for the Pavilion of the Republic of Guinea are: (left to right) Governor Charles Poletti, vice president of International Affairs and Exhibits, New York World's Fair; His Excellency Karim Bangoura, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States; and His Excellency A. Bela, Ambassador of Guinea to Morocco.

Governor Charles Poletti, vice president in charge of International Affairs and Exhibits, presenting World's Fair medallion to His Excellency Karim Bangoura, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States.

"There is also the incalculable amount of virtues and values of almost 200,000,000 Africans, the tremendous possibilities which this represents and the intellectual potential which this may hold."

That concludes the quote from President Sékou Touré's speech and I'm happy on this occasion, as a representative of the New York World's Fair, to dedicate this Pavilion of the Republic of Guinea. Thank you very much.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Governor Poletti. I should like now to present two brilliant diplomats who are also honoring us this afternoon with their presence: His Excellency A. Bela, Ambassador of Guinea to Morocco; The Honorable James Loeb, Ambassador Designate of the United States to the Republic of Guinea.

Our next speaker was a member of the Territorial Assembly of Guinea from 1946 to 1957; Counselor at the French Union Assembly from 1954 to 1958; Director of the Guinea Press Agency in 1960; and Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Information and Tourism during 1961 and 1962 before being appointed Ambassador of Guinea to the United States. I have the honor to present His Excellency Karim Bangoura, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States, who is also Ambassador to Canada and Ambassador Designate to Mexico — Ambassador Bangoura.

HIS EXCELLENCY KARIM BANGOURA [Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States]: Excellencies, Governor Poletti, our dear friend Lionel Harris, ladies and gentlemen. The Guinea family in the United States of America is very happy to be present here on this piece of land of the United States of America that we shall consider, for the next two years, as an integral part of the Republic of Guinea. Our feeling of satisfaction is very profound and comes from the heart. This is an occasion when we discover how many devoted, enthusiastic friends the Republic of Guinea has in the United States. It is immensely comforting to see all of you here. You may be assured that we shall be the faithful interpreters to the President of our beloved Republic, His Excellency Ahmed Sékou Touré, and to all the people of Guinea.

This event will be inscribed in history as a contribution to strengthening universal harmony, to forging the bonds of friendship, to furthering cooperation, to generating this indispensable understanding for establishing peace, happiness and justice in the world — the sort of world to

which we all aspire and toward which you work, without perhaps, being aware of it.

Therefore, this ceremony today is an indication of the simplicity, of the friendship and of the cooperation so precious to our people — and we know, also so precious to you and to your country, the United States of America.

Through its presence here, the Republic of Guinea has no other aim than to confirm its strong desire always to remain in the stream of universal progress. In agreeing to our participation in the New York World's Fair, His Excellency Ahmed Sékou Touré wished in fact to achieve a symbol, but above all an act of faith.

Our wish, through our pavilion, is to set forth evidence of the national unity of Guinea in creative work, under the constant impulse of the initiative and imagination of our people. It will be our modest contribution to this great human endeavor to offer to the many visitors the results of the various activities of our country — agricultural, industrial, handicraft and art — produced in an atmosphere of total independence, thanks to our refound liberty.

Let me express, in the name of the Republic of Guinea and of its President, heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the realization of our project. Our thanks are addressed most particularly to you, Governor Poletti; to our friend Lionel Harris; to the architects, Noel and Miller; and to all those who have given us assurance by their valuable cooperation, so that we can already see the good results. I am sure the Pavilion of Guinea will be, in view of this collaboration, attractive, lively and interesting; it will also contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship and of cooperation between the Republic of Guinea and the United States.

Finally, it is my pleasure to greet The Honorable James Loeb, the Ambassador Designate of the United States to Guinea, and Madame Loeb, whose presence here today expresses their great interest for our country where they will be called to serve in a few weeks. But today, ladies and gentlemen, we are only at the first step, and there is much work to be done. I am happy to share with you the pleasure of breaking ground today and, awaiting the Guinea Pavilion, to leave this soil in the hands of the architects, contractors and workmen.

In closing this groundbreaking ceremony, I would also like to mention an important contribution made by a citizen of the Republic of Guinea, a citizen possessed of great energy, a dynamic spirit and a profound sense of patriotism and loyalty — the late Albert Constantin, who was a schoolmate of Ambassador Bangoura. May I ask you, Mr. Ambassador, to express to the widow of Mr. Constantin, and to her son, the fact that the New York World's Fair appreciates very much what Mr. Constantin has done in connection with the participation of the Republic of Guinea at the Fair. As you have aptly put it, Mr. Ambassador, this Fair will serve not only to increase the understanding between the peoples of Guinea and of the United States, but also between all the peoples of Africa and of the United States.

PAVILION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

HIS EXCELLENCY KARIM BANGOURA, *Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United States*

HIS EXCELLENCY DIALLO TELLI, *Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations*

MR. ABEL CAMARA, *Commercial Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Guinea*

NOEL & MILLER, *Architects, New York*

AUSEREHL & SON, *Contractors, New York*

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Flushing 52, N.Y.

Tel. 212-WF 4-1964

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