



# SIERRA LEONE

APRIL 10, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING  
AT THE  
NEW YORK  
WORLD'S FAIR  
1964-1965



Excerpts from a transcription of remarks by officials of the World's Fair and Sierra Leone, at the Pavilion of Sierra Leone groundbreaking ceremony, New York World's Fair, Wednesday, April 10, 1963.

DR. ROBERTO de MENDOZA [Deputy Chief of Protocol]: Your Excellency, Mr. Consul General, Mr. Berns, ladies and gentlemen. The international sector of a world's fair is always a point of great attraction with glamorous fascination for its millions of visitors. The New York World's Fair has had the good fortune to have its International Division under the dynamic leadership of Governor Charles Poletti, a person with vast experience and outstanding qualities of understanding and inspiration. In his absence today, however, we have with us one who has had a most colorful career in organizing fairs throughout the world, who serves as the Governor's good right arm. It is my great pleasure to present Mr. Allen Beach.

MR. ALLEN E. BEACH [Director, International Exhibits]: Thank you Ambassador de Mendoza. Am-

bassador Kelfa-Caulker, Mr. Berns and distinguished guests. Governor Poletti is travelling abroad today so I'll say a few words in his behalf and in behalf of the International Division.

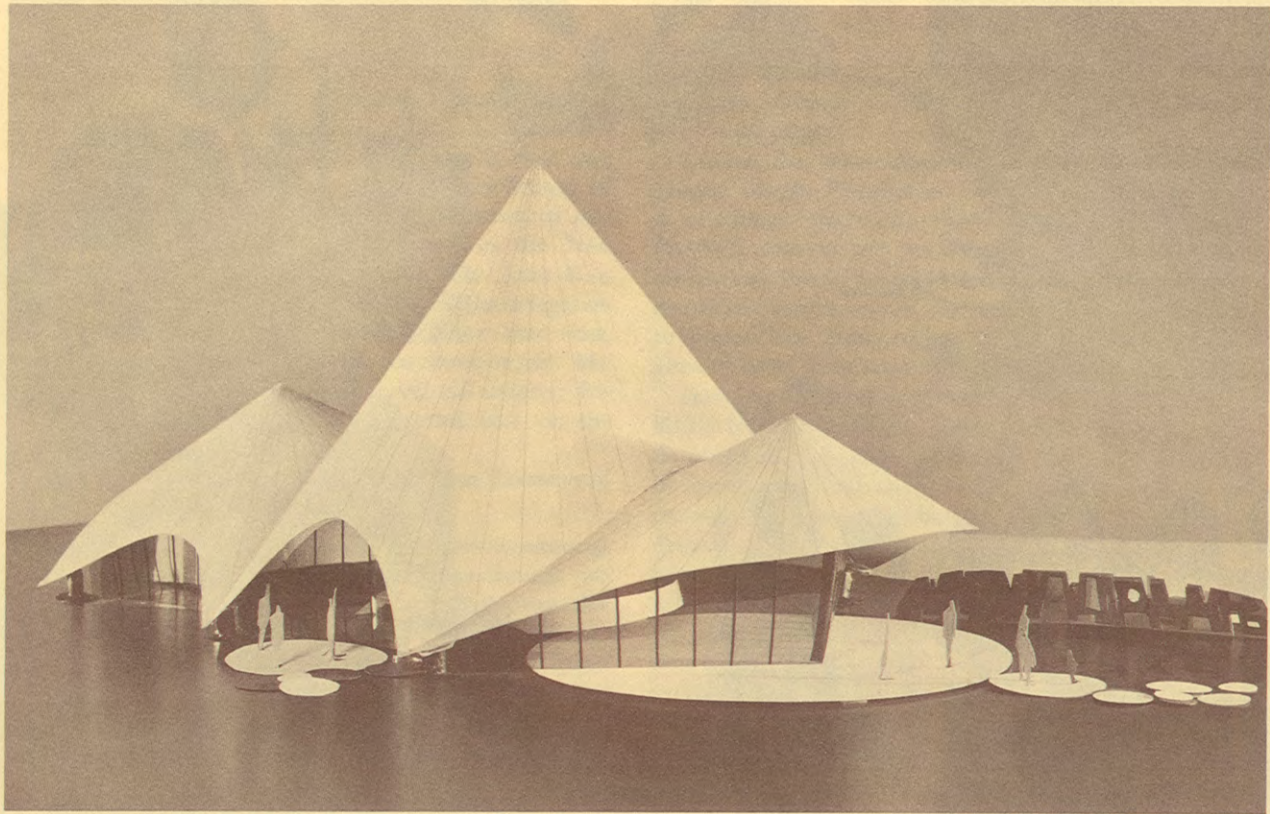
This is an important day for the New York World's Fair and for Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is the first African nation to break ground for its pavilion. April is an important month for this proud nation; two years ago, on April 27, 1961, Sierra Leone gained its independence. Sierra Leone is small in size only; it has a big story to tell to the world through its pavilion at this Fair. Sierra Leone, strategically located on the west coast of Africa, is an enterprising, energetic nation with a background of culture and tradition that millions of Fair visitors will find most interesting.

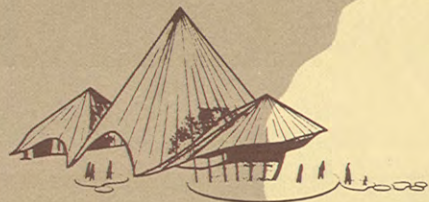
Consul General Claudius Gibrilla has been the Fair's principal contact for many months, and Dr. George Bennett of our International Division staff will attest to the fact that his sincerity in projecting his personal belief that his country must be represented convinced us from the outset that in him we were not only dealing with a distinguished government official, but with a warm friend.

On June 18, 1961, shortly after Sierra Leone's dec-

Model of the Pavilion of Sierra Leone, an ultra-modern structure that conveys the romantic traditions of this new western African nation. Its exhibits will tell the story of Sierra Leone, from a slave colony to proud independence.







His Excellency, Ambassador Richard E. Kelfa-Caulker, speaking at the Sierra Leone groundbreaking, where he expressed the hope that America will discover modern Sierra Leone.



Ambassador Kelfa-Caulker presenting Mr. Allen Beach of the Fair's International Division with a beautiful example of the craftsmanship of Sierra Leone. Left to right: Dr. George H. Bennett, International Division of the Fair, Mrs. Gibrilla, Mr. Allen Beach, International Division, Ambassador Richard E. Kelfa-Caulker, Mrs. Kelfa-Caulker, Consul General Claudius A. Gibrilla.



laration of independence, Governor Poletti, Dr. L. Gray Cowan, director of African Studies at Columbia University, and Mr. Marcel Duriaux, who at that time was executive secretary of the United States Society of Editors and Commentators, arrived in Freetown to present the official invitation to participate in the New York World's Fair. On this occasion, Dr. John Kar-efa-Smart, Minister of External Affairs, told the delegation that Sierra Leone would be present. Since that time, consistent and efficient progress has been made. Mr. Costas Machlouzarides has been appointed architect for the building that will shortly be erected here on the Avenue of Africa.

We are proud and honored that Sierra Leone will exhibit at our Fair. Thank you.

DR. de MENDOZA: On this lovely sun-lit morning in April, an auspicious month for Sierra Leone, we are honored to have present Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency, Dr. Richard E. Kelfa-Caulker. His Excellency knows the United States well, having spent six years here completing his studies before returning to embrace a career in education in Sierra Leone. For twenty years he has been the principal of Albert Academy in Sierra Leone. His career was interrupted when he was called to duty as Commissioner of Sierra

Leone in London, and later in 1961, as Ambassador to the United States.

I know that when Ambassador Kelfa-Caulker breaks ground for the Pavilion of Sierra Leone he will realize as an educator that within the walls of the lovely pavilion that will arise on this ground, Sierra Leone will educate millions of World's Fair visitors on the culture, achievements and aspirations of his people. It is a great honor to present the Ambassador from Sierra Leone to the United States, His Excellency Richard E. Kelfa-Caulker.

HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR RICHARD E. KELFA-CAULKER: Mr. Berns, Mr. Beach, Ambassador de Mendoza, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to start by quoting two old sayings that you might hear in the market places and elsewhere in Freetown. The first is: People are counting the big yams by the dozen, and in between a little one rolls along to be counted too. It seems to me that our presence here in the midst of the grandeur of these great pavilions being erected gives us the feeling that we too, however little, want to be counted.

The other saying is: If a little child sits near a big man and listens, he will learn a great deal. Perhaps this is our motive for coming here — that we might learn from the things that we shall see, as well as have an opportunity to help people come to know us.



William Berns, vice president of Communications of the New York World's Fair; His Excellency, Ambassador Richard E. Kelfa-Caulker; Consul-General Claudius A. Gibrilla and Allen E. Beach.

Sierra Leone is the oldest and first British colony in West Africa. She therefore had a hand in the opening up of West Africa through education, through the Christian religion, and through commerce. Ours is a small country, and we shall advance by mingling with the peoples of the world at this great Fair. We are endowed with the same intelligence, the same spirit for advancement, and we believe not only that we have a contribution to make, but especially that through our association with the Fair, we shall learn and profit equally from the experience of all peoples and nations.

In 1460, Portuguese navigator Pedro de Centra discovered Sierra Leone, which means Mountain of the Lion. This discovery led to the institution of slavery for which Sierra Leone became a trading base. It also led to the establishment of the first free colony in Africa, a colony conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created free. In the continuing pursuit of this freedom we will come to the Fair in the year 1964 to present Sierra Leone to America, and to the West, not in slavery, but in freedom; not in ignorance but with intelligence. Only time will tell the results of our efforts. We will hope for mutual understanding. We will appreciate what is good, for we will come to learn with eyes wide open. We trust also that in presenting the spirit of Sierra Leone, we shall help America and the West to



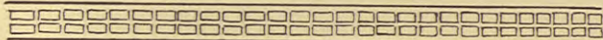
see not only Sierra Leone but Africa as a whole, her potential and her present needs.

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to take part in this groundbreaking ceremony to establish the Pavilion of Sierra Leone at the New York World's Fair. Thank you.

DR. de MENDOZA: It gives me great pleasure to introduce the vice president of Communications of the New York World's Fair, Mr. William Berns.

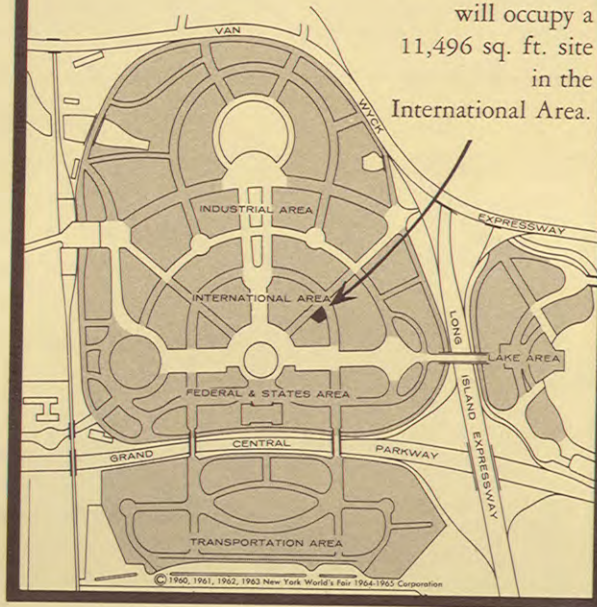
WILLIAM BERNs: Dr. de Mendoza, Your Excellency, Ambassador Kelfa-Caulker, Consul General Gibrilla, Mr. Beach, Dr. Bennett, distinguished guests, members of the International Division of the New York World's Fair, ladies and gentlemen. Supported by the enthusiasm and interest of the executives and staff of the New York World's Fair for the participation of the African nations, it is a pleasure to bring you this message from the president of the New York World's Fair, the Honorable Robert Moses:

"We are delighted with this participation by one of the ambitious new nations of West Africa, a nation aiming at the same objectives and with the same democratic principles as ours. The design of your pavilion is particularly attractive — I assume your exhibits will be equally impressive. I look forward to greeting you when the Fair opens."



## THE SIERRA LEONE PAVILION

will occupy a  
11,496 sq. ft. site  
in the  
International Area.



## PAVILION OF SIERRA LEONE

HIS EXCELLENCY RICHARD E. KELFA-CAULKER, *Ambassador from Sierra Leone to the United States*

CLAUDIUS A. GIBRILLA, *Consul General from Sierra Leone to New York*

ARCHITECTS: *Mr. Ransford Jarrett-Yaskey of Freetown, S. L.*


*Mr. Costas Machlouzarides of New York*

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