

Contents

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Construction Response
to urban insecurity
- 3-4 Community policing
in Africa
- 5 Justice with a more
human face
- 6-7 The African forum for
urban safety
 - Publications
 - Training
- 8 News on cooperation

Deliry Antheaume Elisabeth - Orstom



Barbed wire and electric fences at the limits of the most well-off district of Soweto, a strong contrast with the workers' hostels situated below road level. Soweto, Dieploof

Urban Safety

For many years, cooperation policy guidelines for urban development and the management of cities have been based on social and economic approaches. Central to the debate was how to provide the best technical and institutional means of ensuring long-term efficiency of commercial and non-commercial urban services. Natural hazards and public health issues were the sole subjects addressed from the safety perspective.

In the West, with the increasingly conscious aim to hold people to account, sometimes through legal proceedings, discussions on safety have once more invaded the public scene. At the same time, both public opinion and political and professional circles have become aware of new hazards generated by pollution and by the major industrial systems essential to the functioning of basic services in cities. These include water and electricity supplies and guided transport systems. The weight of the investments required to improve commercial urban public services has masked the need for further thinking on matters relating to civil safety. For nearly twenty years, there has been considerable work in France on the prevention and control of urban violence phenomena. But only recently has it really been understood that these problems must be mainstreamed into the very design of new neighbourhoods and into the management methods of urban services as a whole. This concerns the distribution of activities, the

relationship between buildings and public spaces and how they are treated and managed, whether or not to provide specialized personnel in certain places, such as caretakers, environmental officers, small tradesmen. Extensive international cooperation in this field is opening up to all the key players in the city. An analysis of the very different situations, in terms of their contexts and the importance of the phenomena involved, is certain to enhance our understanding of the deep-rooted causes of insecurity and how to deal with them. The studies conducted in Africa (African Forum, Municipal Development Programme), together with transatlantic comparisons, should enrich interchange with the countries of Asia and the Muslim world. There are many benefits in examining the efficiency and the short and long term impact of prevention and control strategies. It is to be hoped that the teamwork initiatives illustrated in this issue, between urban managers and police and justice officers, will bring people together to address safety-related issues such as emergency services, civil protection, interruptions of key public services (e.g. last January's power cut in Quebec!) and food supplies. ■

François Noisette
*President of the Professional Association for
Urban Development and Cooperation*

Construction Response to urban insecurity

Dr Tunde Agbola, Centre for Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan

In Lagos, Nigeria, the inhabitants are organizing and proofing themselves against the spate of urban violence

Life in most Nigerian cities today is a constant struggle against poverty, deprivation of all sorts and pervasive insecurity. This insecurity is nothing new but since 1994, urban violence has taken a dramatic turn, with renewed ferocity and dramatic increase in loss of lives and properties. Urban residents live one day at a time. They are wary in the day and scared at night. Whether at work, at play or at home, Nigerians are haunted by the fear of armed robbers, hired assassins (some of whom strut across the urban domain with impunity), parcel bombs, and the bullets of unknown soldiers or policemen. As observed by one of Nigeria's foremost urbanists, miscreants "have the run of our cities". This paper, which presents a synopsis of the research on urban insecurity in Lagos, funded by the French Research Institute for Africa (IFRA) and the Urban Management Programme (UMP), gives an idea how Nigerians have been coping with this situation. It outlines the methodological processes and the findings, and offers a summary conclusion.

Study methodology

The research made wide use of published and unpublished literature: theses, dissertations, police and fire services records, etc. Primary data collection involved fieldwork for which the Lagos metropolis was demarcated into its dominant residential characteristics on a local government basis. However, not all local government areas (LGAs) in

Lagos were covered. Mushin and Oshodi/Isolo LGAs were selected to represent the high density residential areas, Lagos Mainland and Shomolu LGAs the medium density areas, and Ikeja, Surulere and Lagos Island/Eti Osa LGAs the low density areas.

In each of these residential districts, some streets were selected randomly and in each selected street, all the residential building types were enumerated. From among all the buildings in a street, one residence was randomly drawn to be administered the questionnaire. Out of a total of 1,200 questionnaires, 1,184 (99.7%) were properly completed.

The first section of the questionnaire was a field survey completed by trained assistants. The second section was administered on the owner of the residential building, his spouse or children, or on a tenant who had lived there for more than five years. Some of the questions were designed to corroborate the field assistants' observations.

The questions covered the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, their perceptions and reactions to violence in their houses, their neighbourhoods and the city of Lagos. The subjects included safety in their neighbourhoods, measures taken to secure their houses or neighbourhoods and the presence or absence of vigilante groups and landlord associations. Respondents had to indicate one neighbourhood they perceived as the safest and one as the most dangerous. Their assessment of police readiness to combat the spate of urban

violence was also elicited. And they were asked to recount at least one incidence of urban violence of which they were a victim, whether or not the incidence was reported to the police, and if not, why it was not reported.

The pattern of crime

Lagos holds an unenviable record: at least 17.5% of households in Lagos have experienced frequent occurrences of urban violence in their area. This implies that about two households in every ten have experienced the ordeal of violence and the heightened fear of an attack. A quarter (24.7%) of all households have fallen a victim to at least one residential burglary. The hardest hit are high residential density areas, where 26% of households have had their houses broken into by thieves.

In residential complexes, neighbourhoods and streets in

Lagos, many people have recently fallen victim to one type of urban violence or another. In the table below, the highest incidence of crime is armed robbery, accounting for 47.37%. This is closely followed by burglary with 32.02%. Victims of some type of urban violence are relatively more numerous in high density residential areas: 22.11%, compared with 19.49% in medium density areas and 16.99% in low density areas.

Victims suffer different types of violence, most often in their homes (46.49%). Other victims are stopped on their way and robbed. There are relatively few car break-ins.

Coping mechanisms

Lagos residents, like their counterparts in other cities in Nigeria, have responded in desperation. Most residential buildings have the appearance of fortresses. And around them,

Source: Fieldwork, 1996

Types of Violence	Residential Area			total
	High Density	Medium Density	Low Density	
Burglary	17 (23.3)	35 (47.9)	21 (28.8)	73 (100.0) 32.02**
Armed Robbery	36 (33.3)	34 (31.5)	38 (35.2)	108 (100.0) 47.37**
Loitering	1 (25.0)	1 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	4 (100.0) 1.75**
Drug Dealing	0 (0.0)	2 (50.0)	2 (50.0)	4 (100.0) 1.75**
Prostitution	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	5 (100.0) 2.20**
Street fighting	4 (28.6)	7 (50.0)	3 (21.4)	14 (100.0) 6.14**
Gambling	4 (28.6)	7 (50.0)	3 (21.4)	14 (100.0) 6.14**
Hooliganism	1 (16.7)	4 (66.6)	1 (16.7)	6 (100.0) 2.63**
Total	65 (22.11)*	92 (19.49)*	71 (16.99)*	228 (19.26)* 100**
No Applicable	229 (77.89)*	380 (80.51)*	347 (83.01)*	956 (80.74)*
Grand Total	294 (100.0)*	472 (100.00)*	418 (100.00)*	1184 (100.00)*

fences of all types form strong assertions of territoriality. Ranging from simple demarcations by hedges, bamboo or wood, to solid concrete walls, they reflect house owners' varying degrees of security consciousness. Concrete walls are the most common, accounting for 63.3% of the fences of all the residences.

The second aspect of security preparedness consists in iron and steel burglar proof systems, installed by 87.64% of households. They may be on windows only (47.97% of the equipped households), on both windows and doors (47.45%) or on all openings (only 3.86%). Fluorescent tubes, flood lights, search lights, human security guards, walkie-talkies, firearms, guard dogs and security dogs are also used.

Lagosians have reacted collectively. Security can be achieved on a broader scale by measures at neighbourhood level or city-wide, than by individual households. These measures are directly influenced by the so-

cial and spatial setting of each neighbourhood and their goal is to discourage criminals from intruding into the neighbourhood itself.

It has thus become customary to see gates erected at the entry to neighbourhoods, with a generous intrusion of bumps. Security check points, warning signs on restriction of movement, functional street lights and the use of night guides are some of the neighbourhood measures to combat miscreants.

Integrating security into urban design

How to reduce urban violence has become the major preoccupation of residents of Lagos. This scourge has been costly to them in every respect. Amazingly, residents have sought for the cure on all fronts, which shows that they understand both the remote and the immediate causes of urban violence. For example, over a third of sampled households (31.8%) believed that the pro-

vision of gainful employment is indispensable. Others suggested more regular police patrols, the use of burglar proofs, street lights and security guards in every house, the death penalty for offenders, use of traditional charms, etc. These suggestions all show how the citizens are mobilizing against crime.

Neighbourhood associations should be encouraged, with the residents forming vigilante groups. While the impersonal characteristics of Lagos might be a hindrance to the organization of these groups, landlord associations should engage the services of night guards for their neighbourhoods.

The numerical strength of the police should be increased and they should be provided with modern crime-fighting equipment to outmanoeuvre that used by criminals. The police should also increase the fleet of its patrol vehicles and personnel to expand its patrol coverage.

Perhaps the most important recommendation of this study is that urban designers should

endeavour to be security conscious in the planning of neighbourhoods while keeping general environmental health and accessibility in view. The emergence of gates on residential streets is a response to inefficient design. Too many outlets are provided ostensibly to improve accessibility. Such outlets are ideal routes for escaping criminals. ■

Selected references:

- Agbola, Tunde, (1997), *The Architecture of Fear: Urban Design and Construction Reaction to Urban Violence in Lagos, Nigeria*, IFRA, Ibadan.
- Abodunrin, Yinka (1981), "The Role of Architecture in the Prevention of Crime: A Suburban Experience", in Sanda, O. (ed) *Social Science and Social Policy in Nigeria*, NISER.
- Angel, S. (1968): *Discouraging Crime Through City Planning*, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Gardner, R. A. (1981) "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)", *Security management Magazine*, April edition.
- Gibson, J. E. (1977) *Designing the new City: A Systematic Approach*, John Wiley and Sons.
- Jeffery, C. R. (1977) *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*, California, Sage Publication.

Community policing in Africa

Jean-Luc Gonzales, SCTIP

A high-potential, custom-built approach to the African context

French cooperation on policing

The French Ministry of the Interior exports its knowhow through the Service for International Technical Policing Cooperation (SCTIP). This organization was set up by an order of 1961 to support and aid the new African states, particularly in the field of training. Since then, the volume of technical assistance has

considerably increased and diversified to meet demands from a growing number of foreign States. This technical cooperation is also the means to promote those republican values which form the basis of France's foreign policy.

The concept of community policing

Community policing is an old concept that was reinstated in

France early in the 1970s. Today it is the cornerstone of the "public police force" concept. The French Minister of the Interior¹ recently pointed out that "*The State cannot properly fulfill its mission unless each of our citizens feels bound to society by the republican pact founded in law and law enforcement... Neighbourhood action is a necessary condition for strengthening this bond*". Community policing consists in providing a permanent police presence which not only controls and cracks down on daily crime but above all, prevents it in the first place. It

acts favourably on the citizen's feeling of insecurity in his immediate environment by providing a visible response to the right to the inviolability of the person or his property. Community policing involves several techniques. It improves communication with the population, through information pamphlets, for example; it gives people a better reception at police stations; and it develops neighbourhood patrols. These patrols, which form the basis of the community strategy, ensure the regular, reassuring presence of the policemen on the beat, primarily in the most sensitive

sectors, and this automatically brings them closer to the people.

The benefits of this concept in Africa

In Africa, the population is mainly concentrated in the capitals. Suburban youth often live in the slums and few of them go to school. In addition, for many of them, the frequent breakdown of family ties results in a lack of supervision and education. They are left to their own devices and reduced to begging, moonlighting and crime (burglaries, robberies, snatch-and-grab thefts). In the face of these hazards, a strong feeling of insecurity is growing up.

Experience has shown that a community policing policy patterning the city, is the most appropriate solution and in fact, the only way to check escalating violence.

Two projects initiated by the SCTIP delegations in Bamako and Dakar deserve a special mention in this respect. They are projects for "population protection offices" in Bamako and "community policing" in Dakar.

The first of these projects, which is already in place, was set up by French experts in Mali. It was submitted to the European Commission which agreed to finance it to the amount of F 22 million.

The second is being developed and will be examined at the next session of the UN Commission, "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in Vienna.

The "population protection offices" in Bamako

The Bamako district consists of a juxtaposition of neighbourhoods that have sprung up as a result of rapid, uncontrolled urban growth. Several of the surrounding areas are exposed to increasing insecurity which is rampant throughout the capital. To cope with this situation, the Malian authorities,

helped by the SCTIP delegation, have decided to sponsor a local patrol plan. This project aims to enforce some of the most basic human rights, the right not to be threatened or victimized, and not to be ignored by the public authorities. The creation of fourteen prevention and protection offices should meet this legitimate requirement.

The main demand of neighbourhood associations, women's associations and the various socio-economic players directly or indirectly in charge of the public, is for a stronger police presence. But they are all much in favour of "African-style" safety management which directly involves the people. They maintain that community police forces are capable of achieving osmosis between those groups most exposed to crime (women, children, the elderly) and the local police in charge of preventing unlawful acts. On the contrary, a transient influx of specialized forces unfamiliar to the local citizens only brings a limited improvement in safety.

The "community policing" project in Dakar

This second project is already on the technical assistance agenda drawn up by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission. It consists in aiding the Senegalese authorities in their fight against crime

in urban areas. Such crime is often the work of young people organized into gangs and sometimes armed, even though their various origins, cultures and ethnicities did not predispose them to band together on their rampages.

This project, which basically meets the same need as the Malian project, consists in ensuring a permanent police presence on the beat in order to combat crime and, still more, to prevent it. Based on a map of patrol areas in Dakar, resources have been optimized. The police officers have radios and vehicles, which enable them to report back at all times and to receive instructions.

At the same time, it is important to enhance reception of the public in the police stations. This is achieved by rehabilitating the premises and by the demeanour of the police officers which must reflect a positive image.

The role of training

The concept of community policing must also be integrated into initial and further police training. The policeman on the beat is an important social go-between who helps to control strained situations in his area and thus to reduce anxiety, the root cause of many a crime of violence. He must be able to communicate, pass on messages to the people and pass back their aspirations.

Both in Bamako and Dakar, training courses are conducted by French experts. And French police stations also host senior African officers who can observe how community policing actually works in France.

But it is important for training to be tailored to local realities. The head of a village or a neighbourhood has real authority in Africa. Involving him in any project within his zone of influence will therefore be most effective. In each case, he and his jurisdiction must therefore be well-identified and his aid must be sought.

All the necessary approaches, training and grassroots adaptations take time, which can be frustrating and try people's patience. But between blue-sky optimism and a sense of labouring in vain there is room for realism, as long as progress is a value shared by the majority. ■

1. Liaisons - May 1998

Villes en développement



The head of the village or district has real authority

Justice with a more human face

An interview with Marie-Pierre de Liège, Secretary General of CNV, by Michel Gérard from AdP

Parallel experiences in Marseille, Dakar and Rio

• *Marie-Pierre de Liège, who are you?*

• A magistrate. From 1982 to 89 I directed the French Ministry of Justice Bureau for Victim Protection and Crime Prevention. I came back to prevention in 1992 as Deputy Delegate for Urban Areas (DIV) and since June 1998, I have been Secretary General of the National Committee for Urban Areas, a governmental advisory body. For the past year, the UN has been consulting me for a pilot project in Senegal, "Community Justice".

Together with the Foundation for Man's Progress (FPH), some of us have also created an association, "Citizens for the Revival of Public Action", an name that needs no explaining.

• *How did you come to be interested in the countries of the South?*

• I stayed a while in Latin America and I worked at the Arab World Institute. But it was Habitat II in Istanbul (April 1996) that motivated me towards my present activities in Rio, Dakar and Marseille.

Your readers know how the cities managed, after a hard fight, to participate in the World Conference... of States... on the subject of cities. The FPH expressed the wish that there should be a residents' forum. It therefore financed the attendance of residents from participatory movements in Africa, Latin America and Europe.

They expressed themselves even before the start of the official conference. They emphasized, and rightly so, that they would not be left out of initiatives for solving city-



Marie-Pierre de Liège

Guatemala Court of Justice of Peace

related problems. Urban violence and its prevention emerged as one of the key global issues. All this spurred me on, for I am a firm believer in the desirability of crime prevention and in the people's active participation in this prevention.

• *Why?*

• Since the 1980s in France, agreements have been initiated between the State and many cities to prevent delinquency. Some have enabled "justice centre" to be created where many conflicts are settled out of court. In the countries of the South, particularly in Africa where big cities have grown up only recently, the chieftainships that used to exist in rural areas and in the older cities have tended to disappear for many reasons. But they still linger in people's minds. There is a spontaneous tendency to revert to those patterns and action methods which, to many inhabitants, seem more effective than those of our present-day solemn form of justice, which is so difficult to understand.

In the district of Yoff in Dakar, which is most interesting because it is still an ancient city

full of tradition, the customary chiefs consider that they settle 97% of disputes. According to them, the remaining 3% are outside their powers either because of their seriousness (murder and similar crimes) or their complexity. They therefore direct such cases towards the State judicial system. In fact, with State mandates these chiefs would handle half the remaining cases quite satisfactorily. Imagine the potential social – and financial – benefit of such systems, which are more grassroots-oriented, much easier to understand, much more empowering for him. But what has been preserved in Yoff must be re-created elsewhere. We ourselves in France are rebuilding "community justice" in our big cities. But our ancestral traditions are long-gone and in my view, the countries of the South are able to move faster in this direction – and to teach us a great deal!

• *And how are you translating this into real life?*

• After Istanbul, FPH launched a comparative "self-diagnosis" on urban violence in three cities, Marseille, Dakar and Rio. Local associations are

continuing this approach. In Brazil, the "Viva Rio" association, set up in 1992, succeeded in mobilizing people from bankers to inhabitants of the favelas on the subject "Our city was the gem of Latin America, why has it become a death trap?" This association is helped by the Scientific Institute of Religious Studies (ISER). In Marseille, Shebba, an association of Maghrebian women has become deeply involved. In Dakar, a "resident elder" from Istanbul, Malik Wade, has set up a West-African residents' association (Nigeria included, which is essential for the subcontinent). In Marseille and Dakar, the practical results are there already. And in the northern districts of Marseille, both young and not-so-young inhabitants personally investigate urban violence and propose measures in cooperation with the public authorities. The project is well underway and financially supported by the Prefect. The European Union will theoretically provide aid under its racial discrimination control programme.

In February 1998 in Dakar, Malik Wade coordinated the organization of a forum of West-



Pouvoir colonial, municipalités et espaces urbains. Conakry-Freetown in the years 1880 to 1914. - Paris: L'Harmattan, 1997. - 2 vols., 719-535 p (Racines du Présent coll.) For Europeans, colonial cities were places of administrative, economic and cultural power. By creating Freetown and Conakry, in 1787 and 1885 respectively, the British and the French were transposing their urban models while adopting specific policies based on the power relationship. After studying the municipalities from the institutional angle, the author analyses the various aspects of colonial urban planning: land regulations, architecture, the implementation of segregation-based policies, the obsession with hygienism and health policies, nature's place in the urban environment.

Price: FRF 350 + 280

→ Contact: L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'École Polytechnique, 75005 Paris, France.

La santé dans la ville. Geography of a small dense area: Pikine (Senegal) by Gérard Salem. - Paris: Karthala-ORSTOM, 1998. - 360 p. (Hommes et Sociétés coll.)

The first part describes the building up of knowledge and doctrine on small areas and then develops the geographic approach to health issues, focusing particularly on the conceptual and methodological problems specific to African cities. The second part summarizes the findings of investigations conducted between 1984 and 1994 in Pikine. After presenting the urban environment, it addresses the spatial distribution of factors of risk for health, the working of the health care system, and remedial and preventive recourse to health care facilities.

price: FRF 180

→ Contact: Editions Karthala, 22-24 bd Arago, 75013 Paris, France.

Habitat et environnement urbain au Vietnam. Hanoi et Hô Chi Minh-Ville. - Directed by René Parenteau. - Paris: Karthala-CRDI-Agence de la Francophonie, 1997. - 334 p (Hommes et Sociétés coll.) This survey, which is the result of the work of four Vietnamese institutions, has tried to identify and describe urban poverty in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. It is diffuse and not well mapped-out in Hanoi. It is concentrated on the canals in Ho Chi Minh City where there has long existed a "culture of poverty". The most important contribution of this research has been to highlight this phenomenon and the rapidly-increasing impoverishment of groups whose social status is declining in the swift social, economic and political transition taking place in Vietnam today.

Price: FRF 160

→ Contact: Editions Karthala, 22-24 bd Arago, 75013 Paris, France.

African citizens which centred mainly on urban violence. All was arranged with the Mayor of Dakar, Mr Diop, so that the forum could take place at the same dates as the mayors' forum on the same subject, which gave greater force to everyone. The Dakar community justice and policing project (this project component is described by SCTIP in your publication), supported by the United Nations, takes its lead from this work and from the success of Africities, one month previously (directed by the Municipal Development Programme, which was responsible for great improvement in the skills of the communal staff). This idea is to set up five "justice centre" coupled with police patrols in six urban areas in the Dakar peninsula: Pikine, Rufisque, Guedawaye, Grand

Dakar and the Yoff/Grand Yoff urban complex.

These centres will play various complementary roles:

- victim hospitality and aid,
- informing the inhabitants on their rights and on legal matters,
- handling minor criminal cases and supervising delinquents,
- mediation.

They operate on the basis of contributions in kind from:

- the town halls: premises and secretarial staff,
- the courts: magistrates' advice offices,
- the prison administration: supervision and reintegration of delinquents,
- the local social services: assistance activities.

The most innovative approach will be the inhabitants' participation in the management of these "justice centre", which is much greater than in France

because of the role to be entrusted to the customary chiefs. This prefigures "municipal crime prevention councils" such as those we have here. Note also the linkage between modern law, which is a necessity, and traditional methods, which are being developed but which must be properly supervised.

The project is in need of funds. The United Nations centre, "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program" in Vienna is a leading contributor.

In Rio, comparative self-diagnosis is less advanced. However there exist local "balcões de justicia" (judicial centres). The issues will probably become clearer in a year's time, when the residents' associations from the three cities meet together to draw up a common body of policy principles. ■

The African forum for urban safety

Interview with Mr Mamadou Diop, Mayor of Dakar, President of the Forum, by Villes en Développement

An inter-African instrument for civil peace in the city

• *Mr Mayor, how and when did the African Forum for Urban Safety come into being?*

• In February 1998, at the joint initiative of the City of Dakar, the European Forum for Urban Safety and the Urban Management Programme. This project, which originated back in 1995¹, was shared with me by these two organizations, which helped me to bring it into realization today for the great benefit of Africa and our cities.

• *What were the reasons for this forum?*

• Urban insecurity has assumed worrying proportions in recent years. Consequently after the conferences in Paris in 1991 and

in Saint-Denis-de-la-Réunion in 1995, African cities, like those in Europe, Latin America and the Indian Ocean, expressed the wish for a conference with the main aims of:

- becoming genuine partners in public policies integrating crime control programmes and all other forms of insecurity,
- creating a permanent African meeting-place (forum) on urban safety.

In Europe, cities are already busy re-orienting their action to combat insecurity by developing partnership approaches involving public and private partners. In this context, there is a rebirth of police and justice, in which their institutions are

integrated into large-scale prevention plans managed by the cities (Municipal Councils for Crime Prevention - Bonnemaïson report, 1992).

In many respects, these experiences are akin to practices in today's African cities, which for lack of resources, or simply to be consistent with developing community dynamics, are increasingly leaving safety issues in the hands of the people. Prevention initiatives are accordingly planned in the neighbourhoods (local safety committees, agencies or private companies providing guard services, etc.).

People in our cities are also falling back increasingly on

traditional self-regulatory mechanisms (family or neighbourhood councils) to control their disputes.

This prevention and settlement of disputes based on community traditions will be developed and encouraged in the action plans to be set up in our cities.

• *What were the practical conclusions of your meeting in February?*

• The conference approved the Forum statutes and drew up an action plan.

• *How did you organize yourselves?*

• The approval of the statutes enabled three main bodies to be set up:

- the General Assembly, the institution's highest authority,
- the Executive Council, the decision-making body,
- the General Delegation, the general administration body.

The Mayor of the city of Dakar was unanimously appointed president of the African Forum. The six vice-presidents appointed to assist him enable the various regions of Africa and the Indian ocean to be represented in the Forum.

The Mayor of Bamako acts as general secretary, with the mayor of Ouagadougou as his assistant. The Mayor of Abidjan has been appointed treasurer, with the Mayor of Niamey as his assistant.

We set up a general delegation in charge of the operating and day-by-day managing of the Forum. The meeting also created a consultative committee which groups together bilateral and multilateral development aid institutions and organizations and two technical commissions:

- a safety policy commission chaired by the Mayor of Banjul,
- a training policy commission chaired by the Mayor of Cotonou.

• *And your action plan?*

• That was the second basic conclusion of the Dakar conference. The guidelines of the plan are as follows:

- promote the city and/or the

commune as stakeholders in urban safety policies,

- promote the introduction in cities of Africa and the Indian Ocean of prevention units in charge of providing impetus and leadership for local safety policies.

We hope to achieve these aims by:

- offering a community environment for discussing and analysing insecurity-related issues and the coping policies to be implemented,
- motivating African cities towards co-operation, together with other cities and forums with the same purpose worldwide,
- helping cities to set up coalitions against insecurity and drug dependence,
- developing information on crime phenomena and effective countermeasures,
- helping States affected by conflicts to rebuild a public safety policy.

• *And in the immediate future?*

• The priorities to be dealt with by the Forum have been identified as follows:

- drawing up a Franco-African training programme for elected representatives and coordinating technicians of already-planned local safety policies, in conjunction with the French Forum for Urban Safety,
- inter-city exchanges on the best urban safety practices,
- initiation of a diagnostic study on crime indicators in eight pilot cities: Dakar, Abidjan, Yaounde, Johannesburg, Lagos, Casablanca, Nairobi and Kinshasa. Here again, the project is ready and we are trying to obtain funding. This crime monitoring body is of great importance to our cities, and even to our countries, which will thus have access to clear information on the causes and nature of insecurity, and will thus be able to evolve adequate policies,
- lastly, organizing conferences, awareness-raising sessions and debates on present-day problems in our cities. Several identified subjects will be discussed through a series of

public conferences bringing together the participants and professionals concerned

• *What overall conclusion can you draw from the Dakar meeting?*

• Firstly, it enabled African mayors and professionals to meet together for two days and reflect on the safety problems facing our cities and how to resolve them. The second, and by no means the least important outcome of this conference was the creation of a permanent structure, the African Forum for Urban Safety. It has provided African cities and the entire African continent with an instrument for analysis and reflective thinking on urban crime and delinquency, that will enable them to shape safety policies, assist the work of our public authorities and better meet the expectations of our peoples, whose demand for safety is becoming increasingly insistent.

I will end by thanking you for letting me evoke this Forum. And I would also take this opportunity to thank all my African peers who have been willing to assist in setting up this institution, and to form the wish that European and global partners will help us to achieve our aims and strengthen our Forum. ■

1. Seminar on "Justice systems, cities and poverty" in Saint-Denis-de-la-Réunion, 4-8 December 1995.

Training



Comparative dynamics of developing societies

"SEDET", the laboratory of the Paris-7 University - CNRS, is organizing a DEA postgraduate diploma course under the responsibility of C. Coquery-Vidrovitch: "Comparative dynamics of developing societies", an inter-disciplinary study on countries in the South in contemporary, modern times, in five research areas:

- State, ideology, models and countermodels;
- Cities, urbanization, urban social movements;
- Transport, migration, communications, peasant crises;
- Agri-food problems, demography and health;
- Women, youth, Creole cultures, cultural mediation

→ Contact: *Secrétariat du DEA, SEDET, Université Paris, 7, Tour 34/44, 3ème étage, Pièce 306, Case 7001, 2, place Jussieu, 75251 Paris cedex 05, France, tel. 33 (0)1 44 27 37 05, fax 33 (0)1 44 27 79 87, E-mail: sedet@ccr.jussieu.fr*

Architects and China

At the instance of the Ministry for Culture, the Paris-Villemin School of Architecture has developed a continuous training programme, "Architects and China", with a view to providing professionals wishing to work on the export market with all essential information on the Chinese environment: the market for architecture, relations between client and architect, architectural trades, legal and economic aspects, communication.

→ Contact: *Ecole d'Architecture Paris-Villemin, Catherine Kirby, 14, rue Bonaparte, 75272 Paris cedex 06, France, tel. 33 (0)1 47 03 52 91, fax 33 (0)1 47 03 38 32, http://www.paris-villemin.archi.fr*

Gender planning

The French-speaking training programme of the London University College "Development Planning Unit" will propose a trainer-training course in French in April 1999 on "Gender Planning". How to mainstream this type of planning into development, including urban development, is now an omnipresent theme in development aid agencies whereas the gender approach is still mainly addressed from a "women and development" perspective in French or French-speaking environments.

→ Contact: *Claudy Vouhé, Development Planning Unit, University College London, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0ED, UK, tel. (44 171) 388 7581, fax (44 171) 387 4541, E-mail: dpu@ucl.ac.uk*

- Support for decentralized management of urban communes in Madagascar.

This programme, in synergy with those now being conducted by the World Bank, covers three courses of action:

- Extend to ten new agglomerations of 30 to 50,000 inhabitants, the experience gained from the previous project "aid in strengthening the services of urban communes"

- Continue to strengthen the decentralized State departments in partnership with the DDE (County Public Works Directorate) of Réunion;

- Support a training programme for elected representatives, decentralized department employees and citizens' associations.

- Support for financial and economic institutions in Togo

This project develops three components:

- Rehabilitation of State budgeting and accounting activities,

- Financial support for decentralization including the introduction of the accounting plan in the biggest municipalities,

- Training of Ministry of Finance employees.

«International Forum of mayors for safer cities»

An «International Forum of mayors for safer cities» is organized in Johannesburg from 26 to 27 October 1998 with in parallel Practitioners Network Workshop. From 28 to 30 October, the conference for all role-players in the Crime Prevention Partnership will convene.

Contact : Mr Jean L. Lausberg, Institute for Security Studies, tel. : 27 11 315 796, fax. : 227 11 315 7099, mél. : jean@iss.co.za

Asia Urbs Programme

The European Commission has just launched the Asia Urbs Programme as a new framework for decentralized co-operation between Europe and Asia. Its general aim is to promote partnerships between central and local authorities in Europe and in South and South-East Asia. The Programme is intended as a stepping stone for long-term initiatives based on urban development co-operation, thanks to which local administrators and other partners in urban and community development can exchange experience and knowhow to improve the quality of life of city-dwellers.

This Programme is now in its operational phase after setting up the Asia Urbs Secretariat in 1998, which has the task of managing the Programme and controlling its goals and results.

→ Contact: Stéphane Quoniam, executive manager of the Asia Urbs Secretariat, Avenue Marie José 44 b, B-1200 Brussels, E-mail: secretariat@asia-urbs.com

News on cooperation

Urban development aid

This document, with the subheading "France's international agenda for the development of cities", was drawn up by a working group, led by ISTED, of staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Cooperation and Francophony and the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Housing. Its aim is to guide the work of members of French international cooperation institutions for urban development. It describes France's urban development aid policy since 1990 and its orientations.

The English and Spanish versions will be available shortly.

→ Contact: ISTED "Villes en Développement", Arche de La Défense, 92055 La Défense cedex, France, tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 15 74, fax 33 (0)1 40 81 15 99

Activities

of the ISTED Cities Sector

The "Urban Transport" Group is now in its operational phase. It is currently examining the possibility of a French offer in connection with the urban transport reorganization projects conducted by senior officials in Abidjan and Dakar and backed by donor organizations: the World Bank and the Agence Française de Développement.

A document has just been issued on this subject. It analyses the practicability of an urban transport system that mainstreams sustainable urban development: economic aspects, social aspects and environmental impacts.

It is available in French and English and is intended for policy-makers and donors involved in the urban transport sector.

A second focus group on urban services and sustainable development is being set up. Its task is to analyse concessions and delegated management contracts for urban services to make a cost benefit analysis from the perspective of users, services, the community and private operators.

A third group has been launched on the financing of urban development in West Africa. Its task is to propose a methodology and an approach to local authority financing problems. It is planned that the MDP (Municipal Development Programme) will continue this work by working in the field with the West African local authorities.

Lastly, a work project, in co-ordination with the Club of the Sahel, on the "growth of local economies in West Africa", will be financed by the Ministry in charge of Cooperation and Francophony.

3rd CFDU Summer School

The 3rd summer school of the French Council of Town Planners was held in Dunkirk from 10 to 12 September on the subject of international development aid.

It brought together nearly 200 professionals from the public and private sectors, ministerial representatives, experts and elected representatives engaged in decentralized cooperation activities. Three workshops gave rise to lively debates:

- **Rehabilitation of ancient historical centres** (Beirut, Gabès, Hué, Kairouan, Marrakech, Cracow, Istanbul)

- **The road to decentralization and urban development.** (Tirana, Ho Chi Minh City, the Cities of Senegal and Mali, Ciudad Guyana, Colonia, Fortaleza).

- **Emergency situations.** (Phnom Penh, Tripoli, Bethlehem, Fortaleza, Tirana, Djibouti, Chittagong).

An initial round table addressed the issue of relations between French public financiers, partnering countries and/or authorities and urban planning professionals. The second round table centred on the specificities of operations abroad, and the methods and lessons to be learned from the experiences presented.

A few themes were evolved: complementarity between different types of development aid, importance of economic and financial approaches, analysis of cultures and people's real needs, relations with local policy-makers. Lastly, the elected representatives and urban planners stressed that foreign experiences must enrich professional practices in France, particularly in the field of urban social policy.

→ Contact: Dominique Becquart, Chairman of the CFDU international commission, tel/fax: 33 (0)4 91 71 41 01, E-mail: dbecquart@wanadoo.fr

Association of Professionals Urban Development and Cooperation (ADP)

At the end of the General Assembly on 4 September 1998, the Association's committee members are:

- François Noisette, Chairwoman

- François Bodin, Treasurer

- Jean-Emmanuel Cornu

- Michel Gérard

- Thierry Paulais

- François Reynaud, Secretary

→ Contact: AdP, c/o Villes en Développement, E-mail: reynaud.ved@isted.3ct.com

Institut des Sciences
et des Techniques
de l'Équipement
et de l'Environnement
pour le Développement

Financé par les ministères



Ministère
de l'Équipement,
des Transports
et du Logement



Ministère des
Affaires Étrangères
Coopération et
Francophonie

Directeur de publication :
Jean Smaghe, président de
l'ISTED

Rédacteur en chef :
Michel Gérard, de l'Association
de Professionnels Développement
urbain et Coopération (AdP)

Comité de rédaction :

Chantal Barbieux,

Xavier Crépin,

François Noisette,

Claude Praliaud,

Françoise Reynaud,

Bernard Rond,

Jean-Louis Venard

Secrétaire de rédaction et PAO :
Christiane Graechen-Rebel

Impression : Le Clavier
ISSN 1148 - 2710

Abonnement : 120 F
4 n° par an
ISTED

Centre de documentation
et d'information

"Villes en développement"
Arche de la Défense,
92055 Paris-la-Défense Cedex
France

Tél. (33) 1 40 81 15 74

Fax. (33) 1 40 81 15 99

http://www.isted.3ct.com
ved@isted.3ct.com