

Vice-Chancellor Closes Diplomacy Seminar

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip Mbithi, has said the University of Nairobi is committed to the development of diplomatic training through the proposed Institute of International Studies. The current Diplomacy training programme of the University of Nairobi, he said, is a co-operation venture between the University and Kenya's Foreign Ministry.

Closing a week-long seminar on 'Training of Third World Diplomats' at a Nairobi hotel, the Vice-Chancellor noted with satisfaction that the University of Nairobi has successfully trained 300 Diplomats from 20 countries of the continent since the inception of Diplomacy training in 1973. The trainees, he said, initially qualified for the award of a post-graduate Diploma in International Relations. Prof. Mbithi explained that 'a further course for a Master of Arts in International Relations was added in 1981'.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that 'with this development, the Diplomacy training programme is expected to engage in research, publication, documentation and consultancy'. Prof. Mbithi disclosed that plans to convert the Diplomacy training programme of the University of Nairobi into an Institute of International Studies are being finalised. 'We have now received very strong support from the Government of Kenya, Switzerland and more lately from Japanese Institutions', he said.

Professor Mbithi told the participants that the University Senate supports the Diplomacy training programme and the seminar because 'it believes that such gatherings would mould Diplomats and academics who would contribute effectively to the furtherance of international peace and understanding'.

He said the University has been keen to see that the Diplomacy training programme rises to greater heights in its quality of teaching, research and in the quantity of trainees produced annually.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Diplomats that they are national representatives within and outside the boundaries of their countries and urged



Some of the Participants at the Diplomacy Seminar.

them to reflect the image of their Governments and to silently fight for the interests of their nations. 'You are soldiers without guns', he said.

Prof. Mbithi further stressed that priority themes must receive serious coverage in the training of Diplomats in the Third World countries. Such themes, he suggested, should include bargaining and negotiations, macro-economic policies and practices, technological innovations and implications for all states, strategic studies not only in war but in food reserves, race-ethnic relations and national integration and conflict resolution.

The Vice-Chancellor cautioned that

the training of the Third World Diplomats should not ignore their peculiar historical and economic realities in a world where, he said, basic economic survival, political and military dependence co-exist with international co-operation.

The seminar, which was jointly sponsored by Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, attracted participants from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. It was opened by the Hon. James Muliro, an Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

Departments Get New Chairmen

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Prof. J.N. Maina and Mr. J. Gecaga Chairmen of the Departments of Veterinary Anatomy and Civil Engineering respectively for a period of three years. Prof. Maina takes over from Prof. Oduor-Okello who has been appointed acting Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences while Mr. Gecaga is taking over from Prof. Onsongo who has ceased to be Chairman.

Mr. Kamau Karogi has also been appointed Chairman of the Department of Architecture for a period of three years.

The Vice-Chancellor has also renewed Dr. Kungu Kimani's Chairmanship in the Department of Medical Physiology for another three years.

Varsity Focus wishes the new Chairmen every success in running their Departments.