

# Capitol and Congo establish co-op exchange

By James Fitzroy

The signing of an agreement to establish a cooperative education program between Capitol Campus and Marien N'gouabi University of the People's Republic of the Congo on April 4 was "an historical act," said Sylvain Makasso-Makasso, Rector of the Congolese institution.

The program encompasses exchanges of faculty and graduate students, cooperative research projects, workshops, short courses and exchanges of periodicals and documents, according to Dr. Robert Simko, the campus' director for the program.

Simko said the Congolese are particularly interested in the areas of public administration and regional planning in addition to the American Studies program. The emphasis for Capitol's participants will be African studies.

"The interest of the Congolese in studying things American is unique," said Dr. John Patterson, Head of the Humanities division. The Congo has, in the past, been influenced by the Soviet Union.

"Students from the Congo will

probably begin to arrive for the fall semester," said Dr. Mihailo Dordevic, Professor of Humanities and Literature. Dordevic served as translator during the ceremony and throughout the negotiations when the campus was involved.

Acting Provost/Dean Stanley N. Miller, after introducing the various officials attendant at the ceremony, described the agreement as "an auspicious agreement . . . that marks only the beginning . . . of a warm friendship and relationship that will benefit both parties."

N'gouabi University at Brazzaville is named in memory of the late president of the Congo, who, according to Makasso-Makasso, "was the first person to open the

Congo to the United States, before his assassination. The late president wanted to facilitate the creation of a new university that would reflect the aspirations of the Congolese people."

"The new president wants to continue this policy," he added. We hope to cooperate to reach the achievement of mutual goals."

The exchange program, a first for Capitol Campus on an international scale, was three years in the making, according to Dr. W. La Mar Kopp, Deputy Vice President for International Programs at University Park, and required a complex series of negotiations. He expressed personal satisfaction at the consummation of the agreement while thanking the

United States Information Agency for its "invaluable help and cooperation." The U.S.I.A. is funding the program.

Dr. Kopp described the program as "a joint effort to work on projects of common interest, concern and opportunity."

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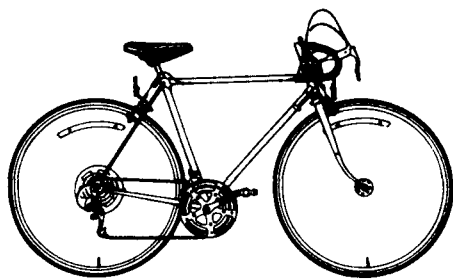
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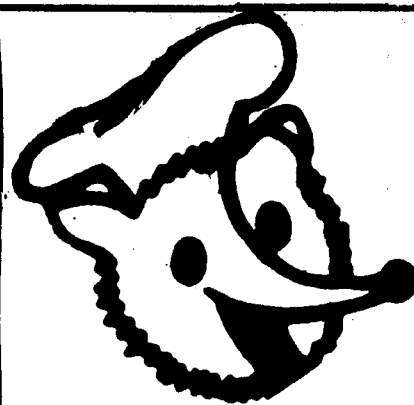
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