

**inter-
national
zone**



United Nations Television

I N T E R N A T I O N A L Z O N E

"FEAR WOMAN"

The women of Ghana have a reputation for independence. They, rather than the men, sit enthroned at the market stalls and run a large proportion of the nation's retail trade. But Ghanaian women are now thrusting even more vigorously into the arena of power and influence; and in this programme we meet three very different ladies who typify the new trend: Esther Ocloo, a notably successful businesswoman and owner of a food processing industry; Mrs. Justice Jigge, a Supreme Court judge and one of the authors of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and Nana Okosampa VI, the hereditary Chief of the Community of Atwia.

Programme No. 134 (Colour)

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"FEAR WOMAN"

VIDEO

AUDIO

MRS. JUSTICE JIAGGE,
SUPREME COURT JUDGE,
ON CAMERA

JUDGE JIAGGE (SYNC):

It's not mere coincidence that the three prime ministers of the world, the three women prime ministers of the world, are from the developing countries. You see, these are countries where women had to fight with the men for independence, and this was the time that they learned a lot of lessons about themselves and they got rid of, or are getting rid of, certain ideas that they had about their own incapacibilities. I think we have to do a lot of work with the women themselves, and then, the men will be taken charge of (LAUGHTER) gradually.

MARKET WOMEN BOARDING
LORRY IN BUS STATION

NARRATOR:

The market of Accra is the swirling centre of the capital of Ghana, one of the first West African countries to win its independence.

SHOTS OF ACCRA MARKET

TRAVELLING SHOT OF
'TRO TRO' LORRY FULL
OF PEOPLE GOING HOME
FROM MARKET

The women of Ghana also have a reputation for independence -- as we are to find out in the next half hour when we meet three of them: a business woman, a village chief and a Supreme Court Judge.

SUPERTITLE:
UNITED NATIONS TELEVISION
INTERNATIONAL ZONE
FEAR WOMAN

MRS. ESTHER OCLOO
ADDRESSING CONGREGA-
TION IN CHURCH

MRS. OCLOO (SYNC):

I always say that if this world will be saved, it will come through women, and I say it with confidence, not because we have that physical power, not because we can fly to the moon, or we can come together and collect our money and make armaments.

REVERSE SHOT OF CONGRE-
GATION

NARRATOR:

Esther Ocloo has some sharp thoughts for the ladies day congregation at Kaneshie Presbyterian Church in Accra.

She is a notably successful businesswoman, the founder of a food-processing industry.

MRS. OCLOO ADDRESSING
CONGREGATION

MRS. OCLOO (SYNC):
God having deprived us of that physical power which men use to threaten us at times, He has endowed us with a spiritual power, we are very sensitive to the spirit! More than men!

CHIEF NANA OKOSAMPA VI,
LADY CHIEF OF ATWIA,
POURING A LIBATION TO
THE ANCESTORS

NARRATOR:
To be elected chief is an honour rare among Ghana's women. Nana Okosampa VI pours a ceremonial libation at the village of Atwia, seventy miles from Accra. Atwia has a vigorous community development programme; and for this bold outlook people give much of the credit to their dynamic lady chief.

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

JUDGE JIAGGE (SYNC): I think
Men and women together make a whole. The roles are complementary.

EXTERIOR SHOT OF
COURT HOUSE

NARRATOR:
Mrs. Justice Jiagge is one of Ghana's Supreme Court Judges, a jurist of international reputation. She has been to the United Nations and was one of the authors of the U.N. Declaration condemning discrimination against women.

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

JUDGE JIAGGE (SYNC):
And I think women have certain special unique attributes that they bring to their work which men don't have, and men also have certain unique attributes which they bring to their work which women don't have, and you need the two together if you want full development in your country, and that is the great thing that happened when the United Nations General Assembly accepted without a dissenting vote, the provisions of the declaration on elimination of discrimination against women.

VARIOUS SHOTS:
RURAL WOMEN WORKING,
CARRYING WATER,
DIGGING FIELDS

NARRATOR:
That Declaration came out of two decades of campaigning in the United Nations, by women of all cultures, for

their rightful share of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.

The document says discrimination against women is fundamentally unjust, an offence against human dignity. It calls for equality before the law, an equal right to vote and to hold public office; the same rights as men to acquire, change or keep nationality; equal access to education, equal pay for the same work.

WOMAN WITH BABY POUND-
ING CASAVA

Women have long known (and some men have been uneasily aware) of just how bad a break the female half of the world population gets -- in work and wages and rights and privileges. They know that an awesome proportion of the world's drudgery falls on the shoulders of womankind.

WOMEN WITH HUGE
BUNDLES ON THEIR HEADS

WOMEN FARMING

In Ghana -- as in other developing countries -- the women work hard; but here they have been enterprising enough to make sure that some of the benefits come back to their own hands. It is considered a woman's duty to the family to raise certain crops; but if there should be a surplus of red peppers then she may sell it at the market and direct how that money is spent.

WOMEN HARVESTING
RED PEPPERS

JUDGE JIAGGE (VO):

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

Women always have a big part to play in the life of the society (SYNC) and their earnings have never been controlled, and if a woman is free to spend the money she earns the way she likes, that's a whole lot of difference in the mental attitude.

ACCRA MARKET
VARIOUS SHOTS OF
WOMEN TRADERS

NARRATOR:

Five minutes spent in the market of Accra is enough to prove that here women really run the retail trade: not only in the barter of onions and tomatoes, but in the more profitable lines of manufactured goods; and some of Ghana's women have realised that they are a force to be reckoned with by the political leaders of the country.

MARKET WOMEN

JUDGE JIAGGE (VO):

The women, they understand that politics controls the profits they make in the market and various other spheres of life and so they join the political parties, and for elections, any elections, they're the first to get there. They understand only too well that they have to take part in political affairs. It's a matter that affects them, their children's education, the money in their pockets, and so on, and they're very keenly interested. Just a few days ago we had a group of women from the market, marching down along the street, against the new local council's bills, but as I said before, the great handicap is lack of adequate education to make them really effective in whatever they do.

CLOTH STORE

OWNER OF CLOTH STORE
COUNTING MONEY

MRS. OCLOO PLAYING
MONOPOLY WITH HER FAMILY

NARRATOR:

Only rarely today has Mrs. Ocloo the time to play 'Monopoly' and bargain for hotels on Park Avenue. She started out as a market trader, got an education, rose to be head of a high-powered business and a consultant to the government on nutrition. She is married and has two children.

MRS. OCLOO O/C

MRS. OCLOO (SYNC):

Well, the thing is I didn't marry early, so before my husband married me, he knew all about me and he knew what he was bargaining for, so he can't say he doesn't like it because I was in business before we got married and he's a businessman too.

MRS. OCLOO WALKING IN
FACTORY YARD

(VO) In fact both of us built this factory and the residence within ten weeks, ten weeks. At that time the little boy you saw just now was only nine months old, and all this place was almost a forest.

SIGN: "NKULENU INDUS-
TRIES FOOD FOR THE
PEOPLE"

NARRATOR:

Nkulenu is Mrs. Ocloo's maiden name and also the name of the aunt who once gave her 50 cents which started her in business. She spent the money on oranges, cooked them for marmalade, hawked the marmalade from door to door, and turned a profit of 100%. She has never looked back. Today her factory has canning,

INTERIOR CANNING FACTORY

MARMAIADE BOILING
BOTTLING FRUIT JUICE

bottling and bakery sections. She runs a training programme for girls, boarding them in her house and teaching them all sides of the business, but she expects them to be as hard-working and self-sacrificing as she has been.

MRS. OCLOO O/C

Mrs. OCLOO (SYNC):

At times I go out on business. By the time I come back in the evening, the baby will be fast asleep, you wouldn't have any chance to play with your own baby, and they would be feeding the baby on the bottle, and every woman likes to caress her babies, but all that you have to sacrifice at times; and especially the girl -- I would have liked the girl to be at home with me because the way my mother handled me, you know, has made me what I am now.

INTERIOR BAKERY

(VO): I'm always trying to fight for the rights of women, but somehow I think our women will have to pull their weight a bit more. The thing is, you know, we women, we have this monthly sickness and all that, but you don't put your mind on such things any time it's your period, then you pull your face, you walk so clumsily, and as soon as they start expecting babies, it's all that sort of lazy movement, tomorrow they come to work, next tomorrow they wouldn't come, they say 'I went to hospital' ... and you see, that sort of attitude.

MRS. OCLOO AND WOMEN
ICING CAKES

VARIOUS SHOTS

MRS. OCLOO IN FACTORY
YARD

And also you know, most of us were brought up by illiterate women, you know, like my mother. So whenever they come out first, everything is new to them, so it takes a bit of time to get the best out of them, but generally the girls should be more hard-working than they are doing now. That's my personal feeling.

SUPERVISING GIRLS AT
SEWING MACHINES

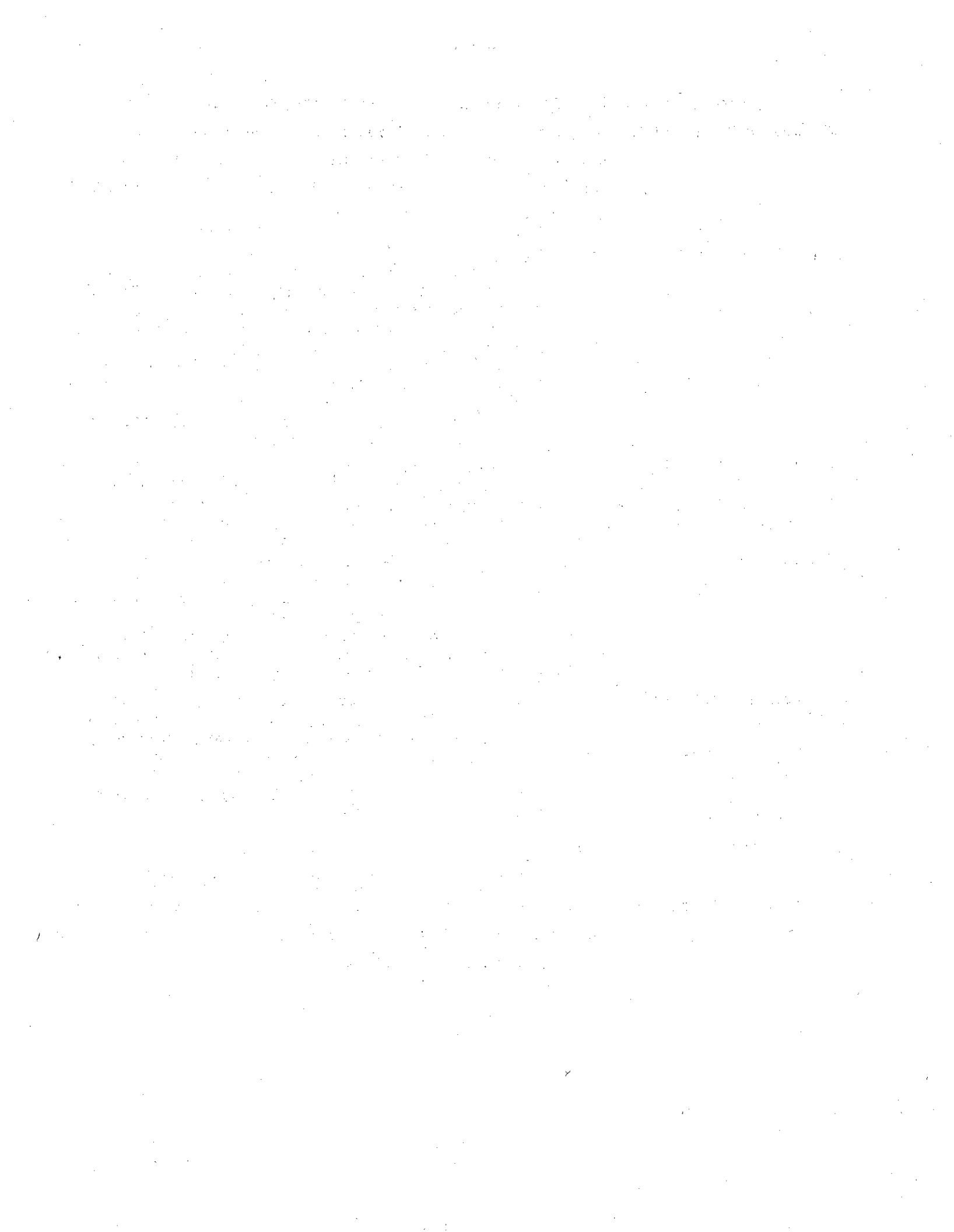
GIRLS SEWING

MEN WEAVING FABRIC

NARRATOR:

MRS. OCLOO WITH WEAVERS

More or less as a hobby, Mrs. Ocloo recently got interested in cloth-making. Those who know her were not surprised to learn that her textile interest payed off as a business proposition.



WEAVERS

MRS. OCLOO (VO): I have rubbed shoulders with men all my life since my school days up to when I was working for the government, they were giving me my due respect, and I started the Ghana Manufacturers Association, (SYNC) and there were only about four women out of over 100 and whenever we go out to these meetings, we stand equal chance, on the whole it's not bad, but I know the ladies who work in the civil service, many a time they complain; they say, you know, it's all on paper, they keep on saying, but I can't say very much concerning what their complaints are because I haven't been in the service for a long time, and when I was there, I had an executive post. I wasn't under anyone.

MRS. OCLOO O/C

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

JUDGE JIAGGE (SYNC):
A qualified woman has to work her way up like anywhere else, but we don't have the resentment that you find in America, for instance against a woman boss, we don't have that. We do have discrimination when you have all men on the board, and where there are promotion exercises they tend to promote the men even though the women are just as qualified, and now that the women are getting on to these policy-making bodies, that too should stop, but we don't have this sort of active resentment. I don't know, it's probably because of our past history; for a very long time women have had a very definite role to play in society.

CHIEF NANA OKOSAMPA VI
PRESIDING OVER VILLAGE
COUNCIL MEETING IN ATWIA

NARRATOR:

In Atwia's Council meeting, Chief Nana Okosampa VI presides over a heated debate. At issue is a proposal that everyone in the village should contribute a week's labour on the communal farm to raise money to finish the school. In Fante she says: "You all know that I am working for the village with all my strength. If you don't also help with all your strength, how can the community progress? Tighten your belts. Start in and do that week's work on the farm so we can go back and finish the school."

MEN DEBATING

CHIEF LISTENING

CHIEF ADDRESSING
COUNCIL MEETING

WOMEN LISTENING OUTSIDE
COUNCIL ROOM

Atwia's lady chief is the only female in the Council room, but outside the other women of the village tune in to the debate. As the chief explains through an interpreter, the women are quick to make their opinions known.

CHIEF OKOSAMPA O/C
INTERPRETER O/C

CHIEF OKOSAMPA (SYNC - in Fante)

INTERPRETER (SYNC):

She says that they really help. Whatever the community worth is, if the women don't support it, there will be no progress. So the women really do everything with the men, whether it's the farm or the school or the road. Whenever they call them to communal labour, the women really pitch in to help.

INTERVIEWER:

Does she find that the women want different things? Do the women have different priorities than the men?

CHIEF OKOSAMPA O/C
INTERPRETER O/C

CHIEF OKOSAMPA (SYNC - in Fante)

INTERPRETER (SYNC):

She says there's really always a consensus on the kind of project to be lifted off the ground; that the women do like the school very much because they see it as a future for their children, but it doesn't mean that they do not help with the other things that the community does.

INTERVIEWER:

Does she find that because she's a woman chief that she has trouble with exercising authority?

CHIEF OKOSAMPA O/C
INTERPRETER O/C

CHIEF OKOSAMPA (SYNC - in Fante)

INTERPRETER (SYNC):

The question of being a woman does not arise in her situation because the community understands what a chief stands for, and what the position of a chief is. And they know very well that she was a woman when they made her chief!

CU CHIEF.

MRS. OCLOO IN CAR

MRS. OCLOO (SYNC):

If policies will be made to cater for the real need of women and children, then women have to come to policy-making level and these days, you know, the highest policy-making level is in the Parliament and in the Cabinet.

CAR ON MOTORWAY

NARRATOR:

Mrs. Ocloo ran for Parliament but didn't get elected. She is going to try again and make sure to visit her constituency.

MRS. OCLOO IN CAR O/C

MRS. OCLOO (VO):

The campaign was no joke. Apart from it being very very expensive, it's very taxing, you know.

(SYNC): And when I went through that for two months, you know, I became half my size and also it looks as if we are not succeeding in getting women into this politics in these developing countries, not because they are not willing to go into it but because our educated women are teachers, telephonists, and those working for government, you know. (VO) And if you are working for government and you are a paid person, it is very difficult to say you want to go into politics. So I think at the time we might be getting more educated, women retiring from government jobs and entering the politics, that would be the right time for African woman to come into forefront, in politics.

CAR ON ROAD

MRS. OCLOO ARRIVES AT MEETING OF LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY

MRS. OCLOO SHAKING HANDS ALL ROUND

NARRATOR:

In Kpandu she meets the local party committee. They have chosen her to run again, convinced that her defeat last time was not because she is a woman.

MRS. OCLOO TAKES THE CHAIR AND OPENS MEETING

JUDGE JIAGGE (VO):

The realization that if something has to be done in your country, you've got to do it yourself, among women is growing, (SYNC) ^{more and more women} and ^{as more get ca} more will be going into the political field, just as they entered all other fields, again the question of education. (VO): In the past girls were kept in the house to help with the younger sisters and the cooking and so on, and the boys were sort of nuisance in the house so they were kicked off to school. Now the parents find their daughters, when they're well-educated and well-qualified, earn as much as the boys, and they have also discovered that they're more sympathetic towards maintaining the old folks than the boys are. So, they are very anxious for the girls to get educated.

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

HIGH SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING SPEECHES

BOYS AND GIRLS COME UP TO ROSTRUM

MRS. OCLOO HANDING OUT PRIZES

PRIZE-GIVING

NARRATOR:

Ghana provides places for nearly two-thirds of the country's children of primary school age. At this level there are nearly as many girls in school as boys. The crunch comes at high school entrance. Above this point only 8% of Ghana's boys are at school and only 2% of the girls.

MRS. ENGMAN O/C

SUPERTITLE:

MRS. COMFORT ENGMAN
ASST. HEAD, ACCRA HIGH
SCHOOL

BOYS AND GIRLS IN
BIOLOGY CLASSROOM

TEACHER AT BLACKBOARD

GIRLS LOOKING AT
TADPOLES

TEACHER ASKS GIRL ABOUT
TADPOLES

GIRL WITH TADPOLES

1st GIRL IN CLASSROOM O/C

2nd GIRL O/C

MRS. ENGMAN (VO):

Allocation of places in the secondary school is up to headmasters, most of whom themselves are men. (SYNC) We want to think of ourselves as citizens of this place and we don't even know that we are women, so that if a boy's education helps the country, we are the same material. For instance, I feel that we more than the boys, that is, the girls more than the boys, should be very highly educated because at that early age where the child should be influenced, we are in charge. (VO) And if we say that we should have a say at all levels, then we must be qualified for it.

We treat the children equally right from the start. Every child is forced to take general science; additional general science, they can take it by choice. But there is nothing in the system to prevent them and right now we have girls doing additional general science and additional mathematics.

From my observations you will find girls all taking subjects which might easily qualify them for medicine, engineering and any branch of science subjects, and we have had lady doctors as far back as 1945, '49.

1st GIRL (SYNC):

I would like to be a medical doctor when I finish school. This is because I have the interest in science, especially biology, and I find it very interesting when we are doing practicals for example like dissection. And also I would like to do my work still when I am married.

2nd GIRL (SYNC):

I choose to be an air hostess. I like to get in touch with other people and know more about the cities the plane stops over at. And I think I can learn more French when I get to the training school. And I think I can cope with the housework and work at the same time.

INTERVIEWER:

As well as being an air hostess? What's your husband going to say when you stay away?

2nd GIRL (SYNC):

I would like him to be a pilot too. So we'll be travelling. (LAUGHTER)

BOY IN CLASSROOM O/C

BOY (SYNC):

But I feel I would like to have a housewife.

3rd GIRL O/C

3rd GIRL (SYNC):

I would like to be a dentist because I know the need for dentists in Ghana. And I think that would be a good choice from the subjects I have chosen. And I would like to work when I am married.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think your husband will object?

3rd GIRL (SYNC):

I don't think he will object.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think most Ghanaian men like their wives to work?

2nd GIRL O/C

2nd GIRL (SYNC):

No, some don't like it, but I hope he likes it when we get married.

2nd BOY O/C

2nd BOY (SYNC):

I would like a woman who stays at home.

4th GIRL O/C

4th GIRL (SYNC):

I think that he's wrong in saying that because now in Ghana it's very difficult to get money from just the man. And the woman helping would also benefit both of them. And I also think that if the man did the washing up and the woman cooked, that would be best because the man has to help with the home management too.

3rd BOY O/C

3rd BOY (SYNC):

I don't like .. even my dress I don't like to wash it, and how can I do these manual things .. that's meant for the woman. (LAUGHTER)

2nd GIRL O/C

2nd GIRL (SYNC):

I don't think it's fair for him to say such a thing. This is not meant for woman; both of us can do it together.

INTERVIEWER:

How are you going to change their minds? How are you going to persuade them?

4th GIRL O/C

4th GIRL (SYNC):

Well, we'll need a little bit of suppression there. They'll have to cope with it somehow; because if all women are going to have this kind of mind, if the men refuse to have any woman who's got that mind, then the men are surely not going to marry!

BOYS AND GIRLS IN CLASS-
ROOM LAUGHING

(LAUGHTER)

WOMEN WORKING ON IBM
DATA PROCESSING MACHINES

JUDGE JIAGGE (VO):

Until all nations have accepted the fact that in planning for the nation, one has to plan for men and women together, your manpower planning, it has to be men and women together, until we get to that point, the work of the Commission and the status of woman is very important. As a matter of fact, we are encouraging each member state of the U.N. to form a national commission on the status of women. (SYNC) It should be composed of 50% men and 50% women, so that you get right from the beginning the understanding that women's problems are men's problems and men's problems are women's problems.

VARIOUS SHOTS

JUDGE JIAGGE O/C

GIRL DRESSED IN CEREMONIAL
COSTUME DANCING IN MARKET
PLACE SURROUNDED BY SING-
ING WOMEN AND GIRLS

NARRATOR:

Only yesterday Mamle was a child. Today she has put on the traditional dress for a ceremony which formally raises her to the status of a woman. Henceforth, she will bear a woman's burdens. And although many of her countrywomen have successfully overcome them, the odds are still stacked against Mamle just because she is a woman.

SUPERTITLES:

INTERNATIONAL ZONE
FEAR WOMAN

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