

THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF GHANA, 2nd Ed. By L. Rubin and P. Murray. [London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1964. xx + 324 pp. £2. 17s. 6d.]

The constitutional changes which have taken place since the publication of the first edition of the book in 1961 seem to have necessitated this second edition. Most of these changes were effected by the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1964, which declares, among other things, that

IA (1) In conformity with the interests, welfare and aspirations of the People, and in order to develop the organizational initiative and the political activity of the People, there shall be one national party which shall be the vanguard of the People in their struggle to build a socialist society and which shall be the leading core of all organizations of the People.

(2) The national party shall be the “Convention People’s Party”.

The Act also empowers the President to remove from office a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Judge of the High Court at any time for reasons which to the President appear sufficient.

Another landmark was the Supreme Court’s decision in *Re Akoto* (Civil Appeal 42/61) in which it was held that the declaration of fundamental principles required

to be made by the President did not "create legal obligations enforceable by a court of law." The relevant portion of the judgment is reproduced on pp. 208-209 of the book.

The Preventive Detention (Amendment) Acts of 1962 and 1963 which give increased powers of detention to the President are mentioned. The footnotes to the paragraph on the Preventive Detention Act cite a number of references to relevant legal literature and parliamentary debates.

While the text of the Constitution, printed as an appendix, contains the amendments effected in 1964, it is a postscript which gives some details of these amendments (pp. vii-ix). If the main reason for bringing out the second edition was these amendments rather than the State Secrets Act, 1962, the amendments to the Preventive Detention Act and certain other enactments, one would expect a fairly detailed discussion of these constitutional amendments in the general survey of the Constitution attempted in the book.

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