

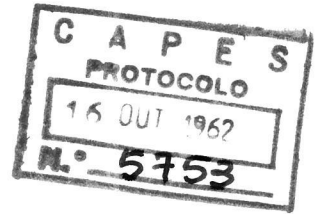
# REPORT



by

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AID TO STUDENTS



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## AID TO STUDENTS

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## AID TO STUDENTS

### STAGE TWO STUDIES

#### SENEGAL

##### INTRODUCTION - THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The educational system of Senegal is essentially French, tuition is in French, and much of the money for its expansion comes from France; it is to France that Senegalese university students go when the facilities of their own country are inadequate. The educational system has also been influenced by the fact that Senegal was only a part of the wider colonial grouping of French West Africa. The new University of Dakar does not serve only Senegal, but students, both African and European, from all over former French West Africa; while the political balkanisation of the area may in the long run be reflected by a development of higher education along national lines, the existence of a regional university will tend to work in the other direction politically, helping to bind the new West African nations together.

At the lower level, as at the higher, Senegalese education is predominantly public, free and lay. The few private and religious secondary schools do not appear to be significantly different on the academic plane from the public ones.

##### Primary education

Before the second world war there was some resistance to primary education, since, even with children of that age, parents resented the loss of earning power involved in sending them to school. Now, however, the chief obstacle to the expansion of primary education is shortage of schools and teachers. In 1960/61 there were 125,000 pupils attending primary schools, roughly three-quarters of them

enrolled in public schools. This represented 28 per cent of all children of primary school age, an improvement on the 23 per cent in attendance in 1959/60. The latter figure conceals a wide divergence in school attendance between urban and rural areas, 57 per cent of school-age children living in towns attended primary school, while only 12 per cent of those in the countryside did so. A rapid improvement in school attendance in the countryside is envisaged in the current four-year plan, which will bring the overall level of primary school attendance up to 51 per cent 1964/65. It is hoped that by between 1970 and 1975 all children will attend primary school.

#### Secondary education

In 1960/61, 3,400 pupils moved on from the primary to the secondary stage of education. In that year, 9,385 pupils were attending public and private secondary schools, of whom only 1,165 were in the second three-year stage of secondary education. It is hoped that this proportion will have improved by 1964/65, when it is expected that 2,550 out of 15,900 secondary school pupils will have reached this stage.

Until the end of the second world war there were two lycées in Senegal, both the responsibility of the colonial government. One was at Dakar, and catered almost exclusively for European pupils, the other at St. Louis, where most pupils were African. In addition, two higher primary schools at Dakar and St. Louis provided a further three years education beyond the primary stage, and for those who had passed through this it was possible to attend the Ecole Normal. This was in theory a school for training primary school teachers at the same time as giving them secondary education, but in practice pupils were also trained for posts in the public service, and prepared for courses in Dakar and Bamako (Mali) on which they could qualify as medical and veterinary assistants respectively. Entrance to all these schools was by competitive examination, and either the colonial government or that of French West Africa assumed all expenses of successful candidates without consideration of parental means.

Since the end of the war, a number of new secondary schools have been created, among them two schools for girls at Dakar and St. Louis, three more for boys, two technical schools and two more secondary-level teacher training colleges. There are in addition four private secondary schools.

#### Higher education

The University of Dakar is the first in French-speaking Africa. Founded by the decree of February 24, 1957, it grew out of the Dakar Institute of Higher Studies, which had itself been founded in 1950 with the double aim of providing African education "according to the regulations in force in the metropolis" and of promoting research; it comprised schools of law, science and letters and a preparatory training in medicine and pharmacy. These became, with the opening of the university, faculties of law and economics, sciences, letters and social sciences, and medicine and pharmacy. These numbered respectively 589, 334, 321 and 154 students in 1961. To these are attached a number of more specialised institutions, among them the institutes of education, applied tropical medicine, African administrative studies, Islamic studies and applied economics.

The University was established under an agreement between France and the Mali Federation, of which Senegal was then a part. Its administration was in French hands. This arrangement has to some extent survived the dissolution of the Mali Federation; however, since the council of the University includes the President of Senegal, M. Léopold-Sédar Senghor, the Minister of Justice and the President of the Assembly, the Senegalese voice does not go unheard in the determination of University policy at the highest level.

The University of Dakar, which is Senegal's only university, plans to expand to 3,000 students by 1964/65, against 1,400 in 1960/61. It will therefore increasingly become the centre of higher learning for Senegalese and to a lesser extent for other French West African students,

including some who would otherwise have studied in France. Hitherto, education in France has been an accepted part of Senegal's higher education system.

AID TO SECONDARY STUDENTS

Secondary education was the responsibility of the territorial authorities under French rule, and is now that of the Senegalese government. The role of the Haut Commissariat in secondary education was confined to the Lycée Technique Maurice Dalefosse, and this too is now the responsibility of the government of Senegal. We have, therefore, to deal with only one major source of aid to secondary students; though the municipalities of Dakar and St. Louis provided, and the former continues to provide, a certain number of bursaries at this level.

As education itself is free, assistance to secondary students is confined to maintenance allowances and grants for clothing and school equipment. The greater part of such aid, in terms of money rather than of the number of awards made, strictly falls outside the scope of this study. Although the awards are made as bursaries to the students, the money is paid to the schools, which themselves maintain the pupils. Direct payments to the pupil's parents or to himself may take the form of a payment to the parents for the boarding fees of their child; for the child's maintenance at home; for clothing alone or school equipment alone; or for maintenance and clothing or equipment or both.

While figures are available for the total number of secondary pupils receiving assistance, we do not know how many of them received aid in the strict sense employed in this survey of direct cash payments. Figures are, however, available of bursaries, involving direct payments awarded to new secondary pupils in each year between 1952 and 1958.



	<u>Secondary admissions</u>	<u>Total new aid awards</u>	<u>New cash awards</u>	
	<u>number</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>% of admissions</u>
1952/53	534	324	133	25
1953/54	727	371	161	22
1954/55	959	523	225	23
1955/56	...	441	218	...
1956/57	693	300	195	28
1957/58	1,471	686	411	28

... Not available.

Thus, while the total number of new awards is barely keeping pace with the rise in admissions, new cash awards form a fairly steadily increasing percentage of all awards - 41 per cent in 1952/53 and 60 per cent in 1957/58. This trend has been in part accounted for latterly by a rise in the number of small grants covering either only a part of maintenance costs, or clothing and equipment only. Such awards to children whose parents' means debar them from anything greater are likely to become increasingly important following the adoption in 1958/9 of the policy of granting awards worth one quarter of the full amount in cases where nothing more was justified. However, figures for this and subsequent years are not available.

Although the number of cash awards to children entering secondary schools in 1957/58 was greater than that of non-cash awards, in terms of money spent they were less important, since until recently a maintenance grant for a child living at home has been much less than the sum nominally awarded to a child wholly maintained by a school. The sums spent by the educational authorities directly on the maintenance, clothing and equipment of children are compared in the following table with those paid out to parents or pupils in cash for the same purposes.

Expenditure on Aid to Secondary Students  
(million francs CFA)

	<u>Maintenance Expenditure</u>	<u>Cash Awards</u>
1953	89.3	17.0
1954	95.0	17.0
1955	102.9	19.5
1956	91.0	21.9
1957	80.2	23.7
1958	96.3	31.4
1959	106.3	37.0
1960	112.5	50.0

The amount of the award which covered full maintenance of the pupil at school was stable between 1950 and 1959 at 32,000 francs CFA a year, plus 10,000 francs CFA for clothing and 4,000 francs CFA for school equipment. For students living at home, the maintenance grant paid to parents was 16,000 francs CFA a year until 1959; thereafter it was doubled. Allowances for clothing and equipment are the same as for students wholly maintained at school.

Awards are not made on competitive basis, except for students at the écoles normales, who do not in any case receive actual grants but are maintained free. Once a student has passed the entrance examination to his secondary school, he is free to apply for assistance, which will be granted or refused, in accordance with his family's financial circumstances. The distance between the pupil's home and school is also taken into consideration in determining the type of award to be made. Applications are considered by the national bursary commission, which includes representatives of government, education, parents, students and business; applications for bursaries awarded by the municipality of Dakar are considered by its own education committee. Virtually all African pupils who have gained a place in a secondary school ask for an award. No stigma is attached to such an application; indeed, better-off parents whose children are refused grants consider themselves hard done by. The tendency in recent years to provide more partial awards should lessen this feeling. European parents, on the other hand, at least at the level of secondary education, tend to dislike the means test involved in gaining a grant for their children, and only a few European families apply for awards for their children. To a European family, moreover, the scale of assistance cannot seem at all generous. This reluctance is an important reason for the fact that under half of all secondary pupils are aided.

If the sums involved seem small to European families in Senegal, they undoubtedly make all the difference to Africans whose children are able to qualify for secondary education. The doubling of the total number of awards, from 324 in 1952/53 to 686 in 1957/58, has played a vital role in making possible the expansion of secondary education which has taken place. For many years to come, further growth in education will have to be supported by a concurrent expansion in aid.

AID FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Until about 1930, the very few Senegalese who obtained higher education had to do so at their own expense. From then onwards, however, a small number of bursaries were given for study in France - initially only about two or three a year for veterinary students, but by the eve of the second world war some ten a year, for students of medicine, law and letters as well as veterinary science. Political and economic developments since the war have given a new impulse to student aid. The creation of the French Union implied an equality of rights between Frenchmen and Senegalese which affected educational thinking; the emergence of African nationalism encouraged a willingness at municipal level to further African higher education by making more funds available for assistance to students; and the creation of the French economic aid agency F.I.D.E.S. in 1946 provided a new source of funds for the government of Senegal. The transition to self-government in 1958 and independence in 1960 brought the enthusiasm for African education from the municipal up to the national level.

In discussing Senegalese higher education and aid for it, it would be possible but hardly meaningful to treat the matter on a purely national basis. Until Senegal became independent, those who went to study in France were not technically studying abroad, but only in another part of the French Union. Although this is no longer so, study in France remains an integral part of Senegal's higher education system, and there would be little point in excluding the aid which makes it possible. Indeed, the bulk of the assistance provided by the Senegalese authorities is for study in France. Equally the aid which the French government grants to students at Dakar University is of central importance in the overall picture of aid to higher education, and to treat it as foreign aid would preclude discussion of the greater part of the assistance provided for students actually in Senegal. To get a complete picture of aid to higher education in Senegal it is necessary to consider all official aid

to Senegalese students, whether they study in Senegal or in France, and whether the aid comes from Senegalese or French authorities. A further difficulty in treating aid on a purely national basis is that Dakar University is by no means a national institution: it caters, as did its predecessor the Institute of Higher Education, for students from all over former French West Africa, and to a lesser extent from still further afield. This will tend to change as other institutions of higher education grow up elsewhere in West Africa; but at present it is difficult, sometimes impossible, to arrive at statistics on aid to Senegalese students alone.

#### The scale of aid

For the period 1950-1958, it is not possible to give an accurate total of the number of Senegalese students aided, since at that time the Haut Commissariat awarded bursaries to students from all over French West Africa to study either at Dakar or in France. While the total number of such grants is available, the proportion held by Senegalese students is not. The number of bursaries held in France by students from French West Africa rose steadily from 171 in 1950/51 to 755 in 1957/58. Assuming that the proportion of Senegalese among them was lower than the 23 per cent of students at Dakar University in 1958/59 who were Senegalese, and therefore studying on their home ground; and assuming further that the actual number of Senegalese holding bursaries for study in France was rather lower in 1957/58 than the 152 who held them in 1958/59, when the newly autonomous government of Senegal had assumed responsibilities for their assistance, it may be roughly estimated that 18 per cent of this type of bursary were held by Senegalese students. This indicates that in 1950/51 30 Senegalese students in France received bursaries from the Haut Commissariat, and in 1955/56, 107.

To these must be added students aided by other bodies. After the second world war, the municipality of Dakar became a focus of African nationalism, and provided bursaries for African students to attend French centres of higher education. These were awarded not only to residents of Dakar but also to applicants from other parts of Senegal. Very occasionally, bursaries were even granted to candidates from other French West African colonies. In 1950/51, 90 students attending French institutions of higher education were assisted by grants from the municipality of Dakar, and in 1955/56, 69. A third source of assistance for higher studies in France during this period was the colonial government of Senegal. It gave bursaries to Senegalese students attending higher technical schools in France - 29 in 1950/51 and 11 in 1955/56. It does not appear, however, to have given any aid to students at French universities or other institutions requiring the baccalaureate as a qualification for entry.

The estimated number of Senegalese students assisted by the Haut Commissariat together with the actual numbers of those aided by the municipality of Dakar and the colonial government, results in totals of 149 for 1950/51 and 189 for 1955/56. It is not known how many Senegalese were studying in France in these years, but in view of the high cost of travel between France and Senegal, and of maintenance in France, it seems safe to assume that all but a tiny minority of them were in fact aided.

In estimating aid for higher education within Senegal before 1958, the main problem again is that the Haut Commissariat, the sole source of bursaries to the Dakar Institute of Higher Studies, awarded them to students from all parts of French West Africa, and there is no way of telling how many of the recipients were Senegalese. The number of awards made rose from 39 in 1950/51 to 297 in 1957/58. It is not feasible to make a precise estimate of the Senegalese share in these, but it is unlikely that the number of Senegalese assisted in their studies at the Dakar Institute by the Haut Commissariat in 1955/56 exceeded 75, and in 1950/51 it was probably only a handful.

Taking these figures in conjunction with those for assistance to Senegalese students in France, it seems that the maximum number of Senegalese students receiving assistance in higher education was about 160 in 1950/51 and 265 in 1955/56. It is impossible to discover what proportion of all Senegalese students in higher education this is. However, it is probable that nearly all those studying abroad were aided, and that the proportion of Senegalese students assisted at the Dakar Institute in 1955/56 was much higher than the overall proportion of 46 per cent in that year. In 1958/59, the pattern of student aid changed along with the political framework in which it was operated and the administrative machinery through which it was dispensed. With self-government, the Haut Commissariat's student aid functions were divided between the French government and, after the Mali Federation of Senegal and Soudan had dissolved, the government of Senegal. The division of responsibilities meant, roughly, that the French government provided bursaries at the new University of Dakar, while the Senegal government assisted those studying in France. Two exceptions to this are that the government of Senegal now provides a handful of bursaries at Dakar University, while the municipality of Dakar continues its independent action in providing assistance for higher studies in France.

A second change was the elevation to university status of the Dakar Institute of Higher Studies. This removed one reason for going to France as Senegalese students had naturally been concerned not only with what they learned, but also with the formal qualifications they received. Since Dakar became a university, the number of Senegalese studying in France has continued to rise, but more slowly than has the number of Senegalese at Dakar University. In 1958/59, the Mali Federation assisted 152 Senegalese students to study in France, and the municipality of Dakar another 64. In 1960/61, the Senegalese government provided assistance for 198 of its own students to study in France, and the municipality of Dakar aided another 71. Assuming that these two totals of 216 and 269 represent a constant proportion of Senegalese

students in France in those years, the number of Senegalese studying in France rose by about 25 per cent in two years. Over the same period, the number of Senegalese students at Dakar University rose from 276 in 1958/59 to 434 in 1960/61 - an increase of 57 per cent.

To the number of students from Senegal aided in their studies in France in recent years must be added that of students aided at Dakar University. Here, unfortunately, statistics are again inadequate. We know the total number of students at Dakar, the proportion of these who were Senegalese, and, at least for 1958/59 how many students were aided; but, we do not know how many of these were Senegalese. Fortunately, the overall percentage of assisted students at Dakar is a more reliable guide than before the Institute of Higher Studies became a university, when the large numbers of unassisted Europeans students pushed the percentage aided below 50 per cent. Since then, the proportion of Europeans in the student body at Dakar has fallen, and it appears that many of these too are aided. Nevertheless, the proportion of Senegalese students receiving assistance is probably still rather higher than is that of all students.

In 1958/59, when 276 out of the 1,316 students inscribed were Senegalese, 88 per cent of the total received official aid, almost all of it provided by the French government. The number of European students, the only national group likely to differ significantly from the Senegalese as concerns the proportion of students aided, is not known for this year, but it seems probable that roughly 95 per cent of Senegalese students were receiving assistance - or 262 in 1958/59. By 1960/61, the student body at Dakar had risen to 1,398 and the number of Senegalese there to 434, or 31 per cent of the total; on the same basis, it seems that 412 of these Senegalese students were aided.

In the table which follows it has been assumed that all these Senegalese students were aided by the French government. However, both the government of Senegal and the municipality of Dakar have begun, very recently and as yet in very small number, to grant bursaries for study at



Dakar. But, this form of aid, is still statistically insignificant, though is likely to become increasingly important. A further modification must be made to the statement that bursaries at Dakar University are provided by the French government. The bursaries it offers are only three-quarters the size of those few made by the Senegalese authorities to students at Dakar, and the Senegalese government supplements them up to the level of its own awards.

Estimated Number of Senegalese Students Aided

<u>Source of aid</u>	<u>1950/51</u>	<u>1955/56</u>	<u>1958/59</u>	<u>1960/61</u>
Haut Commissariat:				
in France	30	107	-	-
in Senegal	10	75	-	-
Municipality of Dakar	90	69	64	71
Senegalese Government <sup>a</sup>	29	11	152	199
French Government <sup>b</sup>	-	-	262	412
Total	159	262	478	682

a In 1950/51 and 1955/56, the authorities of the colony of Senegal; in 1958/59, the Mali Federation of which Senegal formed part; and in 1960/61, the government of an independent Senegal. Virtually all aid was for study in France.

b For study at Dakar. In 1960/61, French government bursaries were supplemented by the government of Senegal.

It can be seen, first, that the growth in the number of students aided accelerated in the second half of the decade - the increase in the first five years being 65 per cent and in the second 160 per cent; and secondly that the French government is assisting more Senegalese students now that Senegal is independent than it did, through the agency of the Haut Commissariat and the colonial government, when Senegal was its direct responsibility. The municipality of Dakar has continued to supplement the activities of other authorities, though on a rather smaller scale now than in the early 1950s. On its side, the government of Senegal provided assistance for over three times as many students to study in France in 1960/61 as did its colonial predecessor and the Haut Commissariat together ten years earlier.

Statistics on aid expenditure between 1950 and 1960 are also somewhat inadequate. The Haut Commissariat of French West Africa spent 23.7 million francs CFA (\$135,000) on bursaries and other direct assistance in 1950, a figure which rose steadily to 277.1 million (\$1,320,000) in 1958; however, these sums were available to students from all over French West Africa. Even assuming that as much as a fifth of the total went to Senegalese students, it is clear that for many years aid by the municipality was more important as far as Senegal was concerned. Expenditure by the municipality is set out in the table below together with the number of students aided by it in each year, and the size of the average grant.

Expenditure by the Municipality of Dakar  
on Student Aid

	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Students Aided</u>	<u>Aid per Students</u>	
	('000 frs CFA)	('000 \$)		('000 frs CFA)	(\$)
1950	12,051	68.9	90	133	766
1951	12,051	68.9	87	139	792
1952	21,270	121.5	101	211	1,203
1953	14,916	85.2	83	180	1,027
1954	18,281	104.5	76	241	1,375
1955	29,000	165.7	69	420	2,401
1956	18,555	106.0	63	295	1,683
1957	31,200	169.6	58	538	2,924
1958	19,260	91.7	64	301	1,433
1959	27,402	111.8	67	409	1,669
1960	31,000	126.5	71	437	1,782

The expenditure of the government of Senegal was relatively unimportant until 1960/61, as before then it had aided only a few students attending higher technical colleges and advanced secondary schools in France. Allocations in the Senegal budget ranged from 5,747,450 francs CFA (\$32,800) in 1952/53 to 16,000,000 francs CFA (\$76,200) in 1958/59. In 1960/61, however, the government of Senegal spent 148.5 million francs CFA (\$606,000) on aiding 199 students studying outside Senegal - all but one of them in France. This sudden jump followed the assumption by independent Senegal of responsibility for assistance to the bulk of Senegalese students abroad.

No expenditure statistics are available on aid by the French government to Senegalese students at Dakar University, but a rough estimate may be made. In 1960/61, French government bursaries were worth

13,716 francs CFA a month, or 164,592 francs CFA (\$672) a year. Not all the bursaries granted were full ones - 4.4 per cent of the new awards made that year were for only part of the full amount, averaging about a half of it. Thus, in 1960/61, about 96 per cent of all bursaries were worth 164,592 francs CFA each, and the remainder averaged 82,300 francs CFA. If the proportion of partial awards is the same for Senegalese as for all students receiving bursaries at Dakar, total French expenditure on aiding these was roughly 66,429,000 francs CFA (\$271,000).

Since the Senegalese government supplemented the French bursaries in 1960/61 up to 18,000 francs CFA a month, its annual expenditure under this head would have amounted to rather over 23 million francs CFA (\$94,000).

Using these estimates in conjunction with data on the other sources of student aid, the following overall estimate of expenditure on direct aid to Senegalese students in higher education can be made in 1960/61.

	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Students</u> <u>Aided</u>	<u>Aid per</u> <u>Student Aided</u>	
	('000 frs CFA)	(\$'000)		('000 frs CFA)	(\$)
Daker municipality	31,000	126	71	437	1,782
Senegal Government (for study abroad)	148,500	606	199	746	3,045
French Government	66,430	271	) 412 (	161	658
Senegal Government (for study at Dakar)	23,150	94		56	228
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,080</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1,609</b>

The figures for aid per student aided must be treated with some reserve where they concern aid for study in France, since the sums involved appear improbably high, even when certain qualifying factors are taken into account. The average level of aid per student provided by the municipality of Dakar has fluctuated from year to year (see table on page 15) in a way which suggests that the sums spent in a given year does not always correspond with the sums voted.

The apparent size of the average award by the government of Senegal for students in France is such that the budget allocation of 148.5 million francs CFA for this purpose may in fact include other forms of expenditure. The amount of a full Senegalese government bursary for study in France in 1960/61 was 216,000 francs CFA. (It has since been raised to 261,000 francs CFA.) To this basic grant, several other sums must be added. A married burser receives an additional 50 per cent on his grant; all those aided get an annual clothing allowance of 30,000 francs CFA; grants are also made for fares to and from France, including one for a return holiday visit to Senegal every two years. Even taking these extras into consideration, however, it is difficult to see how a basic grant of 216,000 francs CFA can become an average of 746,000 unless the total allocation for aid in fact includes some expenditure under other heads.

#### The adequacy of awards

Nevertheless, the average sum received is generous in comparison with national resources and with living standards. Average income per head in 1959 was \$168, an average pushed up by the 50,000 non-Africans in Senegal who had an income per head of \$1,680. For the African population the average was \$118, again well above the median income per head. Seen in this light, the scale of grants awarded at the University of Dakar (\$880 per annum, taking French bursary and Senegalese supplement together) is clearly adjusted more to the standards of the elite the graduate can expect to belong to - a higher civil servant may well earn \$5,600 a year - than to the general level of income. By Senegalese standards therefore the bursaries awarded at Dakar are quite adequate to maintain the student, possibly at a level higher than that to which he has been accustomed, while the bursaries for study in France also seem sufficient to maintain the student there.

The form of aid

The grants made to students are entirely for their maintenance - lodging, food, clothing, and books and other academic necessities - since education at this level is free save for certain small enrolment charges from which bursers are exempted. In 1960/61 bursers at Dakar University were paid 13,716 francs CFA a month directly by the university and indirectly by the French government, while the Senegalese government added another 4,284 francs CFA a month. In 1961/62, the French government bursary rose to 14,000 francs CFA a month. It is not clear how this change has affected the level of Senegalese supplementary assistance, but the full bursary granted by Senegal to students in France stood at 261,000 francs CFA per annum in 1961/62. In addition to this basic grant, a further 30,000 francs CFA per annum is granted to bursers studying in France as a clothing allowance.

Selection for aid

Virtually all those who have passed the Baccalaureat and wish to continue their studies apply for assistance, whether African or European, whether they wish to study in France or at Dakar University. The aid-awarding agencies may take into account the course of study which a candidate proposes to take, but in general the family circumstances of the candidate are the factor which determine whether or not he receives aid. We have no information on the income level beyond which a student does not qualify for aid. It presumably varies to some extent, according to the amount of money available for aid, and changes in the policy which governs it. However, most applicants are aided. In 1958/59, when 253 full new bursaries and 8 partial ones were granted at Dakar University, 119 other candidates (not all Senegalese) were refused assistance.

In awarding aid to Senegalese wishing to study in France the National Bursaries Committee has recently begun to apply the principle that no bursary should be awarded for study in France when the same course of study is available in Senegal; moreover, when the bursaries of students in France come up for renewal, those whose results have not been satisfactory may be recalled to study at Dakar University. No such bursaries are granted to non-Senegalese.

In theory, the Senegal government's bursaries are granted, as from the academic year 1961/62, in accordance with the needs of the development plan, though it is still too early to know how this policy will affect selection for aid, and what subjects will be encouraged. There have been policy changes of this sort in the past. When the Haut Commissariat was responsible for aid, it was felt that too many students were reading law, and an attempt was made to use aid to swing the balance back in favour of medicine, science and letters. Recently, however, the incorporation of economic studies in the law faculty at Dakar has meant that applications for aid to study at this faculty are more favourably received.

A comparison of the distribution by faculty of all and of aided students is not possible for Senegalese students alone. Figures are, however, available comparing the whole student body with those taking up awards.

Students at Dakar University by Faculty

	<u>1957/58</u>		<u>1960/61</u>			
	<u>Students</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>New bursers</u>	<u>% of total</u>
Law	482	46.3	589	42.1	155	30.9
Letters	224	21.5	321	23.0	109	21.7
Science	218	21.0	334	23.9	150	29.9
Medicine	116	11.2	154	11.0	88	17.5
Total	1,040	100.0	1,398	100.0	502	100.0

The comparison between all students and new recipients of bursaries in 1960/61 suggests that the policy earlier adopted in allocating bursaries did slightly reduce the proportion of students reading law; however, this trend may also have been influenced by changing preferences among the applicants themselves.

Success rates among aided students

It is impossible, within the present framework of aid administration, to know the number of aided students who abandon the course of studies for which their bursary was awarded. A student may change his course of study; if his bursary is withdrawn he may complete his course through part-time earning, or may later have it restored to him if he does well enough. Such eventualities are concealed in the overall aid statistics. It seems however that at least 50 per cent of assisted students complete their courses without mishap, and that a higher proportion eventually finishes them.

Aid to foreign students, and to students studying abroad

Although French aid to Senegalese students through Dakar University bursaries has been considered as an integral part of the higher educational aid programme, such bursaries granted to students from other parts of former French West Africa have been excluded from this study, since financially and administratively they have nothing to do with Senegal. The government of Senegal itself does not grant aid to non-Senegalese students, while the municipality of Dakar, which used to make a very few awards to applicants from outside Senegal, has now in accordance with national policy, almost certainly ceased to do so. Thus, no financial assistance is offered to foreign students by any Senegalese authorities.

Aid for Senegalese students to study abroad has already been discussed in earlier sections of this report, since it was considered that study in France, which had never been treated as study abroad before independence, was still only technically such, and was better treated as an integral part of Senegalese higher education. Of the 199 bursaries granted by the government of Senegal in 1960/61 for study outside the country, only one was for study other than in France. It was to assist a medical student training in Switzerland.

We have no information on the number of the bursaries granted which are intended to finance post-graduate research, though it seems probable, as Dakar University develops, that an increasing proportion of those studying in France will be in pursuit of their Doctorat, while under graduates will be concentrated on Dakar.

The administration of student aid

The aid provided for students at Dakar University by the French government is allotted by a commission in which the government of Senegal plays a small part. Under the presidency of the Rector of the University, it comprises representatives of the university and Dakar secondary schools, one representative each for the governments of the countries comprising former French West African and French Equatorial Africa, and two representatives of the students' association.

The Commission which awards Senegal government aid is much more heavily weighted to the official side, as might be expected. It includes Senegal's Ministers of Finance, Technical Education, Health and Social Affairs, and Labour, and the Planning Commissioner, or in practice, the representatives of each of these. Representatives of secondary education, parents and students also take part, as do the Rector of the University of Dakar or his representative, and a spokesman of University departmental heads or professors.

These two bodies are felt to be sufficiently widely representative to be generally acceptable as channels of student aid. The municipality of Dakar distributes the funds allocated in its budget to student aid through the agency of the education committee, which is entirely composed of municipal councillors. In the past, selection by this committee was perhaps rather slanted politically, though there is no evidence that the academic performance of those aided by it was worse than that of other assisted students. However, in recent years the municipality has submitted its aid decision to the National Bursaries Committee. The latter normally approves these, but a check on the



policy of the municipality does exist. One result of this degree of co-ordination in aid policy is that the size of Dakar's bursaries and the method of paying them out is kept in line with the practice of the Senegal government.

It is natural that official intervention in the administration of student aid is more marked in the case of aid for which the government of Senegal puts up the money. The French government, having made its budget allocation for bursaries at Dakar, can afford to leave the distribution of the money to be treated as a largely academic matter - though it should be borne in mind that the university representatives of the Commission allocating bursaries to Dakar are bound to be influenced by the presence on their University Council of the President of the Republic, along with the Minister of Justice and the President of Senegal's National Assembly. In allotting its own bursaries, however, the Senegal government naturally feels the need for more direct representation. Funds for student aid at the government's disposal are necessarily limited, and will probably increasingly tend to be channelled so as to encourage specific courses of study in accordance with the government's overall plan for economic development.

#### Assessment of student aid policies

For a country such as Senegal, where a large proportion of higher educational students are assisted, it is clear that aid policy cannot be divorced from the general development of education. The government of Senegal has inherited from its colonial predecessor an educational system modelled on French lines, and a tradition of sending students to study in France where local facilities are inadequate. The number of awards it makes for study in France has been increasing, while the expansion of Dakar University, an essentially French institution, is largely due to an increase in the number of bursaries granted by the French government.

This picture of an educational system modelled on European academic methods and standards, and at whose apex a sizeable proportion of students receive financial aid to study law and literature, must be set against its Senegalese background. In 1960/61 only 28 per cent of children of school age attended school - indeed, in 1959/60 only 12 per cent of children outside the towns did so. Almost all children from rural areas who have had any education move to the towns, whether to continue their progress up the educational ladder, or simply to secure a better job. In neither case do they return to their villages, so that the educational programme brings no direct benefit to the agricultural sector, which employs the vast majority of the people, and whose healthy development must be the bed-rock of more general progress.

The question thus arises whether it is wise to devote scarce national resources and French aid funds to the expansion of European-type university education by giving generous financial assistance to a relatively small number of students. A case could be made for the view that the government should concentrate its efforts not only on the primary education drive, through which it hopes to bring over 50 per cent of eligible children into primary schools by 1964, but also on the much more rapid development of rural technical schools, on which a start is to be made in the academic year 1962/63. The government has announced that its aid policy will be designed to channel students towards those subjects felt to be particularly vital for the country's development, so as to ensure the existence of adequate cadres of trained people in agriculture, industry and public works; but the danger remains that the whole educational system may become top heavy. In 1964, it is hoped that there will be 200 pupils in agricultural training centres and 400 in training centres for rural craftsmen, but by the same date it is hoped to have 1,500 Senegalese students at Dakar University, most of whom will be aided either by the French or by the Senegalese government.

Given the general framework of educational policy, however, the programme of aid for higher education has been broadly successful. Almost all those qualified to attend University, whether they are African or European, apply for bursaries. The exceptions are a small number of children of higher civil servants and successful merchants and industrialists, whose parents' means put them clearly out of the running. The policy in allocating bursaries, which takes national requirements increasingly into account as well as the means of the parents and the inclinations of the child, is generally accepted as being fair. The bursaries themselves appear to be generous.

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