

society in which the wealth is largely in the hands of the minority of Arabs and Asians. The Government parties draw their support from Arabs, Asians and a section of the Shirazis. The Opposition party has little following among the Arabs but is solidly supported by the Africans from the mainland and the bulk of the Shirazi population.

As colonies in Africa moved swiftly to self-government after Ghana's achievement of independence in 1957, constitutional development in Zanzibar was accelerated. In January 1961, elections were held to inaugurate a new constitution, under which the islands would for the first time have a considerable measure of internal self-government, with an elected majority in the legislature and a ministerial system. Although all parties declared their support for a multi-racial society, voting for the most part reflected racial divisions. The Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP) was supported principally by the influential and wealthy Arabs. The rival Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) drew its support from the majority of Africans and Shirazis on the islands. When the election resulted in a deadlock, with no party able to form a government or to agree on a coalition, new elections were held in June 1961. These were marked by riots, which led to the declaration of a state of emergency. The ZNP and the ASP won 10 seats each, while a third party, the Zanzibar and Pemba People's Party (ZPPP), which had split with the ASP in 1960, held the balance, with three seats. The ZNP and ZPPP agreed to form a coalition government, and the leader of the ZPPP, Sheikh Mohammed Shamte Hamadi, became Prime Minister.

After prolonged negotiations, agreement was finally reached early in 1963 on new elections as a first step toward internal self-government and eventual independence under a constitutional monarchy headed by the Sultan. Elections were held in July 1963. The ruling ZNP-ZPPP coalition received only 46 per cent of the votes cast, but it won a majority of the seats in the legislature. A constitutional conference was convened in London in September, and December 10 was set as the date for Zanzibar's independence.

#### **East African Federation**

Zanzibar has administrative ties with Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda through the East African Common Services Organization and, following the announcement by the Prime Ministers of Kenya and Uganda and the President of Tanganyika in June 1963 that they intend to link their countries in an East African Federation, Zanzibari leaders have held discussions with leaders of the three countries concerning Zanzibar's participation in the proposed federation.

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*Note: This article was written to cover Zanzibar's independence only, and went to press before the developments since January 10.*