

# African country seeks U.S. trade

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The tiny West African republic of Sierra Leone wants a trade link with Texas and is dangling two tempting baits — diamonds and oil — to seduce its prey. Augustine K. Stevens, the Atlantic coastal country's foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations, has researched the possibility of Sierra Leone beginning trade with Texas. Stevens is seeking connections in Dallas or Houston where he knows the money and the panache for finding and marketing such natural resources are available in abundance.

"We have looked (at Dallas and Houston) and we find it very encouraging," the American-educated diplomat said. "There is a vibrant community and a lot of trade potential."  
He said Texans know what is involved in mining and exploration. "We realize Dallas is as new to Sierra Leone as Sierra Leone is to Dallas," Stevens said. "But I hope my presence here will bridge that unknown quantity. Businessmen from here have been quietly coming and going out of my country. They don't publicize their visits."

Gem-quality diamonds, as opposed to the industrial variety, are Sierra Leone's major export and source of foreign exchange, Stevens said. Gem exports account for 40 percent of the country's trade, however, much of it is eaten away by oil imports, he said.

Sierra Leone claims 60 percent of its diamonds are of gem quality compared with its neighboring country Zaire's claim of only 10 percent gem-quality diamonds.

In 1972, the country claimed to have discovered "the Star of Sierra Leone," which at 969.8 carats is supposed to be the third largest diamond ever found.

"In the past, we always had to turn to London for our gem export," Stevens said. "We found ourselves in a cartel system. We have gotten away from it and are keen to develop ties directly with private investors."

Jean-Raymond Boulle, president of European Diamond Importers and Cutters, Inc. of Dallas, sponsored Stevens' visit to Texas. He said his firm is the only diamond im-

porter in Texas with a direct link to West Africa.

Boulle said wealthy Texans demand large gem diamonds a must.

"When you go to a charity ball, you would think all diamonds are 10 to 15 carats," he said.

Stevens said two other possible trade links with Texas are iron ore and bauxite.

"There is also gold and potential for oil," he said. "We are attempting to secure concessions for exploration. Texas has a record of successful explorations and we need their expertise."

One Houston firm has secured such a concession and the Dallas firm of Hanvey Production Company is also conducting extensive exploration.

Company president Don Hanvey said he has invested heavily in Sierra Leone and thinks on-shore oil can be found as low as 5,000 feet. He said the country has geology similar to its West African neighbors that have large oil reserves.

Hanvey said West Africa will become the next major oil producer after the Middle East. Nigeria ranks only behind Saudi Arabia as an OPEC exporter to the United States.

"The United Nations has declared Sierra Leone one of the least developed countries and this is not a record we are proud of," Stevens said.

He said he wants people from Texas in Sierra Leone because the country does not have the facilities to develop its energy resources.

"The best inducement we have to offer is stability," he said. "The government is extremely stable. Sierra Leone has no history of freezing assets of foreign investors. We have, of course, terminated some contracts with foreign partners, but in every case we negotiated peacefully and offered the best settlement. That cannot be said of other parts of the continent. Hostility is not in our character. Another attraction is English, our main language."

Stevens said his country, which has been described as the "Athens of West Africa," maintains cordial relations with its neighbors, Liberia and Guinea. He said Sierra Leone also has an oversupply of educated and skilled manpower, a growing economy, and offers attractive terms to foreign investors.

# 1.50

OFF ANY 2-ITEM OR MORE PIZZA  
**Chanello's**  
NORTH 846-3768  
SOUTH 696-0234

one coup. per pizza exp. 1-21-85

The Battalion SPREADING THE NEWS Since 1878

Battalion Classified 845-2611

MSC POLITICAL FORUM

# WASHINGTON D.C.

## SPRING BREAK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL 845-1515

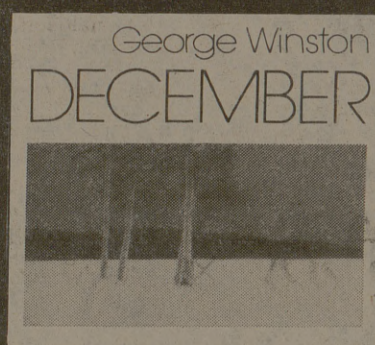
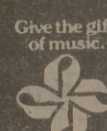
GET IN ON THE ACTION!



# A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOU! THE COMPLETE WINDHAM HILL CATALOG IS NOW ON SALE!

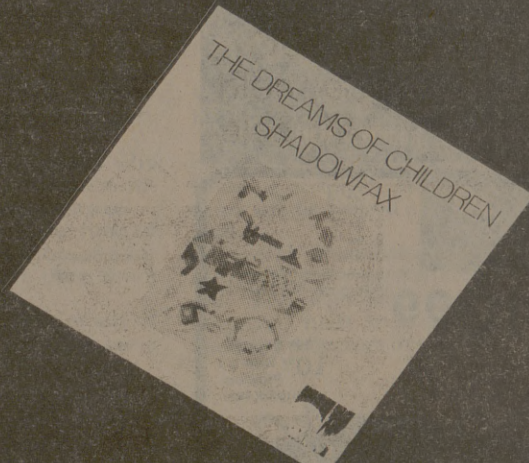
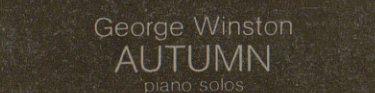
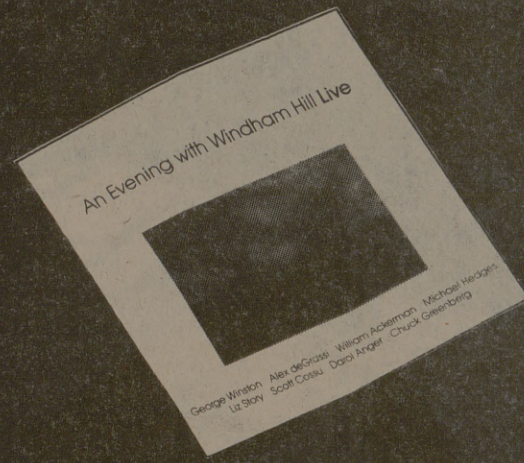
# 5.99 each

LP or CASS.

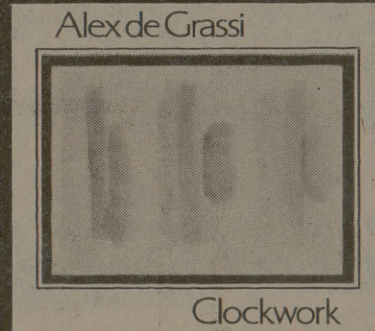


A gift for the person who has everything

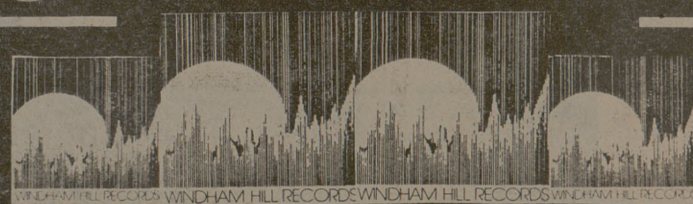
For those quiet evenings at home



Check out our other holiday savings



Quantities limited! So hurry!



Thur.- Dec. 6

Friday- Dec. 7

Sat.- Dec. 8

# MUSIC EXPRESS

725-B UNIVERSITY DRIVE

OPEN 10-10

"Behind Skaggs & McDonalds"

846-1741

## Matamoros image changing

### City cleans trash

**United Press International**  
MATAMOROS — Mayor Jesus Roberto Guerra Velasco boasts of the success he has had in cleaning up litter and crime in the streets, and now he wants to change Matamoros' image from a tough border town to a peaceful place where American tourists are welcomed and protected.

When he became mayor, the police force had no patrol cars and only two jeeps to keep order in a city of nearly 500,000 across the Rio Grande from Brownsville.

"When I came into office we had just had on Dec. 24 the big freeze," Guerra said. "All the equipment of our municipality had their engines blown up; no anti-freeze."

Guerra then purchased a used street sweeper to tidy up the narrow streets where most tourists make

their way and went to Houston to purchase police cars.

Guerra denies, despite reports of robberies and thefts in his city through the years, that crime is any worse in Matamoros than it is in other places, including U.S. cities.

"Even though we do have robberies and thefts, you have them in Europe, everywhere," he said. "Sometimes you can get robbed in New York City and they don't ask you who are."

"Most of the people who get in trouble are looking for trouble," he said. "It happens to people who go to another country with a pocket full of money. Some tourists come over with a \$20 bill and think they can buy the dignity of the Mexican people. And sometimes we think we can go across and buy Texas back. We have fools on both sides of the border."

## Courtyard Apartments

"PRE LEASING SPECIAL" FOR SPRING SEMESTER

- Great location...Walk or bike to shopping malls
- Shuttle bus to campus
- Extra large...Roomy enough for 4
- Easy living extras...

swimming pools, tennis court, party room, laundry room, cable TV, on-site storage, security program, fulltime maintenance

2 1/2 acre courtyard with large oak trees

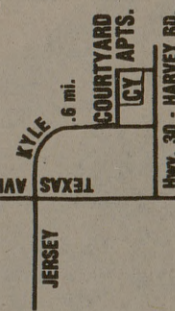
1 & 2 bedrooms available

all utilities paid except electricity, partial or full furnishings at nominal extra

Sat. 10-4 Sun. 1-5

693-2772 Office Hours 8-6:00

600 University Oaks Hwy 30 at Stallings College Station



## "LOCALLY OWNED PROPERTIES"

"IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE"

Preleasing Special

**CASA BLANCA**  
"CONVENIENT QUALITY CLOSE TO CAMPUS"

2 Bedroom-1 Bath FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED SWIMMING POOL, LAUNDRY ROOM SECURITY PROGRAM, SHUTTLE BUS

4110 COLLEGE MAIN BRYAN 693-2772

**SCHOLAR'S INN**  
"CLOSE TO CAMPUS, QUIET, CONVENIENT"

1-2 Bedroom-1 Bath FURNISHED LAUNDRY ROOM SECURITY PROGRAM

401 COONER COLLEGE STATION 846-1413

SHUTTLE BUS - SECURITY PROGRAM - CABLE TV - LAUNDRY MEETING ROOM - POOLS - RECREATIONAL FACILITIES