

ABOUT THIS NUMBER

This issue of *Ufahamu* had been designed exclusively to carry articles on "The Role and Position of Women in Contemporary Africa." In other words, we had meant it to be a special number on women in Africa. Unfortunately many of our indigenous Africanist contributors from whom we had specially solicited articles failed us at the last moment. We had hoped their research opinions would balance those of foreign Africanists and help to provide a balanced concept on the subject of the African woman today.

However, by publishing the controversial views presented here about the African woman,—her social, economic and political situation in contemporary Africa—we are providing our readers and other contributors the incentive to continue this important discussion in future *Ufahamu* numbers or elsewhere. Eventually we will gather enough material to do a real special on African women.

We are pleased to present in the following pages, Judith Van Allen's and James L. Brain's socio-economic and political critiques on the position of the rural and urban African woman; Sally Robinson's brief but extremely important analysis on the role of women towards Black liberation in White-ruled South Africa; and Margaret Jean Hay's personal research notes which constitute a valuable research methodology.

Through these and other articles in this issue, such as those by Mohamed A. El-Khawas on American involvement in the former Portuguese African territories especially during Richard Nixon's presidency and Micah S. Tsomondo on a reassessment of Pan-Africanism as an ideological tool in contemporary African development, we continue to provide on an on-going basis radical discussions to Africa's contemporary issues.

- The Editors

"Ufahamu" means Understanding
So reveal your own perception
Of Africa's history unending;
Pass it on to *Ufahamu* today
To enlighten a bewildered world tomorrow.

j.n.a.
