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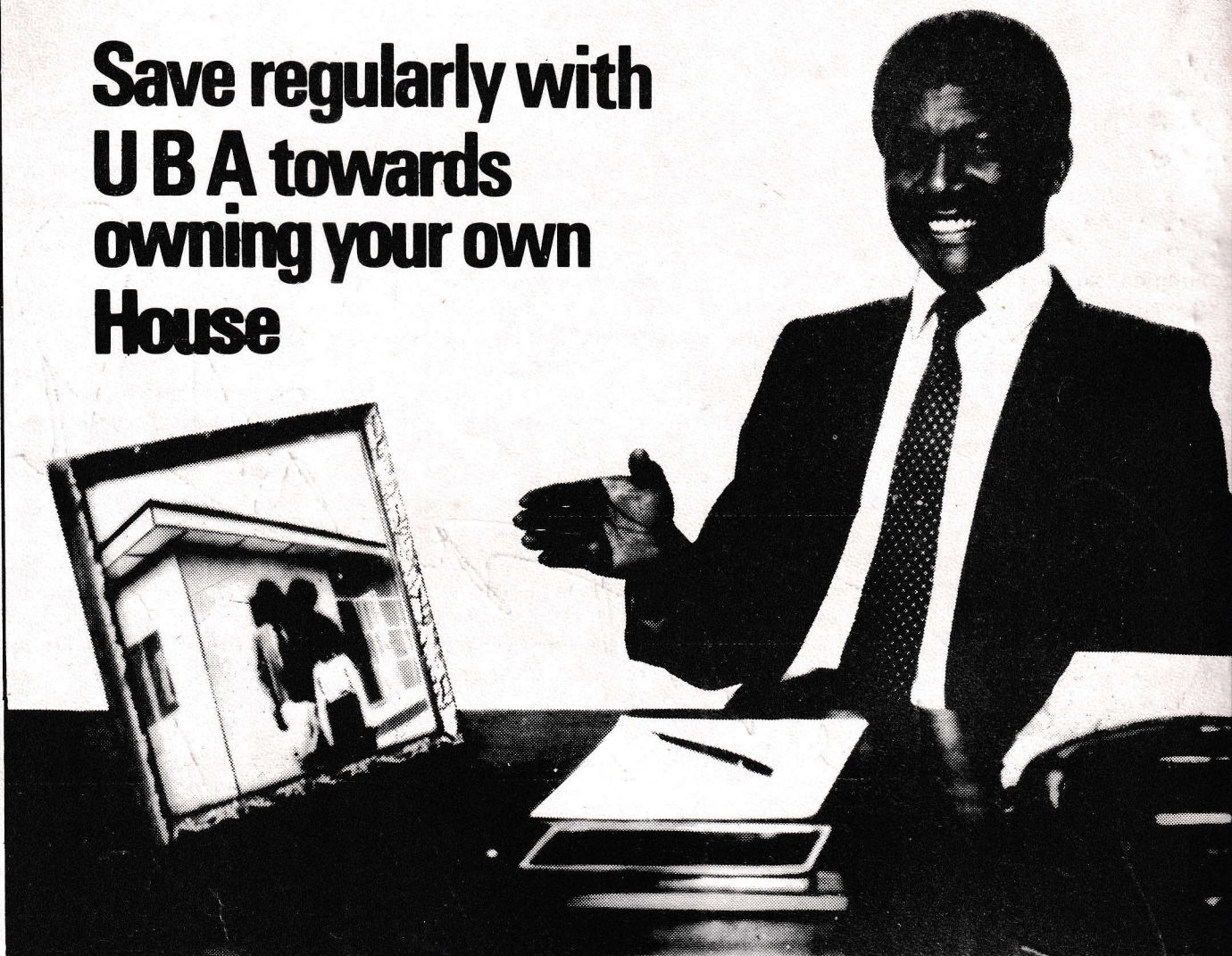
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# PERSONAL PREFACE PERSONAL

THIS publication is as historical as it is historic. It is historical because the debate which it seeks to record for posterity is fast being consigned to the dust heap of history, in our hurry to tackle the here and now. And it is historic because the debate will, like an advance foetus continue to stir in the womb of time

For, the debate of whether Nigeria should turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a recovery package, including a loan, is much more than a formal discussion or an argument between two groups.

In setting, as well as timing, it is a celebration of free speech, of civil liberties, of new-found freedom. A people just emerging

from the firm psyche-shattering grip of a salvation army suddenly find—themselves on freedom square. free as the wind, free to say it as they feel it. It was exhilarating. You could hear it in every word, every phrase, every sentence . . . you could hear Nigerians say it to the whole world "we are free, free again."

This then is the justification for this publication. You won't find in it, every word spoken or written about the debate. You might even find the choice of what was published hard to understand — even whimsical. That is the editor exercising his new found freedom in the spirit of the time.

What you find should suffice

in capturing the essence of the debate. It should give as insight into how the decision to tackle our economic problems our way was taken. There's also roll-call of the major contributors to the debate.

There couldn't have been any greater tribute to the power of the Nigerian press than the assertion by opponents and proponent alike, that the debate was a media event. Which is why the bulk of the materials here were lifted from Nigerian newspapers.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to the press in general and in particular to the newspapers from which the materials were lifted.

— REMI AKANO.

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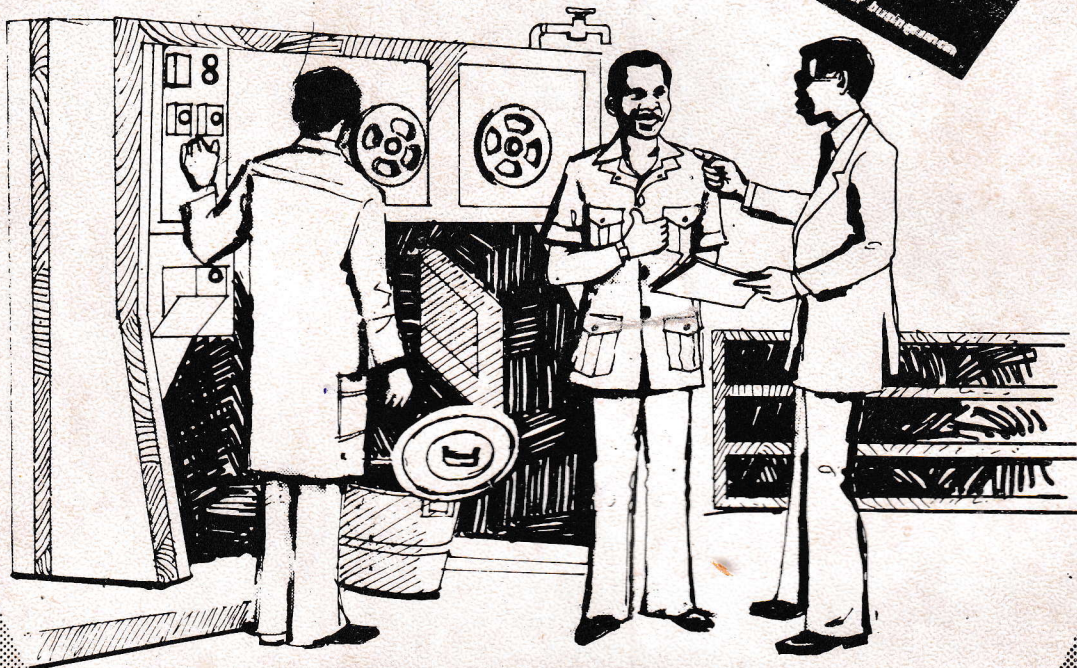
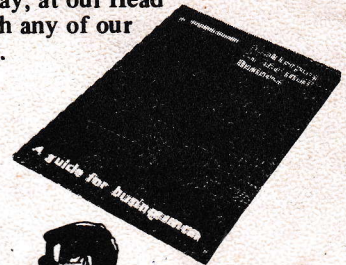
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