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African Liberation and Unity in Nkrumah's Ghana: A Study of the Role of "Pan-African Institutions" in the making of Ghana's foreign Policy, 1957 - 1966

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation contributes to the study of Nkrumah's Pan-African policy by examining the role played by three Ghanaian institutions specifically created to support African liberation and unity: the Bureau of African Affairs, the African Affairs Centre, and the Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute of Winneba. Between 1957 and 1966, these institutions have worked for supporting African liberation movements both in Ghana and on the battlefields. Moreover, they contributed to spread Pan-Africanism and Nkrumahism in the whole continent. For decades, very few documents concerning this subject have been available, as the great part of the archival sources on Ghana's foreign policy was destroyed or lost after the coup of 1966. The main aim of this research project was to collect new sources in order to fill this gap and provide valuable elements for a deeper understanding of the functioning and the purpose of the "Pan-African" institutions. This thesis is the final result of eleven months of oral and archival research in Ghana and Great Britain. After the recovery of important new sources, the author has been able to adopt Accra's own perspective on the question and to provide an insight into the daily activities of the three institutions examining the impact of their activity on African liberation movements and on the Ghanaian state. As for the first aspect, only by analyzing the documentation produced by the "Pan-African" institutions, it is possible to understand the real degree of influence that Nkrumah's Ghana exerted in Africa until the coup of 1966 and, therefore, to reconsider the history of Nkrumah's foreign policy in a new light.