

Delay on Liberian Criticism Requested

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EVANSTON, Ill.—Northwestern University has rejected a request from the U.S. State Department to delay publication of an economics book that criticizes the African nation, Liberia.

Robert F. Armstrong, director of the Northwestern University Press, said the book, "Growth Without Development, An Economic Study of Liberia," will be published April 29, as scheduled.

Northwestern faculty members Robert W. Clower and George Dalton are among the book's four co-authors, all economists. The other two are Mitchell Horowitz, of the University of Buffalo and Alan Walters, of the University of Birmingham in England.

The 350-page economic

study is based on research done by the four men in Liberia in 1961 and 1962. They were making a survey of the country for the Agency for International Development.

AID has twice asked that publication of the book be delayed while Liberian officials determine if the manuscript violates a 1960 agreement between Liberia and the United States.

The agreement permitted the authors to have access to all but classical material. Liberian officials say the book may contain such material, but Dalton, terming the idea "ridiculous," said the book deals only with economic statistics.

Dalton said the book may not be as critical as some Liberians fear, but added that

it does find fault with some Liberian policies and raises questions about the effectiveness of U.S. aid there.

The book claims that Liberia makes little use of its income from rubber and iron ore to raise educational and living standards, and suggests that the government represents a small ruling clique of descendants of freed slaves from America who dominate the indigenous African tribes.

Anthony Astrachan of The Washington Post reported in Washington:

The international agreement and the contract under which the study was carried out appear to make the U.S. Government the owner of the professors' report, according to AID

officials here, but also gives the authors the right to lecture on and republish their data "within the limits provided by U.S. and the cooperating country's regulations, unless given a security classification within 90 days."

There is no evidence that the material was given such a classification.

The affair points up a difficulty in Government use of private contractors in diplomatic or aid activities: if they want to publish a critical appraisal of the country in which they work, they complicate diplomatic relations; if the State Department tries to slow them down or stop them, it appears to be sacrificing honesty to smooth relations with a foreign country.