American Interests Putting Tight Cocoa Price Squeeze on Black African Growers

(Continued from page 18) solutions uttered by U.S. politicians about "their concern for bettering the lot of mankind everywhere."

THE RISE or fall of one cent per pound in the price of cocoa means the difference in the annual income of $8,500,000 for Ghana. A drop of one cent per pound means a loss of $2,000,000 a year to the economy of the Cameroons. (Mr. Belekoen told the General Assembly that when cocoa prices dropped in 1964 to the 13-cent level, his country had incurred a loss of more than $15 million.) And a one cent per pound drop in price would take more than $4 million from the Nigerian economy.

Most of Africa's cocoa was sent to the U.S. and Western European countries—Britain, the Netherlands, and West Germany. These four countries process more than two-thirds of the world's cocoa, with the U.S. taking care of the lion's share. It is no wonder that Dr. Paul Frischlich, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, told the cocoa negotiators:

"THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN' T DO—and that is to recommend to the producers of cocoa to accept the floor price of 19 cents! How can the floor price of 19 cents be accepted, seeing that, in the last 20 years, only once—in 1964—did prices fall below 30 cents?"

This appeal fell on deaf ears, for the greedy and venal Western interests, who dominate the cocoa market, were not prepared to give up their "right," their "free enterprise" right to continue to exploit Africans. African leaders, such as the new rulers of Ghana, who saw the solution of their economic problem in knuckling under to Uncle Sam have now had the door slammed in their faces. They are not— as some of these leaders in Ghana have asserted— "in the same league as the "militant" and "banging" of Nkrumah, who caused the economic crisis in Ghana and a number of other African countries.

THEY should look, rather, to the manipulations by the neo-colonialists—to the bloodsuckers who have been "loaked" to Africa by colonialism and who continue to do so with the advantages and gains by them in the market place.