Obeng, PhD '70, made final housing arrangements for the first week of the SPAN stay and literally opened his home in Kumasi to the SPANers for the entire three months. His home became the mail distribution center, meeting place and left-luggage room for the group because of its location in the country and because of its comfort and hospitality.

After the students arrived in Ghana the first week of June, there were several formal meetings of orientation scheduled in Accra, the capital, before they began spreading out to work on their research topics. Five American foreign service officers provided a helpful briefing for the group on contemporary economic, political and social conditions in Ghana, and the U.S.I.S. helped publicize an evening program called "An Introduction to Iowa State University." Held at the Accra International Student Hostel, over fifty persons from six countries attended this reception. The guests included Mr. Ed Pancost, director of the U.S.I.S. Slides and photographs of Iowa State were shown, and brochures on Iowa, provided by the Iowa Development Commission, were distributed.

As a part of the week's activities, Mr. Charles Tachie-Menson, Ex '70, took some of the ISU students to an exciting international soccer match, a first for several.

Another group was given a tour of the giant Akosombo Dam by Mr. C. J. Vanderpuye, MS '68. Mrs. Deborah Kumi, Ex '55, contacted members of the group soon after their arrival to give them a special welcome to Ghana. A reunion of alumni and SPANers was coordinated by Dr. Obeng in Accra, and among the alumni attending were Jeanne Bouman, MS '58, Dr. Walter Haessel, PhD '70, Dr. Edwin Asomaning, BS '56, Mrs. Henri Kordylas (Maude Dagadu), MS '61, Mrs. E. Bartells (Cynthia Wood), Ex '55, Mr. Kofi Baryeh, MS '72, and Dr. Roger Selley, BS '63. Mrs. Selley, who also attended, is the daughter of Stanley Eyres, BS '27. Another guest was the American Cultural Affairs Officer, Mr. Phil Cohen.

Most of the SPANers went directly from Accra 220 miles north to Techiman, an important market center on the edge of the rain forest belt, to begin research work on their projects. Housing and research topic contacts there were made through D. M. Warren of the ISU Department of Sociology and Anthropology and an Iowa State undergraduate from the town, Owusu Brempong.

Alumni and friends of Iowa State joined SPANers in a social event soon after the group's arrival in Ghana. Those pictured are left to right: Cynthia Bartells, Jeanne Bouman, Dr. Henry Obeng, Dr. Paul Fanning, Maude Kordylas, Charles Tachie-Menson, Martin Limbird, who was the SPAN advisor.
Brempong's father, Mr. D. K. Owusu, made all the Iowa State students feel very much at home and introduced them to a more traditional Ghana than they had thus far experienced in modern Accra.

Away from the traditional and closer to the farming techniques recognized by the Iowans in the group was Ejura Farms, where 7,000 acres are cleared, planted, and harvested twice annually by an Iowa-managed firm, supervised by former Essex, Iowan, Bill Wenstrand, and supplied with "good ol' Iowa corn." Here, on the largest farming enterprise in Ghana, the SPANers toured and marveled at the giant earth moving equipment used to fell trees and reveded in the good food and hospitality provided for them in a land of hospitality.

Wherever the SPANers' project research took them, an Iowa State alumnus was in the area to give help, counsel, or a sense of home. Mr. Charles Asafo, MS '70, arranged special housing and transportation for several SPANers in Tamale, where he supervises inland fisheries development over the entire northern part of Ghana. Dr. I. K. Peprah, MS '72, Dr. K. T. DeGraft-Johnson, PhD '69, M. A. Adansi, MS '57, Dr. Kobena Erbyn, PhD '60, and Dr. Harold Love, PhD '56, also welcomed and assisted the Iowans in Ghana.

The ISU graduates, whether in Accra or remote areas of the country surely provided additional insights into Ghanaian customs and traditions and helped the SPANers profit from their three months in Africa. And just as surely, the administration and faculty of the university will benefit from this contact, for each graduate was interviewed to discover his feelings about the applicability of his studies at ISU to current conditions in Ghana. Certainly as international attention focuses on world food problems, American-educated scientists in tropical countries must continue to be given training not only in a broad spectrum of courses related to their fields but also be given practical and applicable research they can use in their work at home. Perhaps the results of the survey among Iowa State graduates will be of value in the up-coming World Food Institute as the needs and concerns of scientists in emerging countries are considered.

As new SPAN groups prepare for their adventures in India and Israel in 1973, ISU students and faculty are benefiting in other ways from the 1972 SPANer experiences in Ghana. SPAN has arranged a week-long display of Ghanaian industrial products and traditional crafts, shown on campus; made several displays of artifacts purchased for university collections; and sponsored a Seminar 72 entitled "The Cross-Cultural Experience." Ghanaian students at ISU have continued their interest in SPAN by co-sponsoring several events, including special dinners in the residence halls featuring Ghanaian food. One evening of pictures and discussions was held in the YMCA on campus with SPAN and the Pan African Student Organization of the Americas. Numerous radio programs, a television interview, and articles published in several newspapers have publicized the SPAN experience in Ghana all over Iowa.

Although the SPAN experience for the fourteen students who went to Ghana officially ends when they submit their research papers in April, 1973, their summer in Ghana cannot be condensed into a single paper. The lives of the SPANers have certainly been influenced by the opportunity to conduct independent research in a foreign country. ISU alumni in Ghana have been joined together through their common interest in the SPANer's success and in their alma mater. These graduates' former professors and university administrators now have a country-wide view of the role of ISU-trained people in one country's national development, as well as specific information on the current work of eighteen alumni in Ghana.

This is what SPAN is all about: increased understanding and good will between countries are brought about more easily when people with common interests and experiences come together. With SPAN as an extension of the university abroad, alumni in Ghana have been brought closer to the Iowa State campus again.