



William H. Elder, left, professor of zoology, and his graduate assistant, Don Rogers, fit drugged bull elephant with a collar to be used to identify the animal and his range in Zambia. Photograph was made by President Weaver.



University President John C. Weaver gets a tour of University of Zambia at Lusaka.

# OPPORTUNITY IN AFRICA

This fall Swaziland, the last African colony of Britain to gain independence, became the 125th member of the United Nations.

This fall the University's Board of Curators approved a Center for International, Foreign, Area and Comparative studies with headquarters in St. Louis and offices on each of the four campuses.

This summer University President John C. Weaver was in Africa, officially as a guest of the federal Agency of International Development, but he also took advantage of the trip to visit universities in Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya with an eye toward the possibility of the University's establishing a field station for study in East Africa.

All this has a relationship, of course. The world has grown tremendously in terms of independent nations since the United Nations began with 51 members in 1945. And about half of the

74 additions have been the emerging, underdeveloped African nations.

"This is another new frontier," said President Weaver, "the type of situation for which the land grant university was developed. The land grant tradition of scholarly work and practical service has obvious application on this continent."

The Columbia campus already has strong international study programs in the areas of Southeast Asia and Latin America, and this summer two projects were under way in Africa.

In Malawi an Extension team led by Bill Mackie has been working since 1965 training Malawi citizens to operate their own radio station for commercial and agricultural development. Now nearing completion the project is financed by a \$500,000 AID contract. The station, incidentally, has progressed to the point that it is paying for itself.

Across the border in Zambia, Dr. William Elder and a graduate student, Don Rogers, were making a study of elephant migration habits with the help of a National Science Foundation grant. Besides providing invaluable knowledge to Elder and Rogers in their own field of study (zoology), the research coincidentally is helping Zambia in the areas of food production and wildlife management for the growing tourist industry. The Elder story is scheduled to be told in an early 1969 issue of *National Geographic*.

The AID program in Malawi was operational in nature; the Zambian research, scholarly. The latter is the type that President Weaver sees as the more beneficial to the University of Missouri.

"The radio system project was valuable to the people who worked on it and to the government of Malawi," explained the Missouri president, "but there actually will be little 'feedback' benefit to the University.

"We need university-to-university programs which can attract top scholars who can add significantly to their own knowledge and teaching competence, while also providing help for the emerging nation."

No single university can be expert in every area of the world. Each institution must concentrate its efforts. It may be that East Africa will prove to be one of the areas of concentration for the University of Missouri. □