



IBIJOKE JOHNSON, found guilty yesterday of illegally exporting 15lb of Indian hemp.

Indian Hemp Case

WOMAN JAILED

Court Turns Down Plea For Fine

WOMEN and children — more than 50 of them — wept on the grounds of a Lagos Magistrate's Court yesterday as a 60-year-old woman, IbiJOKE JOHNSON, was led away by the police to begin a jail term of 6 months, with hard labour.

And so ended the now celebrated Indian hemp case in the course of which a Nigerian student, Miss Juliana Kehinde Collins, and a man from Scotland Yard were flown out from the United Kingdom to give evidence.

Yesterday, a Lagos magis-

trate, Mr. Ade Mumuni, found IbiJOKE guilty of illegally exporting 15 lb of Indian hemp (worth about £15,000) through 29-year-old Juliana Collins.

Giving his judgment, Mr. Mumuni said he believed the evidence of all the prosecution witnesses, especially the evidence of Miss Collins and that of the U.K. detective-sergeant, John Leach.

Mr. Mumuni observed that under the law the punishment for the offence committed by IbiJOKE was £1,000 or ten years' imprisonment or both.

But, in sending the woman to jail for six months' he had taken her age into consideration and had been lenient with her.

Addressing the court earlier, Mr. C. H. E. Miller (for the prosecution) told the court that the prestige of Nigeria was involved in the case, bearing in mind that the country was bound by international agreement on stopping the importation of dangerous drugs.

'Devilish'

He said that the character of a young Nigerian girl had almost been soiled by the "devilish" action of IbiJOKE. He therefore thought that the court should punish the woman severely.

For the defence, Mr. B. A. Balogun pleaded for leniency asking the court to consider his client's age and the police report that she was a first offender.

He asked for an option of fine saying that the mental agony which the woman had suffered during the hearing of the charge was enough punishment.

The magistrate did not accept the plea for an option of fine and sent IbiJOKE to prison for six months.