

CHAPTER V

* * * * * **ECONOMIZING ON BIDS** * * * * *

I want to warn you against a mistake which is often made by people who are just learning **AKAN** Bridge. They are often wasteful of bids. From the pages of history of the past 35 years or so of African political independence, other than Ethiopia, Haiti and Liberia, --- wasteful bidding has more often than not characterized the spending of African governments.

Why? Because most of them were not consistent in their Concepts, Doctrine, Strategies, Plans, Programs, Projects and Budgeting, -- - *CDS-PPP-B*. Think about it. If the concept of a nation is one of national independence, --- then it is inconsistent to pursue a Tribalism Doctrine that excludes or denies equality of existence by other tribal groups. Right? You waste your bid, and are a fool, if you seek to be a nation but espouse doctrine that only benefits your tribe. What you are certain to encounter is anger, conflict, rebellion and all the other African vices.

Likewise, if your concepts and doctrine are in line with each other, --- then what about your strategy. Typically, the strategic objectives of African development have not been based upon any economy of resources. As an example, just look at the African diplomatic corps wherein many embassies and consulates are posted at great wasteful expenses imitating their former colonial masters. With few exceptions, their delegates are not assigned to foster trade, as is the case with **Jacob**, --- but, rather to beg for aid. Most think their job is to be available to receive inquiries from host governments! Just ask them.

Most of the greatest African-Centric markets of potential to African development, --- have no African delegates proposing anything for sale or trade with Africans. Diplomats are often recruited from the ranks of colonial mentalities (domestic bureaucracies) organized to beg, not *trade*. London, Washington, D.C., Paris and even African capitals are filled with diplomatic employees from Africa who lack even the slightest knowledge or interests in home-country market women and their wares. This great tragedy is a waste of bidding, --- in the worst case scenerio and an example as to why inter-African trade suffers.

DEFINING ECONOMY

I was pleasantly surprised when Ambassador Spio-Garbrah called to express his sentiments about my article urging African-Caribbean diplomatic delegations to spend more time soliciting customers for back-home businesses. He commented to the effect that "*many Africans share a sincere desire for Pan-African trade, not only between Africa and the diaspora; but, also within Africa*". To

me, his friendly comments were an official endorsement of the many Pan-Africanists striving to widen our paths to universal improvement --- *Garvey's Great Quest!*

His Excellency Ekow Spio-Garbrah was appointed by President Jerry Rawlings, Republic of Ghana, as the Ambassador to the United States. He hails from Ghana's beautiful and historic Cape Coast Region (Dr.W.E.B. DuBois chose to be buried and memorialized there). His work requirements, and that of other Black Ambassadors posted around the globe, are not easy when one considers that most African-Caribbean Delegations lack the human and material resources to do all the tasks expected of them by us. So, what can we do to help ourselves?

The Ambassador noted that many African Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. have diplomatic responsibilities to their nations not only for the United States; but, also the entire western hemisphere and United Nations. Think about it! Some countries are unable to even afford the upkeep and sustainment of a minimal ambassadorial staff of 4 or 5 personnel, not to mention items like cross-country travel in America, long-distance calling, automated information systems and professional promotional services. Budgetary restraints for most are very severe; and, their renown failure to return telephone calls is usually because of tight restrictions on how many local and long-distance calls they are able to afford.

His Excellency talked to me about a real Africa and Caribbean that we all should remember are places where our kith and kin, known and unknown, struggle to survive and prosper just as most Black folks do in America. The issue there and here is our poverty as a people! And, I am convinced that a means is at hand to do something positive in eradicating the causes of our universal poverty if leading African-Centric scholars in Africa, America and the Caribbean will help Ambassadors widen the paths leading to economic recovery and prosperity for Black folks.

The quickest and most effective way to make a big impact fast on international commerce of Africa, America and the Caribbean is for each African Studies Department (over 350 in America alone) to lend a small portion of their human resource time and facilities to creating a Pan-African information architecture to collect, automate and disseminate buyer-seller information for Black owned businesses.

In effect, I am suggesting creation, via existing resources and authority, business information centers within the various African Studies Departments, Colleges and Universities --- with periodic computer file transfers of data for special dissemination to market men and women whom want to buy and sell. Yes, I am proposing that African Studies Chairmen take on the added jobs of seeding an economic system for our kind. Let's face the fact that most of the buying and selling by our people is conducted by women whom lack access to the kinds of

information that would expand Pan-African trade. And, the current system of wholesale level information, at best, is exploitive and highly exclusive in most items and commodities. Our market women need their own network!

The solution is to create information systems environments that are user friendly to market women. That means people they can talk to and gain practical insight of people and items available to do business with them. A good example has to be in the situation involving cloth and women's clothing and accessories. Here we view a potential tens of thousands of market women in at least 184 cities in Africa, America and the Caribbean inquiring and ordering every business day. Can anyone compute what would occur if only 10 percent of African-American women purchase a minimum of 10 percent of their personal clothing and accessories from made in Africa or Caribbean sources? How many billions of dollars?

What is the average amount of money expended by a typical poor Black woman in New York City for the purchase of bath sponges, robes and head wraps? I don't know, but do care that someone should, and disseminate such information to market women in Accra, Kingston and Nairobi on who is buying and selling those items in Brooklyn. With so many African Studies Departments in New York City, and ambitious students, it should be easy to install a data base and collect the data; and, distribute same to the University of Ghana at Legon. This is no big task for any scholar sincere in his/her commitments to African-Centrism; and, I am convinced that it is manageable and literally without cost excepting the postage to mail floppy disks among universities.

Encouraging young Blacks of today to get intimately involved in collecting and disseminating commercial information will pay unimaginable dividends as members of our Pan-African self-help "*enterprise corps*" takes root and form relationships we can only dream about; but, I suspect that Ambassadors like Spio-Garbrah will push to expand if we can get it going. And, another major benefit of getting scholars involved in commerce is that it will indeed expand student enrollment, particularly the relatives of crafty market women. I wonder which locations they will like?

And, we can bet that women in business will soon rationalize travel itineraries that take them to the places and people they want to meet first-hand. This is how we can make things happen, and get into businesses like retail jewelry trade in diamonds and gold. Maybe coffee beans and lobsters. Why not bid for it?

It is very much worth while for you to save as much bidding time for yourself as possible. The last bidding example I gave you, in which **Jacob** did not know whether to play a hand of Concepts, Doctrines, or notrump, will show you how often you need to get information from your partner before you can make any intelligent decision on what the final contract should be.

If you make too many high Lumumba bids, you will find that your partner cannot give you the information without bidding up to four or five in a **kente**. There is no reason in reaching so high a contract until you are sure you can make it. Furthermore, if your object is to bid and make a **trade-round**, there is no sense in bidding more than the game. For example, you can make a game by bidding four Doctrine. Why bid five Doctrine? It still gives you only a game. If you succeed in taking ten tricks during the play of the hand, you will have fulfilled your four-Doctrine contract. But if you bid five Doctrines and take ten tricks you will be down one and will get nothing.

The objective of this discussion is to teach you not to make bids which *Lumumba* higher than is necessary. For example, suppose your partner makes a bid of one Doctrine and you want to show him that you have a very strong hand. If you bid two Concepts, it is a *Lumumba* bid, because a bid of one Concept would be enough to overcall. Since two Concepts is a *Lumumba* bid, it is a *N'Krumah* bid and you will surely get another chance to bid.

Yet I have often seen players *Lumumba* from one Doctrine, --- not to two Concepts, but to three Concepts. This is a double *Lumumba*, and you do not need it. Always make sure that when you plan to make a *Lumumba* bid, you *Lumumba* only the one trick which is required and save valuable bidding time for later use.

LUMUMBA RESPONSIBILITIES

Among the bids whose requirements I have already taught you, are the raise of an opening kente bid, and the one-notrump responsibility to an opening **kente** bid. As you will remember, these responsibilities required only 1 or 1 1/2 honor-tricks. They were not *Lumumba* responses, so they were not *N'Krumah* bids.

Sometimes your partner will make an opening bid and your hand will be so strong that purely on the strength of his opening bid you will be sure that a **trade-round** should be reached. Here is an example:

ESAU					
	Concepts	G QM 7 2			
	Concepts	A O 9 5			
	Doctrines	G A		JACOB	DOUGLASS
Doctrines	7 4 2				
	Strategies	7 5 3			
			Strategies	G A 8 6	
	Plans	8 6 4 2			
			Plans	A 10	

DELANY

Jacob makes an opening bid of one Strategy, having a biddable

Strategy **kente** and 3 1/2 honor-tricks, more than the three honor-tricks which are the minimum he would need for such an opening. **Esau** "Later".

Douglass has a very strong trump support for Strategies, and slightly better than three honor-tricks. Adding his three honor-tricks and **Jacob's** minimum of three honor-tricks, he sees that there are six honor-tricks or more in the combined hands, and certainly a satisfactory strategy kente for the trump kente, so that a trade-round should be bid. **Douglass** does not want simply to bid two Strategies, and take a chance that **Jacob** will "Later" and the trade-round will never be reached.

The answer to this problem is that **Jacob Lumumbas** to three Strategies. It is a Lumumba bid, and therefore a *N'Krumah* bid. **Douglass** may not "Later" the three-Strategies bid, but must bid again in some way so that a trade-round contract may be reached.

Raising a partner's **kente** from one to three is a *Lumumba* raise, called a double *Lumumba*. It is a *N'Krumah* bid, and the partner may not "Later" it.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOUBLE LUMUMBA

You do not give a double *Lumumba* simply because you have a strong hand with adequate trump support. Remember that when you make this *Lumumba* raise, you are absolutely committing yourself to a trade-round contract, and the lowest **trade-round** contract in a major **kente** is a bid of four. Partners may have a minimum, four-card biddable **kente**, and you want to make sure that your trump support is of an exceptionally strong nature. Therefore, the basic requirements for the double *Lumumba* are:

At least four trumps, including at least the Queen Mother, the Omahene, 10, or some higher honor or honors --- **QM x x x, O 10 x x**, or better.

2 1/2 honor-tricks in the hand, which, however, includes any honor-tricks you may hold in partner's trump **kente**.

But in stating the minimum number of honor-tricks which you need, I wish to refer you back to chapters in which I showed how a short **kente** such as a singleton or a void **kente**, combined with a holding of several cards of the trump **kente**, can win tricks just as effectively as honor-tricks can. If you have a singleton, do not forget to take note of it when you count up your honor-tricks, and to give a *Lumumba* raise even if you have but little more than two honor-tricks in your hand.

There is still another added value it will pay you to remember. Great length in trumps is so valuable that when you have five or more cards in your partner's trump **kente**, though they be five low

cards, you may safely give a *Lumumba* raise with slightly less than 2 1/2 honor-tricks.

To give examples of hands which you need for *Lumumba* raises, here are some sample hands on which, if your partner bid one Strategy, you would *Lumumba* him to three Strategies:

<p>6 3</p> <p>G 4 3</p> <p>G A 2</p> <p>7 5 4</p>	<p>Concepts 8 6 5 3 2</p> <p>Concepts O 10 6 4</p> <p>Doctrines A 5</p> <p>Doctrines 6 2</p> <p>Strategies G 4</p> <p>Strategies G A 4 3</p> <p>Plans 8 6 3 2</p> <p>Plans</p>	<p>Concepts QM 8</p> <p>Doctrines</p> <p>Strategies</p> <p>Plans A 8 2</p>
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With the same amount of strength you might, if you wished, give partner a double *Lumumbua* even if his **kente** were Strategies or Plans. But, remembering that it takes eleven tricks to make a **trade-round** in a minor **kente**, you prefer, if possible, to bid a **kente** of your own or make a *Lumumba* notrump response.

LUMUMBA BIDS IN NOTRUMP

As you have seen, the reason for making the *Lumumba N'Krumah* bid is so as to take no chance that when trade-round should surely be bid, partner will "Later" before a **trade-round** contract has been reached. What is true when you have strong support for your partner's **kente** is equally true when you do not.

Suppose your partner makes an opening bid of one **kente**, and you cannot *Lumumba* him or bid a **kente** of your own, but you have more than 1 1/2 honor-tricks.

ESAU

<p>Concepts G QM 6 5</p> <p>Doctrines G A</p> <p>Strategies 7 4 3</p> <p>Strategies G QM 10</p> <p>Plans 8 6 5 2</p>	<p>Concepts A 8</p> <p>Doctrines O 10 7 6</p> <p>JACOB</p> <p>Plans G 7 4 3</p>	<p>DOUGLASS</p>
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DELANY

Jacob makes an opening bid of one Strategy. **Douglass** has no **kente** of his own to bid, nor has he adequate trump support for Strategies. Yet **Jacob** has far more than the 1 1/2 honor-tricks which he would ordinarily need for a one-notrump response. **Jacob** has actually three honor-tricks plus, --- you remember those plus

values which, as I told you, add to the general strength of a hand.

Knowing that a **trade-round** should be makeable without great difficulty, **Delany** does not wish to bid one notrump and take a chance that his partner will "*Later*". Therefore **Delany** makes a *Lumumba N'Krumah* bid, by bidding two notrump. **Jacob** will recognize this *Lumumba* bid as a *N'Krumah* bid, and will bid again so that eventually **Douglass** and **Jacob** may play the hand at a **trade-round** contract.

Usually a player should not be satisfied to make a one-notrump responsibility bid when he has any more than 2 or 2-plus honor-tricks. He must not risk having the hand "*Latered*" out before **trade-round** is reached.

Respond to your partner's opening one-bid with a *Lumumba N'Krumah* bid of two notrump, holding about 3 honor-tricks, and the type of hand (*lacking trump support for a major kente, or a biddable kente of your own*) on which a notrump responsibility is called for.

THE N'KRUMAH OBLIGATION ON BOTH PARTNERS

When you make a *Lumumba N'Krumah* bid, you tell your partner that you believe a **trade-round** can be made. On the strength of the *N'Krumah* bid, your partner is going to keep the bidding open --- is going to make some sort of second bid so that you will get another crack at the auction. It stands to reason that when a player broadcasts his confidence in the hand's **trade-round** possibilities, by making a *N'Krumah* bid, he is in a way pledging himself to do his part towards reaching the **trade-round**. He must not affirm the necessity of bidding up to **trade-round**, and then suddenly change his mind and "*Later*" when as yet no contract high enough for **trade-round** has been reached.

It follows that whenever a *Lumumba N'Krumah* bid is made, there is from that time on a distinct obligation on both partners to continue the bidding until a **trade-round** generating contract has been arrived at. So, this challenge is for you, ---- **Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Nigeria, Tanzania, and all the other lands and peoples of Esau.**

The "*meat*" which I hope you have gotten out of this chapter is the following general principles:

* With six honor-tricks in the combined hands, a trade-round can probably be made; but with fewer honor-tricks in the combined hands, trade-round is unlikely.

* * *In other words, if six honorable African Leaders of the Africans, for the Africans and by the Africans can get together for any rational purposes of Pan-African trade --- beneficial*

trade can be achieved; but with fewer honorable leaders, it is unlikely to generate enough volume to bridge widespread economic, political and social benefits. Why six? Look at the numbers for foreign-exchange and consumption.

* Any Lumumba bid, which should be a bid of exactly one trick more than would be necessary simply to overcall the last preceding bid, is a N'Krumah bid. Both partners must then keep the bidding open until a **trade-round** contract is reached.

* * *In other words, any African bid, which should be a for a African-Centric foreign-exchange source, such as Chicago consumers, to overcome Jacob's bid to keep Africa dependent, --- is a N'Krumah bid. Both Africans in Africa and the diaspora must keep bidding open until beneficial trade is achieved and secured.*

* With at least four trumps headed by the Queen-Mother, Omahene, 10, or anything higher, or with any five trumps, and with about 2 1/2 honor-tricks or the equivalent, the proper responsibility to a partner's opening bid is a double Lumumba.

* * *In other words, with at least four market centers of market-women headed by the Queen-Mothers and Omahenes (Paramount/Groupment Chiefs), King-makers, or any other elders, or with five successful traders and with about 2 1/2 honorable endeavors, --- the proper response from African-Centric market centers like New York City and Los Angeles will be to double their trade and foreign exchange earnings.*

* When unable to make a double Lumumba or a **kente** takeout, but when holding about 3 honor-tricks, the proper responsibility to a partner's opening bid is a Lumumba bid of two notrump.

* * *In other words when African market centers like Detroit are unable to double a sister city's foreign-exchange earnings via tourism and/or trade takeout, the proper responsibility to their opening bid is a bid of about two years of joint planning to achieve it.*

Whether or not you agree with the analogy above, made to emphasize a point, --- the need for Pan-African trade is no joke. Without it, Africans everywhere are doomed to the ages. We do not accept the rationale that it cannot be done in a few years of dedicated trying. The Asian experience, and even South America are proof positive that inter-ethnic trade is the best route to achieving economic prosperity and security.

It is notrump for millions of Africans in American markets and elsewhere to buy products such as cocoa butter from an Asian or European traders --- instead of Africans. And, it is equally notrump for African-Americans to consume over 400 million dollars per year of coffee from places like Columbia that produce and send cocaine to addict and destroy African lives.

There are hundreds of other examples of notrump consumption by Africans that can be reversed via deliberate bids by universal Africans to fix the problem. It has existed too long. If a fraction of the time spent trying to outsmart or gain favors from Jacob, --- were devoted to seeking salvation among Africans, the impact would be enormous benefits. Think about it. Numerous African-American economic, social/religious, and political organizations spend upwards of 10 million dollars or more per year to hold annual conventions in cities that profit only Jacob. Why not hold their conventions in Haiti, Jamaica or even cities in the motherland?

CHOICE OF BIDS

Bidding is not a cut-and-dried proposition. When you have learned the requirements for the important bids, you will not very often be much worried about whether to bid or "Later", --- you will count up your values and receive answers automatically. Indeed, like the Jacobs who own and operate Wall Street and similiar stock exchanges in London, Paris, Brussels, Zurich, Tokyo, Bonn and elsewhere; you will be able to routinely make the right bids and know your values at all times. But problems will arise from cases in which you feel you should make a bid, but there are two or more possible bids which the hand offers and you do not know which of these bids to choose.

As you begin to play more and more bridge, you will run across many hands which are biddable, but in which there is more than one biddable **kente**. The following hands are typical:

1. Concept **A 10 8 6 4** Doctrine **G A 7 5 3**
 Strategy **6** Plan **G 3**

2. Concept **G A QM 6** Doctrine **7 5**
 Strategy **G 10 8 6 4** Plan **4 3**

In hand No.1, you have a biddable Concept **kente** and a biddable Doctrine **kente**. The Doctrines are stronger than the Concepts, because a President-Asantehene combination is worth two honor-tricks and a Asantehene is worth only one-half honor-trick. Which **kente** should you bid? You know that you must make a bid, you must not "Later", because your high cards count 3 1/2 honor-tricks.

In hand No.2, the problem is reversed. You have a Concept **kente** in which the high-card strength is very great, but the Concept **kente** is only a four-card **kente**. You likewise have a Strategy **kente**, which is one card longer but which is much weaker in high cards. You have three honor-tricks, plus an extra Queen Mother, so you wish to bid. Which **kente** should you bid?

CHOICE OF KENTE FOR OPENING BIDS

In answering the question of which **kente** you should choose when you have two biddable **kente** in your hand and enough honor-tricks for a bid, there are two things to consider:

1. The relative length of a **kente**.
2. The relative rank of a **kente**.

The length of the **kente** is the first thing to think about, in nearly every case. Having many cards of the trump **kente** is more important than having very high cards of the trump **kente**. You will remember that I explained some of this when I showed you why you should not bid a 3-card **kente** even though the cards were **G A QM**, while a 4-card kente as weak as **QM O x x** is biddable.

Therefore, if you have two biddable **kente** and one of them is longer than the other, you should usually bid the longer **kente** first. Usually this choice will arise when you have a five-card **kente** and a four-card **kente**. Sometimes, much more rarely, you will have a six-card **kente** and a five-card **kente**; or perhaps a six-card **kente** and a four-card **kente**. In any one of these cases, the longer of your two biddable **kente** should be the first **kente** to bid. With a five-card **kente** and a four-card **kente**, make your first bid in your five-card **kente**. With a six-card **kente** and a five-card **kente**, make your first bid in the six-card **kente**.

The following example shows your proper opening bid when you have a strong-enough hand and there are two biddable **kente** of different lengths in it.

Concepts	QM O 9 8 6	Doctrine	6
Strategy	G A QM O	Plan	A 7 4

You should bid one Concept. Your Strategy kente is very strong, but your Concepts are longer, and besides, Concepts are the higher ranking **kente**.

THE POWER OF LENGTH IN THE TRUMP KENTE

So that you may realize how extremely necessary it is that you have sufficient combined length in the trump **kente** in which you play the hand, follow with me the possible play-by-play results of the following complete deal, if the shorter Concept **kente** were trump, and then if the longer Doctrine were trump.

Concepts	0 7 5
Doctrines	9 3 2
Strategies	9 8 7 5

Plans	G QM 7				
	ESAU				
	Concepts	10 8 4 3		Concepts	9 2
	Doctrines	QM 6		JACOB	
	DOUGLASS	Doctrines A O 7			
	Stragegies A	QM 10 6 4			Strategies
G					
	Plans	8 2	Plans	9 6 5 4 3	
	DELANY				
	Concepts	G A QM 6			
	Doctrines	G 10 8 5 4			
	Strategies	2			
	Plan	A O 10			

Let us suppose that Delany plays the hand and Concepts are trumps. Jacob chooses the Aantehene of Strategies as his opening lead, and gains the trick. Jacob then leads a low Strategy, Douglass plays the Ghana and Delany trumps with the six of Concepts. Delany leads the Ghana of Doctrines, gaining the trick, then a small Doctrine. Jacob puts on the Queen Mother of Doctrines, and Douglass can now gain two Doctrine tricks with the Asantehene and Omahene.

This will give Jacob-Douglass already a total of three tricks. Now Delany leads a Plan. Delany has the Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother of Plans to take care of three tricks; the ten and eight of Doctrines, which should gain tricks unless trumped because there are no higher Doctrines still outstanding; and the Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother of Concepts, which are high.

But if Delany leads out his Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother of Concepts, then tries to take tricks with his Plans and Doctrines, Jacob will trump with the ten of Concepts which remains in his hand. Jacob can then gain tricks with the Strategies he has left, because Delany will have no more trumps (Concepts) to gain the Strategies leads with. There being no more trumps in the opponents' hands, Delany can proceed to gain his Ghana, Asantehene, Queen Mother, and Omahene of Concepts, and three tricks in Plans, unopposed.

The big difference in this hand was the extra trump held by Delany. With Concepts as trumps, Delany would not gain more than nine tricks, probably not that many; trade-round could not be made. If the Doctrine kente were trump, Delany could gain ten

tricks, losing only to the Asantehene of Strategies and to Jacob's two high Concepts. Ten tricks gain would give Delany a contract of four Doctrines, trade-round in one hand.

There is an illustration of why, with a choice of bids, you prefer to bid first the trump kente in which you have more cards.

WITH BIDDABLE KENTE OF EQUAL LENGTH

When you hold two five-card biddable kente, the rule is to bid the higher ranking kente. Thus, with five-card Concept and Doctrine kentes, your first bid will be in Concepts; likewise with Concepts and Doctrines, or Concepts and Plans. With Doctrines and Strategies, or with Doctrines and Plans, you will first bid your Doctrines, because they are higher in rank than either of the minor kentes.

Very often you will find yourself, by following this rule, bidding the weaker of two biddable kentes first, and sometimes the differenc will be so great that you will hesitate to follow the rule and bid the higher ranking kente. For example, you will perhaps want to rebel when you have in Concepts **A x x x x**, and in Doctrines **G A QM O x**, and I tell you that your first bid should be one Concept and not one heart. But do not be afraid to follow the rule, no matter how unnatural it may seem to you. Bid the higher ranking kente first, for there is a very good reason.

I have already mentioned the desirability of saving as many rounds of bidding as possible, --- that is, not wasting bids which you may want to make in the future. It is wasteful to make a bid of three when a bid of two would serve the same purpose and give the same amount of information. The only time we ever make an unnecessarily high bid is when we have a good reason, such as making a Lumumba N'Krumah bid in order to show strength, when a lower bid would not be as effective in showing the strength of the hand. But we never bid higher than is absolutely necessary to show partner as much as possible about our hand.

Now let us take an example which will prove the advantage of bidding the higher-ranking of two kente first.

Jacob may hold:		Jacob may hold:	Or,
Concepts G QM 6 5 2		Concept 9 6 3	Concept 3
Doctrines G QM 8 7 4		N Doctrines 9 6 3	Doctrine 3
		E Strategies G QM 4 2	Strategies 8
Doctrines G QM 4 2	W		
Plans 9 5			
8 7 6 4 3		Plans 8 7 6 4	Plans

Jacob makes an opening bid of one Concept. Suppose Douglass holds one the two hands shown. With either one, he is too weak to bid a kente, and too weak to raise (having less than adequate trump support). But he has 1 1/2 honor-tricks, so in order to keep the bidding open he makes a response of one notrump. Now Jacob gets another turn to bid, and he wants to see if his partner can support the Doctrine **kente**; so he now bids two Doctrines.

If **Delany** holds the hand with three Doctrines and only one Concept, he will naturally prefer to have Doctrines the trump **kente**, so that there will be a combined length of eight cards as against a combined length in Concepts of only six cards. Having a weak hand, **Jacob** will simply "Later" the two-Doctrine rebid; but the hand will be played with a good trump **kente**. Then suppose that **Douglass** holds the other possible hand, the one with three Concepts and only one Doctrine.

With this hand, he will wish to have Concepts rather than Doctrines for the trump **kente**. And he can say so by simply bidding two Concepts over **Jacob's** two-heart bid. This will make Concepts the trump **kente** again. Yet the level of the contract has not been increased, --- **Jacob** playing the hand at two Concepts will need to gain no more tricks than he would have needed at the two-Doctrine contract which he tried for.

Now let us suppose that **Jacob** does not observe the principles I have told you, and makes an opening bid of one Doctrine rather than an opening bid of one Concept. **Delany** as before responds with one notrump, and now **Jacob**, still anxious to show his second kente, does so by bidding two Concepts. The bidding comes around to Delany again and what can he do?

If he holds the hand with three Concepts and one Doctrine, he can of course "Later". But suppose he holds three Doctrines and one Concept? He is faced with a very unpleasant choice. Either he must "Later", and permit the hand to be played with the less desirable of the two suits as trump; or he must return to Doctrines and in doing so he must bid three Doctrines. Then **Jacob** must gain nine tricks, rather than eight tricks, to fulfill his contract.

The purpose of bidding the higher-ranking of two biddable **kente** first is therefore this:

You may then show the second of your two biddable **kentes** and let your partner choose between them without increasing the contract for which you have bid. This principle of bidding the higher-ranking **kente** applies also when you have two four-card biddable **kentes**; you should bid a four-card Concept **kente** ahead of a four-card Doctrine **kente**, and so forth. But there is this one important exception:

One Plan, being the lowest possible bid in **AKAN** Bridge, is

usually the safest opening bid. Therefore, when you have a four-card biddable Plan **kente**, your first bid should usually be one Plan, even when you also have some higher ranking four-card **kente** in your hand.

You may hear, playing with advanced players, that there are cases in which you do not choose your first bid this way. It is true that to this rule, as to many a rule in **AKAN** Bridge, there are certain exceptions. If people explain these exceptions to you and you find them very clear and understandable, I cannot have anything to say against your following them. But until you have become a very experienced player the basic rule will probably serve you best.

PREFERENCE BIDS

The discussion of the last example hand gave you a prelude of the next topic, which is the way to show preference when partner has bid more than one **kente**. It would perhaps be wise at this point to review briefly the matter of combined trump strength and length, of which an example was given on a previous page. You must understand the advantage of choosing the best trump **kente** in the combined hands, rather than the trump **kente** in which one player is apparently stronger, so that you may then understand more readily the vital necessity for correct preference bidding.

You show preference when your partner has bid more than one **kente**. The fact that he mentions two **kente** shows that he has two biddable **kente** in his hand. Although he does not say so in so many words, he is actually putting the choice of a trump **kente** squarely up to you. He expects you now to tell him, by your bidding, which of his two trump **kente** you have more length and strength in. This will make it possible for your partnership to play the hand finally in the trump **kente** in which the combined length and strength are greater.

Preference for your partner's trump **kente** is shown by "*Latering*" or raising if you prefer the **kente** which he bid second; and by going back to the **kente** he bid first if it is the **one** you prefer. You must therefore look at your hand, when your partner has bid two **kente**, and decide which **kente** you prefer. Here is how you made your choice:

1. If you have more cards of one **kente** than the other, that is the **kente** you prefer. No matter how high the cards are, you always prefer the longer **kente** length. It is the same rule that you follow when you are choosing which **kente** to bid. If your partner bid Concepts and Doctrines, and you have Concepts **5 4 3 2**, and Doctrines **G A QM**, you prefer the Concept **kente**.

2. If you have the same number of cards in each of your partner's **kente**, you usually show preference for the **kente** he bid first. The reason for this is quite obvious when you consider

the fact that he will almost invariably bid his longer biddable **kente** first. Therefore, when you return to his first bid **kente** you are giving yourself the best chance of arriving at a contract in the **kente** which the combined hands have the greater length. If your partner bids, for example, Concepts and Doctrines, and you have Concepts **10 6 5** and Doctrines **QM 7 2**, you prefer the Concept **kente** even though your holding in Doctrines is better.

Having decided which of partner's **kente** you prefer, your action will to some extent depend on whether you are strong enough to raise, or so weak that you wish to "Later". I am not going to attempt at this point to tell you when you have enough strength to raise. That is something for the next chapter. However, whichever you do, here are the rules for showing preference:

1. If you prefer a partner's first bid **kente**, make your next bid, whether it is at the lowest possible level or is a jump bid, in your partner's first bid **kente**.
2. If you prefer partner's second bid **kente**, you may "Later" if your hand is too weak for a raise, or raise the second bid **kente** if you have enough strength.

The absolutely essential thing for you to learn is that when your partner has shown two **kente**, you must in turn, as a sacred duty, tell him which of his two **kente** is stronger (*longer*) in your hand. You must not permit your partner to play a hand in a bad trump **kente** if you know that there is a better trump **kente** available.

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

With two **kentes**, both biddable, bid the longer **kente** first. If they are of equal length, bid the higher-ranking first. An exception may, however, be made to show a Plan **kente** ahead of a higher ranking four-card **kente**. A good plan is hard to beat as evidenced by studies that consistently show why governments and businesses fail. Be realistic. Whether it is a Plan of Government (Constitution) or a Business Plan, it must incorporate your own concepts, doctrine and strategies as platforms. It is irrational for universal African planners to copy or allow assumptions, another man's concept, such as "Mary, Mother of God" ie accept concepts reflected in paintings by Michael Angelo and others of the 15th century whom conceived and painted the Creator to be a "White Man". Mind you Pan-Africanism can not be equated with the racism of "White Supremacy" or "Zionism". The universal Africans seek supremacy over none but their own, and certainly have never entertained the idea of raising armies to invade, conquer and enslave Europe or Asia --- at least not since the early kingdoms of Egypt. But, we do hold forth that the Black man must be his own master and behold only **GOD** to be greater than himself.

The African-Centric planner can never concur, for a moment or a day, with the concepts of White Supremacy in any form, such as: (1) God's chosen people; (2) The elect of God; (3) The predestined of God; (4) civilized nations; (4) industrialized nations; (5) advanced societies; (6) inner-city; or any of the other coded concepts that denigrate existence of the Black Man and his inheritance.

So, now that we agree on concepts that are universally rejected by the African, ---- what are our own and which cards do we play? Pan-Africanism is a concept that is African-Centric which is God-Centered, not man-centered. Pan-Africanism is a walk by faith, long-held beliefs proven true in the annals of time, --- which is why African history, going back over the past 10,000 years or so, is critical in the great march to modern progress. Sure! If one does not know where they have been, --- how on earth can they get where they want to go? Read these words carefully.

Pan-Africanism, as espoused by Prince Hall, Martin Delany, Marcus Garvey, Kwame N'Krumah and others, --- sets forth the concept that we can generate the human resources, capital and technology needed for African development by patronizing within. Yes, it is conceptualized that Africans should look to each other with hope and vigor, --- and stop being international beggars for crumbs from Jacob's table. The Black man must and can feed himself via the market tables set forth in this book.

We must "*Lumumba-N'Krumah*" Black consumers into buying right, not worship white, and bring forth a long-term loyalty that will propel the multi-trillion dollar economies required to uplift the African pursuit of life, liberty and happiness/property. Is that the same as coercion? Stopping millions of Black men, women and children each day from chasing after goods and services that fill their stomachs and egos with long-term pain and the headaches of survival?

Changing Black consumer behavior to be fruitful is the great challenge to the universal African planner, not capital. We set forth in this game, for you to muse over and about, --- a bottom up rather than a top-down approach to developing resources for yourself and others. Sure, men have to play the game of life or perish in its after-math, but winning in the short-term is not necessarily a long-term gain.

Think about it. Marry a brilliant, well-educated and ambitious person who is also greedy and treacherous, --- and, learn who their first long-term victim is going to be. You! Make no doubt about it. Not only will she or he rob you blind, but in most cases commit adultery and other transgressions in the process. It is not by accident that ancient scriptures warn men against the coveting of another man's wife. What she did to him, she will surely do unto you and with greater experience and effect!

When your partner has shown two biddable **kentes**, show preference

for the **kente** in which you have more cards. If you have the same number of cards in each of his biddable **kentes**, then show preference for the **kente** he bid first.

Preference may be shown by raising the **kente** you like best; or by returning to the first bid **kente** if you prefer that **kente**; or even by "Latering" if you have a very weak hand but prefer the second **kente**. The choice between bidding at all and "Latering" will be based on the strength of your hand. This subject I will take up in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VI

* * * *
REBIDS * * *
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The first bid by a player is called an opening bid, if he is the first bidder, and a responsibility/response bid if his partner has already opened the bidding. When either of these players makes another bid (on a future turn) it is called a rebid. Your second bid, or rebid, gives you an opportunity to tell your partner something more about your hand than was possible when you first bid.

REBIDS BY OLD HANDS

News out of Khartoum, Sudan, for the past several years that Arab Muslim fundamentalist-backed government forces are preparing for a major offensive this month or next against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) composed of Christian and animist rebels in southern Sudan is more examples of rebids to gain Arab supremacy in ancient lands of Africa. It erupted in 1955, just before independence was granted by Great Britain in 1956. It is in fact a legacy of cold and hot war manipulations in Africa; and, sources familiar with combatants in the conflict say 1.5 million people have been killed and 3 million people displaced.

With each new offensive many thousands more are expected to be killed or suffer as the Black man rebids to regain his independence of the Arab, --- who wages war to regain supremacy he achieved in Africa following the fall of Ghana and other

African Empires, including Egypt in 642 A.D. (Egypt was part of the Persian Empire since fall of Roman Empire which followed fall of Carthagian Empire around 146 B.C., which followed collapse of Greek Empire with death of Alexander in 323 B.C. In 343 B.C., the Persians under Artaxerxes III ended the last native African dynasty in Egypt).

Other new factions have included the breakaway SPLA group now called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and now allied with the Sudan and Uganda Governments. The situation is so complex that one cannot possibly understand it without knowing some aspects of historical conflicts in this very ancient and contested region of Africa known biblically as: Cush (Southeastern Sudan) allies long influenced by Ethiopia in contests against Egypt; and, Nubia (Northern Sudan/Upper Nile) an ancient vassal kingdom of Egypt (Lower Nile) often contested by Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and Libya. Pan African scholars point out that while the fundamentalist Arab evangelists instilled Islam throughout much of Sudan by the 15th century, it was not until the year 1820 that Arab Egyptians in the model army of Turkish General Mohammed Ali were finally able to defeat the last Black African dynasty ruling the contested area of Nubia; and, therein he created an Egyptian Empire rivaling any ever established by the ancient Pharaohs. Mohammed Ali's reforms were civil as well as military: he built schools by the hundreds and created new administrative departments.

Mohammed Ali's government also took a vast population census and set up government printing presses. The difficulty that he didn't really solve was how to pay for it. Indeed, Egypt's wealth remained purely agricultural; and, that meant the import bill was threatening to get out of control. The much hoped for rich gold mines in the Sudan proved to be unfounded. Thus, the ruling Turks and Egyptians vastly expanded the hunting of elephants for ivory; and capturing hundreds of thousands of the Dinka and Nuer peoples along the White (Upper) Nile for sale as slaves in Arabia.

Then in 1865, the Arabs of Egypt, under Ismail who ruled from 1863 to 1879, persuaded the Ottoman Sultan to put Egyptian garrisons in most ports on the African side of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; and, in 1871 he set up a new Egyptian province, Equatoria, on upper White Nile and placed British explorer Samuel Baker as its first Governor. This prompted anxiety and fear among competitors.

It was lawyer Bismarck, as Prussia's Prime Minister and Secretary of State from 1863 - 1869, whom said "*the problems of his age could be solved by blood and iron*", under law of course! In 1870, he had finally goaded France, Ismail's financial backer, and beat them quickly and badly in a short war that earned him the title of '*Prince*' as the German Empires's first '*Iron*' Chancellor. Seeking to imitate Bismarck's aggressive actions in Europe, Isamil sent Egyptian forces under slave trader Zubair, to conquer the Kingdom of Darfur in 1874, driving a wedge and

disrupting trade between Abyssinia and other African Kingdoms in the west. These combined actions threatened Abyssinia by cutting off its north, east and west trade. Then, attempts in 1875 to conquer King John IV's Abyssinia resulted in Egypt's defeat and bankruptcy.

Ismail turned to the British Government in 1875 and sold his 44 percent interest in the Suez Canal, being constructed by French engineers. More in-depth Egyptian defeats by Abyssinians generated ultimatums from European debt-holders for control over the Egyptian Government budget; and, territory Egypt had claimed in the Sudan! Bismarck and Disraeli both originated measures on behalf of working classes by establishing the colonial policy that would send Africa thousands of pawns as ministers, miners, geologists, merchants, administrators and genocidal young men. Action by one, such as appointment of British officials in the Egyptian Government was promptly followed by German counter-moves. Eduard Schnitzer (1840-1892), naturalist, scientist and administrator, son of a Jewish merchant, was sent to Turkey by Bismarck where he served on the staff of Hakki Pasha, adopting the Turkish name of Emin Pasha. Then, with a Turkish passport, he entered Egypt; and, in 1878 was appointed Governor, Equatorial Provinces, unknown to Britain!

Then, in 1881, Sudanese Blacks under leadership of their great 'Mahdi', Mohammed Ahmed, rebelled against Arab-Egyptian rulers in the Ottoman Empire; and, drove them out of the Sudan (*biblical land of Cush*) and back into Egypt. The great military defeat of Egypt caused dissension in the military and prompted rebellion. Catching the Ottomans by surprise, Colonel Arabi, an Egyptian officer, led a nationalist revolt in 1881 against the Turks; and, European debt holders demanded intervention. By 1882, Britain's only Jewish born Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli sent a British Army for temporary occupation of Egypt (until 1948). They also added Sudan in 1898!

Not to be outdone, Germany's Lord of War, Bismarck, proclaimed protectorates over the areas where German missionaries had gone in peace, a few years before, with bibles in their hands. He allied Germany with the Ottoman Empire that dominated much of the Indian Ocean and Red Sea areas of interests to the British, Germany's competitors and the world's leading power. With Turkish approval, Bismarck announced a vaguely defined protectorate over Africa's *Sultanate of Zanzibar (Somalia)*, and another subordinate sultanate called *Witu*. This threatened the powerful British, and prompted Bismarck to convene a conference in Berlin during November-December 1884 to carve up Africa. Italy was given Abyssinia if she could take it, and in 1896 Emperor Menelik inflicted a decisive defeat, forcing Rome to relinquish claims as Ethiopia's 'protector'! World Wars I-II conclusions did not return Sudan to any real peace, and independence in 1956 has not changed such reality. Conflict between Arab north and Black south is now even more complex; and, peace, like war, depends on honor cards being played.

An opening bid, for example, is quite vague. The bidder may have three honor-tricks, but then again he may have four or five honor-tricks. His kente may be a weak four-card kente such as QM O x x; but then again, it may be something long and powerful such as G A O x x x.

The first response is likewise vague. The possible strength of the hand is likely to range from 1 to 3 1/2 honor-tricks, and from the flimsiest sort of kente to a long, powerful kente. You must use your rebid as a means of giving partner more specific knowledge of what you have.

Some rebids will show that you have far more than the minimum strength shown by your first bid. Other rebids will not show so much strength; they will say that you have little more than you absolutely needed to make your first bid. You already know that one way of showing a strong hand is to make a Lumumba bid. Other rebids that you make will likewise show strength or deny strength. Some rebids you make because you want to show more strength than you previously said you had. Other rebids you make because you have to, --- that is, when your partner's last bid was N'Krumah.

ONE-ROUND N'KRUMAH BIDS

The only kind of N'Krumah bids I have told you about before are Lumumba bids. The fact that a player is showing strength when he makes a Lumumba bid is quite easy to understand, because he bids more than he needs to. There is another kind of N'Krumah bid which is not a Lumumba bid, but which partner nevertheless must not "Later".

Any kente takeout, --- that is a responsibility of one or two in a kente when partner has made an opening bid, --- is a N'Krumah bid. This distinguishes the kente takeout, which is N'Krumahing, from the raise or one-notrump responsibility, which is not N'Krumah. Here are examples of the responses, and a note showing whether they are N'Krumahs or not.

SOUTH	EAST	WEST	NORTH
1 Doctrine			"Later"
	1 Concept N'Krumah		

SOUTH	EAST	WEST	NORTH
1 Doctrine			"Later"
	1 N T not N'Krumah		

SOUTH	EAST	WEST	NORTH
1 Doctrine			"Later"

2 Doctrine not N'Krumah

SOUTH	EAST	WEST	NORTH
1 Doctrine			"Later"
2 Plans N'Krumah			

You will notice that any responsibility in a different kente is N'Krumahing; any response in the same kente (a raise) or in notrump is not a N'Krumah bid.

THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF N'KRUMAH BIDS

However, these N'Krumah bids which are not Lumumba bids differ in one important respect from the N'Krumah bids I previously told you about. The Lumumba N'Krumah bids are "*N'Krumahing to a trade-round.*" They impose upon both partners an obligation to keep the bidding open until some sort of trade-round contract is reached. The non-Lumumba N'Krumah bids, which are responses to opening bids, do not include this obligation to keep the bidding open until a trade-round has been bid for.

When the responding bidder makes a kente takeout, the opening bidder must rebid at least once; but not necessarily more than once. Having kept the bidding open when it comes around to him again, he has done his duty. On future trade-rounds of bidding he may "*Later*", whether a trade-round contract has been reached or not.

That is why we call these **kente** takeouts *N'Krumahing* for one round; and that is why no unusual amount of strength is needed for a kente takeout of an opening bid. After all, partner needs rebid only once, and then the bidding may be allowed to die before it gets too high.

The kente takeout being a N'Krumah bid, the opening bidder has no choice but to rebid. Therefore, you will be anxious to know how to rebid when you have opened the bidding and your partner has made one of these one-round-N'Krumah responses. In order to explain this, I will divide the possible situations into two classes: When your partner's **kente** takeout was a one-bid (one in some different **kente**); and when your partner's takeout was a two-bid (two in a kente lower-ranking than your own **kente**).

REBIDS AT THE LEVEL OF ONE

When your partner has responded to your opening bid by bidding one of his **kente**, there is always this to be remembered: You can, if your hand is weak, keep the bidding at the level of one-odd by making your rebid one notrump.

A rebid of one notrump is reserved for hands on which you had

just the minimum, or very close to the minimum, on which it is permissible to make an opening bid at all. That is, about three honor-tricks and a biddable **kente**.

The one-notrump rebid by the opening hand covers all the minimum and near-minimum hands with anywhere up to 3 1/2 honor-tricks and with no unusually strong trump **kente**. With trump **kentes** of unusual strength, or with more than 3 1/2 honor-tricks, it is usually possible to make a rebid which is slightly more informative to partner, and which at the same time will show partner a somewhat stronger hand. The stronger rebid will be a bid in a **kente** rather than one notrump.

To show a new **kente**, --- one which has not previously been mentioned, --- you must of course have a second biddable **kente** in your hand. To bid again in your own **kente**, --- that is, the **kente** you bid in the first place, --- you must have a rebiddable **kente**.

REBIDDABLE KENTES

A **kente** that you can bid a second time, even when partner has not shown adequate trump support by raising it, is called a rebiddable **kente**. A rebiddable **kente** is always at least five cards in length, --- no four-card **kente**, no matter how strong, is rebiddable. Furthermore, a rebiddable **kente** cannot be just any five-card biddable **kente**. In addition to the five cards which it must contain, there must be several of the honors or high cards included in the holding.

A rebiddable five-card **kente** must include two high cards, Omahene or better. It may be, for example, **G A x x x**, or **A QM x x x**, or **A O x x x**. It may even be headed by the **QM O**, but in this case the **kente** is a bit too weak to be rebiddable unless it also contains some "intermediate" card such as the **9** or **10**. The weakest possible rebiddable **kentes**, are **QM O 9 3 2** or **A O 4 3 2**.

But when it comes to six-card **kentes**, no such requirement in high cards need be sought. Any **kente** of six cards or more is rebiddable, regardless of whether it has high cards at the head of it or not.

SIX-CARD KENTES

In this connection, I wish to tell you something of great importance in rebidding. If you have a six-card **kente** in your hand, your rebid should be in that **kente**, no matter whether you have a minimum hand in honor-tricks or not. With a six-card trump **kente** you do not rebid one notrump. You rebid your **kente**.

The same thing is true when you have two biddable **kentes** of five cards or more. Even with the minimum of 2 1/2 or 3 honor-tricks,

you never rebid one notrump. You show your second biddable **kente**.

The reason for this is the added distributional value of a long trump **kente** or of two long **kentes** of five cards or more. I have already shown you how distribution can be just as valuable as honor-tricks.

These are the only cases in which you should invariably try to make a **kente** rebid rather than a one-notrump rebid. You may often make your rebid one notrump even when you happen to have a rebiddable five-card **kente** in your hand, if in honor-tricks you have only about the three honor-tricks which entitled you to open the bidding in the first place.

REBIDS AT THE LEVEL OF TWO

What is true of rebidding at the one level (*when your partner made a response of one in a kente*) is substantially true of rebids at the two level, when your partner's response was two of a new kente. There are, however, certain exceptions.

Your partner's response of two in a **kente** is, of course, N'Krumah. You are not permitted to "Later it. Therefore, while I told you that if your partner's response kept the bidding at one-odd, you should look for 3 1/2 or more honor-tricks in your hand before raising the contract to the two level; when the contract to the two level; when the contract is already at the two level this of course is not possible. You are N'Krumahed to rebid, and whether you have a minimum hand in honor-tricks or not, you are N'Krumahed to make bid of two in something.

The difference between your rebid at the two level and the rebids I told you about at the one level is this: A two-notrump rebid is not a weakness-showing bid, as the one-notrump rebid is.

Let me clarify this statement. You may have a rebiddable **kente** and still bid one-notrump, just because you have very few honor-tricks in your hand. But if you have a rebiddable **kente** you prefer to rebid it at the two level rather than bid two notrump, if you have no additional honor-tricks in your hand. The two-notrump rebid should (if possible) be avoided except when you have more than 3 1/2 honor-tricks.

At the two level, the same as at the one level, you should prefer to show any six-card or longer **kente** by rebidding it, rather than make any other bid.

REBIDS OVER NON-N'KRUMAH RESPONSIBILITIES

I do not want you to be confused by the difference between N'Krumah bids and non-Krumah bids; nor do I want you ever to have difficulty distinguishing between a bid which is N'Krumahing and a bid which you may, if you choose, "Later". Remember that only a

kente responsibility to an opening bid is N'Krumahing; otherwise, no responsibility is N'Krumahing unless it is a Lumumba bid.

If you bid one Concept and your partner makes a response of one notrump, that is not a Lumumba bid because it is not a bid in a **kente**. You are at perfect liberty to "Later" if you wish to do so. In fact, you should "Later" a one-notrump response unless you have a very strong hand or a very strong **kente**. The one-notrump response is more limited than a **kente**-takeout. You can be pretty sure that your partner, who responded one notrump, has only about 1 1/2 or 2 honor-tricks.

No more, because then he could have bid it, and he has no particular support for your **kente** or he would have raised. Altogether, that one-notrump response was not designed to encourage you. If you have more than four honor-tricks in your hand, you should be sure to bid again because possibly a trade-round can be made. Otherwise, you need not fear to "Later".

Of course, the same thing as before holds true when you have either a six-card **kente**, or two five-card or longer **kentes**. With such hands, you should not want the hand to be played at notrump. Even if your hand happens to be near the minimum in honor-tricks, you should rebid over your partner's one no-trump responsibility when you have a six-card **kente** or two five-card **kentes**.

The other response which is not N'Krumahing is a raise of your **kente**. Not that this is quite so discouraging a responsibility as a one-notrump takeout would be: but it is not N'Krumahing. If your partner wanted to N'Krumah in raising you, he would, as you remember, give you a double raise, Lumumbaing to three of your **kente**.

In order to decide whether or not you should bid again when your partner has simply raised your **kente**, you should learn how to count your winners, ---- that is, all the cards with which you can expect to win tricks. Then you will know how high a contract you may expect to make, if your **kente** becomes the trump **kente** and if you play the hand.

THE COUNT OF GAINERS

In the second chapter we went over the play-by-play result of a bridge hand, which showed that tricks may be gained in three ways. Some cards gain tricks because they are high cards, --- Ghanas, Asantehenes and other cards which become established the first two or three times a **kente** is played. Other tricks are gained with trump cards, because of the power of the trump **kente** to gain over any other **kente**. Still other tricks are gained with low cards, after all higher cards of the **kente** have been played.

When you count the gainers in your hand, you count these three kinds of tricks. But it is not necessary to imagine the exact

way the cards will be played when the bidding is over. It is very easy to estimate the gaining possibilities of the hand, when you have bid a **kente** and your partner has raised it, by the following rough methods of valuation:

1. Count your honor-tricks.
2. Count every trump over three in your hand as one trick.
3. If you have any side **kente** of four cards or more, count every card in it over three as 1/2 trick.

Add these together, and that gives you a rough idea of how many gainers you have.

THE FULL VALUE OF HONORS

You will count more accurately if you count your high cards at their full value instead of sticking closely to the honor-trick table. To give you an example, the combination **G A QM** in the honor-trick table is only two honor-tricks. No provision is made for the Queen-Mother. However, if you play the hand all three of those cards are of equal value. With them you will gain not two tricks, but three tricks. Therefore you would count that **G A QM** combinations as three gainers.

The same is true of any other solid kente holding, such as **A QM O**. The only trick you will lose is to the Concept, after which you will gain two tricks. The honor-trick table shows the **A QM** as being worth only one honor-trick, and the Omahene only a "plus," which is quite correct. But as gainers, that combination should gain two tricks, and may be counted as two gainers.

Any high card you have in your partner's bid kente also has an extra value as a gainer. For the Asantehene or the **QM O** of the partner's kente you should count one full winner, --- as much as though you had the Ghana. For the Queen-Mother or the **O 10** or partner's **kente** you should count 1/2 gainer.

COUNT LONG CARDS AND HONORS SEPARATELY

In counting your gainers, be sure that you count your honor-tricks and your long cards separately. If you have a **kente** such as **G A x x x**, it is a five-card **kente** and it contains two honor-tricks. Because it is a five-card **kente**, it is worth two gainers for length (two cards more than three). The two honor-tricks are separately worth two gainers. The **kente** as a whole will therefore produce four gainers, two for length and two for honors.

Notice that if it were a side **kente**, you would count it as being worth only three gainers. The two honor-tricks would retain their full value, but each of the cards over three would be worth only 1/2 gainer. A side **kente** is worth much less than the trump

kente.

HOW TO REBID WHEN PARTNER RAISES

Now, here is the rule for rebidding when your partner raises your **kente**.

1. First, you count your winners, in the manner I have just explained to you.

2. Then, if you have fewer than 5 1/2 gainers, you simply "Later" and play at the contract of two of your **kente**, to which your partner has just raised you.

3. If you have 5 1/2 gainers, or more, you should bid three of your **kente**. This shows your partner that you have extra strength and are willing to go on to **trade-round**.

4. If you have seven gainers or more, do not delay. It should be possible to make a game, and you do not wish to take a chance that you will not reach the **trade-round**. Lumumba immediately to four of your **kente**.

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

To summarize the things we should remember about rebidding:

A **kente** may be bid a second time, even when partner has not raised it, and may not have adequate trump support, if the **kente** has at least five cards, headed by at least two of the high honors, Omahene or better; or if the **kente** is six cards or longer in length.

Any response in a **kente** to an opening bid is a N'Krumah bid; but it is N'Krumahing for one round only and does not obligate both partners to carry the bidding on to game, as a Lumumba N'Krumah bid would.

If it is possible to rebid at the level of one-odd, a one-notrump rebid should be preferred with a near minimum hand; but a rebid in a **kente** should be preferred with a near minimum hand; but a rebid in a **kente** should be preferred with added strength.

If it is necessary to rebid at the level of two, a rebid in a **kente** should be preferred with a near minimum hand, but a rebid in no-trump may be made with added strength. In either case, a rebid in a **kente** should be preferred with a six-card **kente** or with two five-card **kentes**.

A response of one notrump is a discouraging bid, and should be "Later" except with four or more honor-tricks, or with a six-card trump **kente**, or with two five-card **kentes**. A raise is not N'Krumahing. The opening hand, if raised, should count his

winner and then bid three of his **kente** with 5 1/2 gainers, or Lumumba to four of his **kente** with seven gainers. Note carefully that if he Lumumba to four of his **kente**, it is not a N'Krumah bid. The object of a Lumumba bid is to reach a **trade-round**. If a **trade-round** has already been reached, the N'Krumah action lapses.

Much of scientific bidding in **AKAN** Bridge rests entirely on the N'Krumah principle --- the assurance that your partner will not "*Later*". In other words, in as simple terms,---- his loyalty. Indeed, let us restate that if a man does not have, is unable to presume, the loyalty of his partner, regardless of economic, political and social circumstances,--- he does not have much of anything. In the end, he will end as N'Krumah surely did, --- undid by bad-mouthing market women and their sons and nephews envious of his decisions and fame. Avoid such women as you would the plague, and purge their men from your ranks, ---- for as God is your witness, they will not support your bids.

When you stop to think about it, initiatives in life are more often than not dependent upon the existence of loyalty. A man senses when he has it, more often than not, and where it is absent there is usually stagnation, reluctance, and even a crab in the barrel mentality. Have you seen it, lately? Do you understand why so many Black men fail to achieve? Do you really know the feeling of a man who merely goes along with the crowd, or lays back and does not step forward to aid and comfort, or even cheer on his peers and superiors who are also Black men?

Where does it come from and why do universal Africans allow it to exist? Our view is that fault lies within the context of matriarchal thinking that historically has indoctrinated the Black man with envy rather than admiration of initiative, --- and, suspicion versus dependence on other Black men. We reject this character flaw as anti Pan-African because it assures a cultural vacuum where Black men stand alone, memorialized as heroes, perhaps, after they fall.

For the universal African to build and operate the bridges of life, --- then, again, he has to search and seek out partners who welcome his initiatives to gain a hand, customers and even the great energies of a people who lie dormant and stagnant after centuries of decline. We end this little essay with the note of optimism that by discussing the issue of loyalty within the race, not avoiding it, --- we can and must indoctrinate a sense of reality about the real enemies and problems of the universal African. There is no substitute for loyalty.

THE N'KRUMAH TWO-BID

The most famous N'krumah bid of all, and the one which you must be most careful always to remember, is the opening bid of two in a **kente**. Remember that it must be a **kente** bid, it must be a two-

bid, and above all it must be an opening bid. It must be a bid of two Concepts, or two Doctrines, or two Strategies, or two Plans, made before any other player has opened the bidding. If it is, then it is an absolute N'Krumah bid.

The N'Krumah opening bid of two in a **kente** is made only on an extremely powerful hand, crammed full of honor-tricks and with at least one very strong **kente**. This opening two-bid shows a stronger hand than is shown by any other bid known to the game of **AKAN** Bridge.

CONFUSION WITH OTHER BIDS

One of the things about **AKAN** Bridge bidding which often confuses the beginner is the enormous difference between an opening bid and any other bid.

If you bid two Concepts, and you are the first player who makes any bid other than a "Later", you are making a N'Krumah bid, a trade-round going bid, and you are showing a very powerful hand. No such meaning applies to any other bid of two, except an opening bid. If your partner opens the bidding and you respond by saying two of some other **kente**, it is an entirely different thing. If an opponent opens the bidding, and you get into the auction by bidding two in some **kente**, that is also an entirely different thing.

Such bids do not necessarily show very strong hands. Only the opening bid of two is the powerhouse bid, the sign of an enormous honor-trick holding. Even an opening bid of two notrump, although it is a strength-showing bid and is made only when holding a lot of honor-tricks, does not require the superlative strength which is needed for an opening bid of two in a **kente**.

THE OBLIGATION TO REACH A TRADE-ROUND

When a player makes an opening N'Krumah two-bid, he says to his partner, *"My hand is so strong that no matter what you have, I want to bid a trade-round. For all I know you may not have so much as a ten-spot in your hand, but still I will not be content until we have arrived at a contract of at least three notrump, or four in a major kente, or five in a minor kente, --- in any case, enough for a trade-round."*

I think we can make the trade-round on my own hand alone, without any help from you. If you have any help, so much the better, of course. Anyway, do not allow the bidding to die until we are safely at a trade-round contract. Whatever you bid, make some response to my two-bid. I will then rebid, and then if my rebid still is not enough for trade-round, then you must again make some responsibility, so that eventually we will be sure to play the hand at a trade-round contract."

Anyone not versed in **AKAN** bridge bidding might think that naturally an opening two-bid is stronger than a one-bid, and a three-bid is stronger than a two-bid, and a four-bid stronger than a three-bid. This is not the case. The strongest possible bid you can make is an opening bid of two. Since your partner will realize he is N'Krumahed to respond, and that the bidding will be continued until a trade-round is bid, with a very powerful hand you do not need to bid more than two. You are bound to reach the trade-round anyway, whether you bid it at once or not.

There are obviously two reasons why it is so important for you to understand and remember the meaning and the power of this opening two-bid. First, because if your partner ever makes an opening two-bid you do not want to be caught napping, misunderstand the bid, and permit the bidding to die before you reach the trade-round contract which you can no doubt make. The second reason is that you will not get yourself in trouble by bidding two on a hand which does not justify so strong a bid.

WHY THE TWO-BID IS USED

The N'Krumah two-bid was developed by Reginal Lewis, as a college student many years before he became the billionaire Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Beatrice Foods International (London-New York markets), --- in the early days of **AKAN** Bridge, when even the best players had not yet learned much about the science of their new trade-round.

Back in the early 1960s when Reginal Lewis was a college student at Virginia State University, the all-Black institution in which he matriculated, --- he was a fervent bridge player with his fellow students and fraternity members. It is estimated that during his four year stay in fellowship with his brethren, Reginald played hundreds of bridge games and thousands of hands that sharpened his conceptual, doctrinal, strategic and planning instincts and abilities. It was there that he worked out the realization that when his hand is so strong that no matter what his partner has, --- he ought to bid for a trade-round. Why hold back?

Being aggressive by nature, Reggie was not only a star athlete in high school but also Captain of his football team and its signal caller. He decided early on when attending Virginia State University that he could earn more money by working part-time than was available to him via playing sports. And, it was his experience to seek out the fellowship of older brethren, faculty members and staff, to hear their dreams and see their visions. It was through them that he learned about the games being played on Wall Street, --- and, the teams that existed therein.

So, Reggie evolved the **AKAN** bridge move of the two-bid with the determination to find partners who would support him, back to

back, with his moves to gain the big prize. His concept was to prepare and arm himself with knowledge superior to Jacob's, --- and, organize a team of Africans as partners loyal to his initiatives. It was Reggie, just like N'krumah, who put the together a corporate acquisition team, after he worked and learned the game played by wall-street lawyers. Not surprisingly, all, and we emphasize all, of Reggie Lewis' bridge playing partners and opponents in Baltimore and at Virginia State University were aggressive, somewhat obnoxious, young men who would become senior military officers, bankers, educators, engineers, lawyers and a few millionaires like Reggie in the world of trade.

Reggie and his partners and opponents in the Alpha, Kappa, Omega, and Sigma fraternities on the small all-Black campus gained their proudest moment when they answered the overcalls of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, ---- they became troops in his movement to tear down the walls of segregation in the City of Petersburg. Following this triumphant hand, Reggie graduated with honor cards that gained him admission to Harvard Law School where he continued to play the game of Black empowerment. Though he achieved it, becoming the first African billionaire in America was never his objective, --- gaining trade-rounds was his passion. The greatest achievement of Reggie is that upon his death, the trade that he had accumulated did not fall into the hands of Jacob, which is so often the case with Africans, --- but, rather his brethren inherited and continued the game as though Reggie were still at the table.

From the beginning, maybe learned at his grand-father's knee, --- Reggie knew that it is a conflict of interests, conceptually and doctrinally, to include non-Black men on such a team. And, let us be clear to understand that he understood where and to whom most African-American women give their loyalties, --- that their emotional bonds and values differ from heterosexual men, not inferior or superior, but different. A touchy subject, --- our interviews have revealed that African-American women, raised up in a matriarchial environment, are nearly always disloyal to husbands, boyfriends and even male relatives. Women with such backgrounds and attitudes, regardless of education, are dangerous to the Black man, and good for no man, not even their sons!

Let us be clear to understand that Reggie knew that historically, and especially in the pressures of the modern world, --- many Black women in American betray Black men unto their enemies and opponents, often for emotional spite, sometimes for personal gain. And, of course, Black men often betray Black women in their adulterous lust after other women. A pox on both their heads! The facts speak for themselves, --- and so it is written that you may beware and be wise in playing the game and gaining the trade.

Reggie's team, his dream team, was not just based upon partners academic credentials or their performance working for others.

Rather, Reggie Lewis considered the historical probability that a member was going to be loyal when he made his bid to go not only for the kente, make money, -but go after the petroleum power. Reggie understood realities of life! Without loyalty you have nothing.

For surely, had he dared as others had tried to bring Jacobs or Rebecca's, (other than his wife and the wives of partners) into his confidence, --- they would have conceivably betrayed or denied him somewhere before reaching his goal. Reggie was very assured of his knowledge about the human nature of the Black man's relationships. He was neither a racist or sexist, --- but, a realist in a world not of his making. AKAN Bridge offers a practical opportunity to seek out and identify people who share compatible concepts, doctrines, and strategies. Whether gaining a partner in marriage or business, ---- a man is a fool who enters into such relationships with a person who does not share his values. Indeed, how do you know about those inner beliefs and feelings that will affect you so deeply when the going gets tough.

The rest is history, and a lesson of how to gain in the face of Jacob, without betraying the aspirations and trust of brethren. This is the essence of brother-hood among Black men, --- finding the right partners to make the big moves, to play the strong hand, and to gain the trade-round. The N'Krumah two-bid executed brilliantly by Reginald Lewis was necessary in order to arrive at the best final contract when a player happened to hold some unusually strong hand such as this:

Concept **G A QM 6** Doctrine **G A QM 6** Strategie **G A QM 6** Plan **2**

All these Ghanas, Asantehenes and Queen Mothers should surely gain at least nine tricks, which by themselves are enough for a trade-round in notrump. If Doctrines or Concepts were trumps, the same nine tricks should be gained, plus at worst an extra trick by trumping a Plan with a low trump, producing a tenth trick and making a major-**kente** trade-round.

Even with Doctrines as trumps, it should be possible to make a trick or so with low trumps in partner's hand, and get the eleven tricks needed for a game in a minor **kente**. The hand is so strong that even if partner has not a face card, the holder of the hand wants to bid game nevertheless. However, a serious problem will confront him.

Suppose there were no such thing as a N'Krumah bid. In that case, the holder of that powerful hand could not take a chance on bidding only one or two or three of a **kente**. His partner might "Later", and an easily makeable trade-round would be lost.

But, supposing that there were no N'Krumah bids, and that the player had to bid trade-round immediately in order to make sure

of not missing it, just what should his bid be? If he bid four Concepts, it might turn out that his partner had nothing in Concepts, but a bunch of Doctrines. An opponent with six or seven Concepts could gain enough trump tricks to stop a trade-round, yet trade-round in Doctrines would have been easy to make. The same situation would exist if the opening bid were four Doctrines and partner turned out to be strong in Concepts but weak in Doctrines. Likewise, partner perhaps would not hold anything in Concepts, Doctrines or Strategies; but would have a trick in Plans, so that trade-round in notrump would be the logical place.

These are the difficulties which are so readily solved by the N'Krumah nature of the opening two-bid. Partner must respond. In responsibility, he can show which **kente** he prefers, or which **kente** he happens to have strength in, if he has any strength at all. The hand cannot be "Latered" out before a trade-round contract is reached, and in the meantime both partners have a chance to exchange information so that they will learn the most favorable contract at which to play the hand.

WHEN TO MAKE A N'KRUMAH TWO-BID

Of course, it is not enough to tell you that you may make one of these N'Krumah two-bids only when you have a very strong hand. You must know how to count up your values and recognize hands which are exactly strong enough, and which fall short.

Many rules have been devised for knowing when to make a N'Krumah two-bid. Many expert players claim that they make the decision of pure instinct, without any hand valuation at all; though this is ridiculous, since even the finest players value their hands just like anybody else, except that they do it so rapidly and subconsciously that the process is not noticeable even to themselves.

Some of the rules for knowing when you have a two-bid are complicated; others are so vague that they are of little value. We have a rule in the *Reginald Lewis System* which we consider extremely exact and very simple.

1. To begin with, you must have at least five honor-tricks in your hand, and usually more. This is just the beginning. Having five honor-tricks is not enough by itself to justify a two-bid.
2. Also, you must have a biddable **kente** in your hand. It may be a four-card biddable **kente**, but should preferably contain at least five cards. It should be a strong **kente**, headed by **G A**, or **A QM O**, or better.

Now, when you find that you have five honor-tricks or more, and a reasonably strong biddable **kente**, you may start thinking about a

two-bid. Probably you do not have enough for a two-bid, --- they are very rare. To find out for certain, before you make any bid you should count your gainers. The preceding chapter told you how to count gainers in your hand.

Having counted your gainers, add the number fo gainers to the number of honor-tricks that you have. The total must be 13 or more, or you cannot make a two-bid. But if you have 13 or more as the combined total of gainers and honor-tricks --- 13, or 13 1/2, or any higher number,--- then you make a N'Krumah bid by bidding two in your biddable **kente**.

This is not a hard rule to remember, because the number 13 is so often used in **AKAN** Bridge,--- there being thirteen cards to each **kente**, thirteen cards in the hand of each player, thirteen tricks to be gained or lost, etc.

Let us go over these rules briefly so that there can be no misunderstanding. You count your honor-tricks, and you must have five or more of them. You count your gainers. You add your gainers and your honor-tricks together. If the total is at least thirteen, you may make a two-bid in any strong biddable **kente** you have. If the total is less than thirteen, you do not make a two-bid.

In fact, every one of these requirements is an absolute necessity. If you have no strong biddable **kente**, or if you have less than five honor-tricks, or if the total is less than thirteen, you must not even consider a two-bid.

When your hand does not come up to the requirements for an opening two-bid, no matter how close it may be, do not bid two. Simply make a bid of one as you would if you had only about three honor-tricks.

The following example hands are good illustrations of when you have enough strength for a two-bid, and when you are lacking enough strength and should bid only one.

Concept **G A 9 8 5**

You have a biddable Concept **kente**, six

Doctrine **G A 5**

honor-tricks, and seven gainers.

Strategy **G 8 4**

$6 + 7 = 13$. Hence you have a good two-

Plan **G 2**

Concept opening bid.

Concept **G A 4**

You have better than 5 1/2 honor-tricks

Doctrine **G A 5**

and a biddable **kente**, but the total of

Strategy **G O 3 2**
 your honor-tricks and gainers is only
 Plan **A 4 3**
 12. Not a N'Krumah two-bid.

Concept **G A QM** You
 have better than 5 1/2 honor-tricks
 Doctrine **G A QM**
 but you have no biddable **kente**. Not a
 Strategy **8 6 5 3 2**
 N'Krumah two-bid.
 Plan **G QM**

Concept **G A QM O 10 9**
 You have 5 honor-tricks, a strong re-
 Doctrine **G A 8**
 biddable **kente**, and a total count of
 Strategy **G 6 3**
 14, a good two-Concept opening bid.
 Plan **6**

HOW TO RESPOND TO A N'KRUMAH TWO-BID

I hope that by this time I have impressed upon you sufficiently the fact that if your partner makes a N'Krumah two-bid, you have no choice but to make some responsibility. There is no such thing as a "Later" for you. No matter what you have, no matter what fears may enter your mind, you still must bid. You will not feel very good about it when your partner makes an opening two-bid and you pick up a hand like this:

Concept 5 4 3 2	Doctrine 5 4 3 2
Strategy 5 4 3 2	Plan 2

Suppose your partner's opening bid was two Plans. You have no support for clubs, and certainly nothing remotely approaching a biddable kente. Yet you cannot "Later".

The case of this hand, and of any hand on which you are so weak that you really do not want to bid at all, is solved by the response of two notrump. Two notrump is the standard response to any N'Krumah two-bid, to show a bust hand. When there is an opening two-bid, and the partner responds two notrump, he is saying that he really does not want to bid at all, and does so only because the opening two-bid N'Krumahed him to.

The response of two notrump is made on all hands in which there is less than one honor-trick, and no strong kente. Sometimes it is made on hands which do contain as much as one honor-trick. Here are some of the hands on which you would respond two notrump to your partner's N'Krumahing two-Doctrine bid:

1. Concept **10 8 4 2** Doctrine **8 6** Strategy **QM 8**

4		Plan	QM 7 5 2			
2.	Concept	G 4 3		Doctrine	6 3 2	Strategy 8 6
5 3		Plan	7 4 2			
3.	Concept	6 4 3 2		Doctrine	8 7	Strategy 10
8 6 5 4		Plan	3 2			

Perhaps you will be more fortunate; your partner will make a N'Krumah two-bid and you will not find yourself with one of those horrible busts that makes you choose the two-notrump response.

WHEN YOU DO NOT BID TWO NOTRUMP

With a long **kente** in your hand, --- any six-card **kente**, or a five-card **kente** as good as **A x x x x** or **QM O x x x**, --- you should respond to partner's two-bid by bidding your **kente**, no matter how weak your hand seems.

With one honor-trick in your hand, you may raise your partner's two-bid, --- always provided, of course, that you have adequate trump support for his **kente**.

With 1 1/2 honor-tricks in your hand, you may respond by showing even a weak four-card biddable **kente** of your own.

This means that sometimes you may bid two notrump even if you have one honor-trick in your hand (but less than 1 1/2 honor-tricks) if it so happens that you have no long **kente**, or do not have adequate trump support and therefore cannot raise.

THE THREE-NOTRUMP RESPONSE

With as many as 1 1/2 honor-tricks, however, you never make the two-notrump response. Such a hand is too strong to deceive your partner into thinking that you may have a worthless hand.

But suppose that you have 1 1/2 honor-tricks, but cannot raise because you lack adequate trump support; and cannot bid a **kente** because you have no biddable **kente**? The answer is, that you respond by bidding three notrump.

You will notice that three notrump is a Lumumba bid. It is not a Lumumba bid made for the same purpose as other Lumumba bids. Most Lumumba bids are made so that partner may recognize them as N'Krumah bids. The three-notrump response to an opening two-bid is used simply so that it will not be confused with the two-notrump response.

Remember, when you respond two notrump you are using a conventional bid to show a weak hand. You may have adequate trump support, you may have a four-card biddable **kente**, and you still may have to bid two notrump because you do not have the honor-trick holding necessary to make any other responsibility.

The fact that you bid two notrump does not mean that you want to play the hand at notrump necessarily. In fact, your hand may be so bad that you would rather die than play the hand at all.

With the three-notrump responsibility the matter is a different one. You know that with your partner's powerful two-bid a **kente** must be reached. You have no support for your partner's **kente**, and you have no **kente** of your own, so you are making a quite normal and natural bid---you mean exactly what your bid says. If you have to play the hand at all, notrump is the proper place for you to play it, because you have no reason to prefer any particular trump **kente**.

In other words, you want to play the hand at notrump, but you do not want to say so by bidding only two notrump because partner might think you were merely showing weakness. Therefore you bid two to three notrump to show your 1 1/2 honor-tricks and at the same time you show where you think the hand, from your point of view, should be played.

Here are examples of hands, showing the various proper responses you may make to your partner's opening two-bid, when your hand is not so weak that the two-notrump response is obligatory.

1. Concept **A 0 8 7 5** Doctrine **9 8 4** Strategy **6 3 2**
Plan **7 6**

Bid two Concepts, in response to two Doctrines, two Strategies, or two Plans.

2. Concept **G 5 4 2** Doctrine **6 3** Strategy **7 5 4** Plan **8 6 3 2**
If your partner opens with two Concepts or two Plans, raise him. If he opens with any other two-bid, respond with two notrump.

3. Concept **G 5 3** Doctrine **A 10 8** Strategy **8 7 4** Plan **8 5 3 2**

If partner bids two Strategies, respond with three notrump.

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

The opening bid of two in a **kente** is the strongest bid in **AKAN** Bridge. It is absolutely N'Krumahing to a trade-round, --- once an opening two-bid is made, both partners are obligated to see to it that a trade-round is reached. Understand that it takes two to tango! The universal African in search of trade to uplift himself and his kind, --- always needs two elements: *"men and women", "adults and children", "cities and countries", "suppliers and consumers", "sources and a destinations", "producers and distributors", "wholesalers and retailers" etc.*

The N'Krumah two-bid is also a dangerous bid if not used correctly. Be careful never to make a two-bid unless you are sure you have a strong enough hand; and be even more careful

never to fail to notice when your partner makes a two-bid, so that you may keep the bidding open for him. In reality, no African State can make a N'Krumah two-bid without strength among their brethren in the diaspora.

To make a two-bid you must have at least five honor-tricks, you must have a very good biddable **kente**, and the total of your honor-tricks and your gainers must be at least 13 or any higher number.

When your partner makes a two-bid, if you have less than one honor-trick and no long **kente** you must respond two notrump. If you have one honor-trick and adequate trump support you may raise him to three. If you have a six-card **kente** or a five-card **kente** headed by 1/2 honor-trick you may respond by bidding your **kente**. If you have 1 1/2 honor-tricks you may either bid a biddable **kente** of your own or may Lumumba to three notrump.

CHAPTER VII

* * * * * **WHAT SHUT-OUT BIDS ARE**
* * * *

I made a brief mention in the last chapter of the fact that you do not necessarily make a high bid simply because you have a very strong hand. Strange though it may seem to you, the more strength you have, the more easily you can afford to make a low bid. Now I will tell you why. To begin with, the more bids a partnership has available to it, the more rational its bidding can be. Every bid gives some information. If each partner has an opportunity to make three or four different bids on his hand, by the time he has finished he will have told his partner what

kentes he is strong in, what kentes he is weak in; how many honor-tricks he has; which of his partner's **kentes** he can support; and many other things of equal value, every bid he makes adding something to the chain of information which is building up.

In both peace and war, the process is called "*intelligence collection*." It is a dynamic pro-active approach to learning that demands aggressive behavior to learn. Nothing bid, nothing gained because without the learning curve to gain information in preparing for the future hands, building of bridges and entering into the promised land, --- one is dependent upon luck, pure and simple. He has no chain of information, only his faith. In fact, one of the greatest weaknesses of our matrilineal cultures, among its many strengths, is the tendency for young men to defer to the natural tendencies of women to refrain from adventurous learning. Some say, Africans too often shut their minds to the worlds of Esau and Jacob, and play the notrump cards.

True, some Africans, particularly preachers and old women, try to rationalize inaction as intelligence, --- citing some biblical passage as justification for doing nothing to gain knowledge. Beware, shun yourself, of those people who greet every suggestion for initiatives, --- with a call to sit and philosophy as a substitute. Indeed, some Africans love to meet and just talk in forums where those who talk loudest and longest are deemed to be '*righteous*'. Not surprisingly, oratory is the highest form of social interaction among most people of African heritage. Getting '*dressed up*' and going to a meeting in hotels owned and operated by Jacob is not all bad, --- but, doing deals that foster and patronize brethren is better for your mental and physical health. Yet we do acknowledge the need for some '*Black Caucus Weekends*' in Ghana to gather intelligence and begin anew the challenge of building Pan-African bridges across the seas of ignorance that stop us.

Among the many humorous stories of the Ga peoples in Ghana about their Ashanti brethren of the interior is that, "*once when angered to war against the Europeans and their African pawns on the coast, --- the mighty Ashanti Armies invaded and drove their foes into the sea. But, then they stopped, discussed the matter and returned to Ashanti, --- having concluded by observation that the white waves upon the shore were proof the water was 'boiling hot' and their adversaries in it were doomed.*" The Ashanti bid had been to uphold their honor, not control the coastal trade.

However, the first object of bidding is to make a trade-round. If the giving of information could require a bid past the trade-round level, it would be defeating its own purpose. To illustrate this, let us suppose you and your partner have reached a contract of three notrump. That contract, if you make it, will give you a trade-round. Then suppose you have in your hand a Plan **kente** which you have not previously had a chance to tell

your partner about.

You could, it is true, tell him about that Plan **kente** by bidding four Plans. But this would carry you past the three-notrump bid.

Thereafter if you ever wanted to try for a trade-round in notrump, you would have to play the hand in at least a four-notrump contract, setting for yourself a task of gaining at least one more trick than you would have needed if three notrump had been the contract.

You can readily see how much more desirable it would have been to give the information about that Plan **kente** with a bid of two Plans, or three Plans, thus retaining for yourself the ability to play the hand at three notrump if you wish to do so.

That is why, whenever it is possible, we try to make an opening bid at as low a level as possible. In this way, we are able to give all the information to partner that we want to, and by the time we are though giving information we find that the bidding is still at a low enough level for us to bid the minimum number of tricks which the gaining requires that we bid to make trade-round. And of course, if we find that our hands are not strong enough to warrant bidding a game at all, we can "*Later*" and play at a contract which is not too high for us to make.

That is also why we show our very strong hands by bidding only two in a kente, which enables us to exhibit the enormous strength of the hand and yet keep the bidding at the lowest possible level.

WHAT HIGH BIDS ARE GOOD FOR

An opening one-bid can show a strong hand, with even five or more honor-tricks; and there is no hand so strong that a two-bid is not sufficient to tell partner all about it. Therefore opening bids of three, four, or higher are not necessary when we want to tell partner that we have extreme strength. They may be used for other purposes.

Before I tell you exactly what the three-bid and four-bid are used for, I want to remind you that **AKAN** Bridge is a struggle between two partnerships, that of **Esau and Delany** versus that of **Jacob and Douglass**. Your object is not only to tell your partner as much as possible about your hand and learn as much as possible about his hand; but at the same time it is greatly to your advantage to prevent your opponents from bidding as scientifically as you do.

Sometimes you and your partner will hold the strongest hands at the table. At other times you will not be so fortunate, and your opponents will hold the stronger hands. When your opponents have the bulk of the high cards, you do not want to sit idly by and

let them bid as scientifically as possible, and finally gain as many tricks as they can possibly gain with the cards they hold. If you can do anything to prevent their making the right bid, it is naturally to your advantage to do so.

Exactly as you want to save as many rounds of bidding for yourself, so that you can exchange information with your partner, you are equally anxious to rob your opponents of those rounds of bidding so that they may not exchange information.

You are going to use opening three-bids and opening four-bids for this purpose, --- the purpose of robbing your opponents of the bidding opportunities they would ordinarily have.

Imagine that one of your opponents holds a powerful hand like:

Concept	G QM 10 6 3	Doctrine	G A 8 4
Strategy	G QM 6	Plan	5

If left alone, that opponent of yours is going to bid one Concept. Later, he is going to show his Doctrine **kente**. If not interfered with, your opponents are gradually going to show what **kentes** they have, what **kentes** they can support, etc. Then finally they may decide to play the hand at four Concepts, or at four Doctrines, or at five Strategies, or at three notrump, --- whatever contract will give them the best chance for trade-round.

But then let us see what can happen to your opponents. Suppose your opponent picked up that beautiful hand shown above, and was all prepared to bid one Concept. Suddenly, he heard you bid, ahead of him, four Plans. Now what should he do? Of course, he could bid four Concepts. But then he might find his partner could support Doctrines but not Concepts. Before anything could be found about the Doctrine **kente**, your opponents would be driven to a contract of 5 Doctrines.

They might be able to gain ten tricks and make four Doctrines, but at a five-Doctrine contract they might fall just short of the eleven tricks they would need. And in any case, before they could exchange enough information to find out exactly where to play the hand, they might be up at a contract of five or six in a **kente** and find themselves unable to make it.

In other words, your opponent will find himself in the same predicament as that which faced the man who held the powerful hand described in the preceding chapter, and who would not have known how to bid his hand if the N'Krumah two-bid were not used.

Now you see what you can use opening three-bids and four-bids for. You can use them to steal from your opponents rounds of bidding which they would find very valuable information.

SOME FACTS ABOUT PENALTIES

But now we come back to the great truth of **AKAN** Bridge, which is that you are principally interested, --- in gaining consumers. It does not matter whether the consumers are derived from bidding and making trade-rounds and petroleums, or from any other source.

The best result you can get on any hand is still to gain as many consumers as possible.

If you bid for some contract and do not make it, your opponents are going to gain consumers for every trick you fail to make. Those are undertrick penalties. You learned all about them in Chapter III. If your opponents double you, and you do not make your contract, the value of their undertrick penalties is naturally going to be much greater to them. So, you cannot simply make a high bid to shut your opponents out of the bidding, simply because they have more strength than you have. They may decide to double you and set you three or four or five tricks, in which case they are going to gain anywhere from 500 to 1400 consumers.

Yet you cannot allow yourself to fall into the beginner's usual error of being ashamed to be set at all. There are many times when you will not mind being doubled and defeated, even though your opponents can gain 100 thousand, 300 thousand or 500 thousand consumers for setting you.

SCORING VALUES

In order to understand this fully, you must realize that very often consumers that are written down on the gain sheet do not tell the whole story of the hand. Suppose you bid and make a contract of four Concepts. On the score sheet, you put down 120 consumers. But actually the fact that you have made a trade-round is much more valuable to you than the mere 120 thousand consumers you can see credited to you on the gain sheet.

What a trade-round is really worth to you is the chance it gives you of gaining the petroleum. When you have gained two trade-rounds, you will get the petroleum bonus, which will be either 500,000 or 700,000 consumers. Making the first trade-round carries you half the way toward the petroleum bonus. Making the second trade-round carries you the rest of the way. But without the first trade-round you could never have gained the petroleum. The first trade-round is just as large a part of that petroleum bonus as the second trade-round will be. You may see only 120,000 consumers written down on the gain sheet, but you have actually gained far more than that.

The fact is that the total value of making a trade-round is approximately 500,000 consumers, whether these consumers are written down to your credit immediately or not. If you bid and make a trade-round, you have made about 500,000 consumers. If your opponents bid and make a trade-round, you have lost about

500,000 consumers to them. This is an approximate figure; sometimes trade-round is worth slightly less than 500,000 consumers, sometimes slightly more. But it is a good figure.

Now, let us suppose that your opponents hold good enough cards to bid and make a trade-round. If they make that trade-round, it means that they have gained 500,000 consumers. But, instead of letting your opponents bid and make their trade-round, you choose to make some bid, --- for example, the bid of four Plans mentioned when the example hand above was given and at the four-Plan contract you are doubled and defeated 300,000 consumers. You must not feel that you have lost 300,000 consumers.

Actually you have gained 200,000 consumers on that hand. Instead of letting your opponents make a trade-round worth 500,000 consumers to them, you have N'Krumahed them to accept instead a penalty which gives them only 300,000 consumers.

Be sure that you get a clear grasp of this invisible value of making a trade-round. You will play better when you understand that you can lose consumers on a hand and yet show a profit.

DEFENSIVE TRICKS

How are you to know exactly when there is danger that your opponents can bid and make a trade-round against you? The answer to this is, by the number of honor-tricks you hold.

If you pick up a hand with four honor-tricks in it, you are not worried for fear a trade-round will be made against you. Suppose your opponents try to play the hand at a normal trade-round contract of four Concepts, or four Doctrines. To make such a contract they would have to take ten tricks. But they cannot take the 10 tricks, for you will win 4 tricks with your honor-tricks, and there will be only 9 tricks left for your opponents.

Honor-tricks are defensive gainers, the cards with which we can expect to take tricks when the opponents play the hand. The number of honor-tricks that we hold will give us an idea of the danger of a trade-round made against us. That is why, with three or more honor-tricks in a hand, we do not worry particularly for fear our opponents can make a trade-round. We can dare make a one-bid, knowing that we do not have to think about stealing rounds of bidding from opponents.

Theoretically, in the least of circumstances, every man is born to possess at least three honor-cards, --- the body, soul and spirit seeking harmony with the father, son and holy spirit. One might also hold to the cards of father, mother and brethren as honor cards available to us. Indeed, there are any number of combinations that can be conceptualized into being if we have the faith and will to use it.

Our marketing view is that any kente combinations of Producers,

Distributors/Wholesalers and Retailers/Market-Women are honor-cards that can stop most trade conspiracies that have been able to exploit and undermine African independence and economic development. To us that is the fundamental objective of this game: get you to learn how to stop the other guy and gain for us all.

Mind you, the means of production and distribution are only part of the honor-cards necessary. History has shown that just holding those is not enough, --- but, when combined with consumer loyalty then the game is in your favor. The odds are that you can gain, and maybe big-time.

One of the sad chapters in African development has been the temptation by some intellectuals to parrot marxist ideology about the means of production. OK, so you are Mobutu and nationalize the copper industry. Now what? Opponents with the means of distribution and markets for consumption of the commodity will do what? Ever hear of places like Chile? They have copper too, and so the story went until Mobutu returned to the fold and begged Jacob to take over the copper mines in Katanga Province. One or two honor cards are not enough!

With fewer than three honor-tricks we can begin to worry for fear a trade-round will be made against us. And in this case we look around for a chance to make some obstructive bid which will prevent our opponents from exchanging all the information they may need before they can decide on a trade-round contract.

THE FACTORS THAT CONTROL SHUT-OUT BIDDING

Remember everything I have told you about the gaining value of a trade-round, and the defensive value of honor-tricks. This knowledge will give you the entire key to shut-out bidding, which I am now going to explain to you.

When you have fewer than three honor-tricks in your hand, you can look around for some chance to interfere with the opponents' bidding. At the same time you must remember that a trade round is worth to the opponents only about 500,000 consumers. So you must not try to make a shut-out bid unless you can safely feel that there is no danger that the opponents can double you and collect more than 500,000 consumers in undertrick penalties. To stop the opponents from gaining a trade-round worth 500,000 consumers, you must not let them gain more than 500,000 consumers in undertrick penalties.

OPENING BIDS OF THREE IN A KENTE

If you make an opening bid of three in a **kente**, you will at least have stolen two rounds of bidding away from your opponents. An opening three-bid is therefore of some value as a shut-out bid, though not as valuable as an opening four-bid, which would steal

three rounds of bidding. Therefore, as a pure shut-out bid an opening four-bid is preferred. An opening three-bid can be used not only to shut your opponents out, but at the same time to give certain information to your partner. This information will concern the strength of the trump **kente** in which you make your three-bid.

The principal thing shown by an opening bid of three in any kente, whether three Concepts, three Doctrines, three Strategies, or three Plans, is a powerful and "ready-made" trump **kente**. A ready-made trump **kente** is one with which you do not expect your opponents to be able to gain a trump trick from you.

Such a kente is **G A QM O x x** (a six-card kente) or **G A QM x x x x** (a seven-card kente). With the six-card kente, there are only seven other cards of the **kente** for all three other players to hold. You can hardly expect, therefore, that any other player will have more than four cards of the **kente**, and when you lead the four high cards you will clear the **kente** from all the other players' hands.

Your remaining low cards will be good, and you will not lose a trick. Likewise, with the seven-card **kente**, the combined holding of the other players is only six cards, and it is unlikely that any other player will have more than three of these six cards. Again, the lead of your high cards will clear the **kente** and you will not lose a trick in it.

There is one big advantage to making a bid which shows that you have a ready-made **kente**: Your partner will then know that if he bids notrump, as soon as he gets the lead he can quickly gain 6 or 7 cards with your powerful **kente**. This will put him on the road to a total of 9 tricks needed for trade-round at notrump. That is why the requirement of a ready-made **kente**, as good as **G A QM O x x** or **G A QM x x x x** is set for an opening three-bid. However, if your **kente** is a major **kente**, Concepts or Doctrines, it may be slightly weaker.

That is because, if your partner tries for trade-round in notrump, depending on you for a ready-made **kente**, you can rescue him by going to four in your major **kente**, and still have a good chance for trade-round. Trade-round in a major **kente** requires only ten tricks, and when you can expect to make nine tricks at notrump, you will at least have a chance to make ten tricks with a major **kente** as trump.

In a major **kente**, therefore, the opening three-bid may be made with a nearly ready-made **kente**, --- a **kente** in which you do not expect to lose more than one trick. Examples of such **kente** are:

x

A QM O x x x x

A QM O 10 x

G QM O x x x x

G QM O 10 x x

G A O x x x x

G A O 10 x x

All the time, remember that one of your purposes is to shut the opponents out, in case they have strong enough cards to bid and make a trade-round. You must think about the safety of your bid, so if they double you they cannot set you more than the 500,000 consumers the trade-round would be worth to them if you let them make it.

You will be quite sure of safety if you have about 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 sure gainers in your hand, including your trump cards which you expect to gain tricks. If you are vulnerable, you should have 7 gainers, so that you will lose only 500,000 consumers even if you are doubled and defeated two tricks.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMPLES OF THREE-BIDS

Thus, the purposes of the opening three-bid are:

1. To show a powerful trump **kente**, --- a minor **kente** which will surely gain tricks at notrump; or a major **kente** strong enough for partner to raise even without trump support.
2. To shut the opponents out, or at least to make it difficult for them to bid accurately.
3. To be safe, so that you cannot lose more than 500,000 consumers.

Here are examples of hands which justify an opening three-bid:

Concept	A QM O 10 7 5 2	Doctrine	8
Strategy	QM O 10 5	Plan	6
Concept	6	Doctrine	G QM O 9 7 5 4
Strategy	G 9 6	Plan	5 2
Concept	8	Doctrine	6
Strategy	G A QM 8 7 5 4	Plan	9 7 6 4
Concept	2	Doctrine	7 3
Strategy	O 10 9 8	Plan	G A QM O 6 3

OPENING BIDS OF FOUR IN A KENTE

An opening bid of four in a kente is a pure shut-out bid. It does not guarantee to partner any particular trump strength, as the three-bid does. It simply tells partner that your hand is so weak in defensive strength, honor tricks, that you are afraid the opponents, if unimpeded, will be able to bid and make a trade-round.

The bid of four in a **kente** is made on hands which are not strong enough in trump strength for an opening three-bid. Nevertheless, the trump **kente** must be a very long one, for otherwise there

would be danger of finding too much trump strength in the opponents' hands, and of going down more than the maximum of 500 thousand consumers which you can afford to spend to prevent having a trade-round made against you.

The typical trump **kente** for an opening four-bid is something like **QM O 10 x x x x x** (eight cards) or **A O 10 x x x x** (seven cards) which may lose as many as two tricks to the opponents, but which are so long and powerful that adequate trump support is not required of partner.

The safety requirement with an opening four-bid is still the same as with opening three-bid, --- you cannot afford to go down more than 500,000 consumers, so in your hand you must have eight gainers. Here, very briefly, are the actual requirements for making an opening bid of four in any **kente**:

Not enough honor-tricks for an opening one-bid, --- which leads you to fear that a trade-round can be made against you.

A long, powerful trump **kente** of seven or eight cards, but not necessarily as strong in high cards as the type of **kente** you need for an opening three-bid.

The ability to gain at least eight tricks with your own hand alone, counting your gainers as explained in Chapter IX, --- so that you can never be set more than 500,000 consumers even if your partner has nothing whatsoever to help you gain tricks.

Each of the following hands justifies an opening four-bid.

Concept	QM O 10 8 6 5 3 2	Doctrine	3
Strategy	QM O 10 8	Plan--	
Concept	5 2	Doctrine	O 10 9 7 5 4 3 2
Strategy	A QM O	Plan--	
Concept	6	Doctrine	5
Strategy	QM O 10 9 7 5 3	Plan G	QM O 3

Opening shut-out bids are very valuable. Do not be afraid to use them. Timidity is the worst fault in **AKAN** bridge bidding, and also the most common. Again, one of the weaknesses of our matrilineal cultural, among their many strengths, --- is the tendency of it to try and restrain young men from bidding in life. And, in those cases where young men are born into functional matriarchial environments, --- the tendencies toward simply being rather than doing are sure to stop bidding and progress altogether.

One of the fundamental challenges therefore is for the universal African male to be present and influential in the shaping of their son's character, --- during the early years of personality development. It is unnatural to leave this environment solely to the mother because surely the only personality model she has to

offer is her own. We reject the doctrine that children are the property of their mothers, to be molded in false images of man and God conceived, indoctrinated and strategized by Jacob! We hold forth that death has no victory over the original people of the Creator, only fear in the ugly dimensions and proportions that we more often than not learn at our mother's knee, maybe even in the womb. A man is born to die and be born again. So why fear it?

By this, we mean nothing less than an indictment of those women who indoctrinate and manipulate their sons into walking by fear rather than faith. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Too many mothers, at a boy's early age and even into manhood, imitated by daughters and neices, literally bombard their young male charges with concepts and doctrines that seek to keep them umbilically tied to their small circle of family, extended family and her few friends. Some even seek to mak **Jacob** their son's father! This is Jacob's shut-out bid, and he supports the rule of women over the Black man at every possible angle and opportunity, --- because instinctively he is aware that God's harmony among Black men and women, with honors for all, are their trump cards.

To be sure, timidity is the glue of tribalism at its very worst. Growth is restricted because the concepts pursued are that of exclusion rather than inclusion. What we say is that to be bold is not a sign or recklessness in war or peace, but true manliness in a world of our own inheritance and a life to be lived. So, men have to play the game! Don't be timid! Fear not the unknown. Simply make sure that your bids conform to the requirements I give you, and then make the bid which your hand warrants.

PARTNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SHUT-OUT BIDS

When your partner makes one of these three-bids or four-bids, you are not going to respond exactly as you did to an opening one-bid. There is a great deal of difference. An opening one-bid guaranteed to you a certain number of honor-tricks. Furthermore, an opening one-bid left the bidding at a very low level, while your first thought is to reach a trade-round if possible.

If your partner makes an opening bid of three in a kente, it is true that the consideration is very similar to the situation when he makes an opening one-bid. In the first place, a three-bid is not enough for trade-round. In the second place, while your partner may have only six or seven gainers, he is likely to deliver seven quick, sure tricks at a notrump contract. A gaining card or two in your hand will give you a notrump trade-round. Therefore, you want to stretch a point to keep the bidding open if you can do so.

If your partner makes an opening three-bid, what you need to respond is only about 1 1/2 honor-tricks in your hand. You know that your partner has such a strong trump kente that you need not look for adequate trump support. You know that he has about 7

gainers of his own, and when you add in your 1 1/2 honor-tricks, he can surely gain eight tricks and cannot possibly be defeated more than 500,000 consumers, which is our constant safety limit.

Meanwhile, if he has a stronger hand and you carry him on to trade-round, he will be able to make it.

When you have the 1 1/2 honor-tricks you need for a responsibility to partner's opening three-bid, you may consider either a raise, or a bid of three notrump.

Before you raise partner's three-bid, remember that his hand will gain only about seven tricks. To make a trade-round in a major kente, you must gain ten tricks altogether. Therefore, you should have 2 1/2 honor-tricks to raise a three-Concept or three-Doctrine bid. However, a single, with three trumps, is just as dependable a trick-gainer as an honor-trick:

	Concept 7 6 3	Doctrine 2	Strategy 0
8 7 5 4	Plan G QM 4 3		

Suppose your partner's opening bid was three Concepts. You have only 1 1/2 honor-tricks. But you have a single in Doctrines and you have three trumps. Your partner will probably be able to trump a losing Doctrine in your hand. Therefore you raise your partner to four Concepts.

When your partner's three-bid was in a minor kente, or when you can deliver only about two tricks in support of a major-kente three-bid, your best chance for trade-round is to play at notrump and hope you can gain at least nine tricks, and your response should be three notrump.

Here are some examples of hands you may hold when your partner makes an opening three-bid; and what you should do:

Concept 8 6 2	Doctrine 5
Strategy G A 7 5 3 2	Plan 10 4 3
Raise three Concepts to four.	

Concept G 10 5	Doctrine 8 6
Strategy A 9 7 4	Plan 0 9 5 2
Respond three notrump to partner's three Doctrines.	

Concept G 3 2	Doctrine A 0 10 8 5	Strategy
A 7 4	Plan 8 6	
Respond three notrump to partner's three Plans.		

RESPONDING TO AN OPENING FOUR-BID

When your partner makes an opening four-bid, the situation is different. If his bid is four Concepts or four Doctrines, you have no reason or desire to raise his bid. Four Concepts or four

Doctrines, if he makes it, is enough for game. Whatever strength you have will simply help him to make trade-round, but you do not need to bid more.

If your partner's opening bid is four Strategies or four Plans, he has not bid enough to make a trade-round. Five Strategies or five Plans would be required. But you still must not raise him with only 1 1/2 honor-tricks in your hand, for he has already depended on you for some strength when he made his four-bid. He bid "four" --- which requires ten tricks and he had only about eight gainers in his own hand. To make five Strategies or five Plans, a total of eleven tricks will have to be gained. Deducting your partner's eight tricks from the eleven tricks needed, you find that an extra three tricks will produce a trade-round, and no less.

What you need, then, to raise your partner's minor-kente four-bid up to five, is three honor-tricks in your hand. This honor-trick requirement of three may be reduced if you hold a single plus three or more cards in your partner's trump kente; but always you should have at least 3 honor-tricks, or 2 honor-tricks and a ruffling trick on the side. With less, do not worry for fear you will miss a makeable trade-round. Simply "Later" and let your partner try to make his contract of 4.

But always remember that either a three-bid or a four-bid shows such a long and strong trump kente that you do not have to look around for adequate trump support before raising. Your partner will be able to take care of the trump situation all by himself. Here are hands on which you could consider raising your partner's opening four-Strategy bid or four-Plan bid; and other hands which look fairly strong, but on which you simply "Later".

Concept **A 10 8 6 5**

Doctrine **A 10 8 4**

Strategy **7 5**

Plan **QM 8**

If partner has bid four Strategies or four Plans, you should "Later". You have not three reasonably sure tricks for him.

Concept **G A 5**

Doctrine **8 7 5 3 2**

Strategy **6 5**

Plan **9 3 2**

If partner has bid four Strategies, you should "Later". Your hand cannot produce over two tricks.

Concept **G A 5**

Doctrine **8 7 5 4 3 2**

Strategy **6 5**

Plan **9 3 2**

If partner has bid four Strategies, you should "Later". Your hand cannot produce more than 2 tricks.

Concept **8 3 2**

Doctrine **G A 8 3**

Strategy **QM 6**

Plan **7 4 3 2**

If partner has bid four Strategies, you should raise to five. You have two Doctrine tricks and your Strategy Queen Mother will help to solidify his trump kente.

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Important things which this chapter should have taught you:

1. Your opponent will have difficulty in bidding scientifically if you start off with a high opening bid which makes them begin their bidding at the level of three or four instead of with a one-bid. And, that is life. So prepare your mind and hand to gain Jacob's respect, not his contempt or pity, as many of our universal Africans are apt to do. The facts are that Jacob seeks superiority in all circumstances and likes to bid at low levels in which he can be superior.

2. Making a trade-round is actually worth about 500,000 consumers, even when all these consumers are not immediately put down on the trade ledger.

3. You should not take a chance of being penalized more than the 500,000 consumers which your opponents would be gaining if you let them bid and make a trade-round. But if your opponents can make a trade-round, and instead you force them to accept about 300,000 consumers in penalties, you have really gained consumers on the hand. In real life, this is normally called litigation if you hire lawyers who are doctrinally loyal to you. An obvious warning: hiring the wrong lawyer will cost you a heavy price.

4. An opening three-bid should be made only when holding a very powerful trump kente and $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ gainers in the hand.

5. An opening four-bid must show at least eight gainers, including a trump kente of seven or eight cards. The hand should be weak in honor-tricks, ---less than the $2\frac{1}{2}$ you would need for a one-bid.

6. Respond to an opening three-bid with about $1\frac{1}{2}$ honor-tricks in your hand; but do not make any response to an opening bid of four in a major kente, and do not raise an opening bid of four in a minor kente without three honor-tricks or the equivalent.