

GROWING UP

After the politicians
have left with signed copies
of the bilateral agreement
and the assurance of
a constituency for cash
the tycoons will come
it does not matter
at whose invitation
provided someone has
signed off the rationing
and the state of emergency

Tell them we have
anticipated their coming
and our best hospitality
awaits them...

We have repealed old laws
if they insist we shall
make new ones, it wont take
more than a stroke of pen
or maybe a gunshot or two

As long as they come
with money and machines
they could count on our goodwill
they could bring along
cash registers the freedom
to count in earnest
and if that suits them
a myth or two to keep up
an image or save a face

but please tell them not to
bother how to profess love
for our people or faith in us
all that old fashioned stuff
for the sincerity of words
doesn't matter any more
since our last economic crisis

- Richard Afari Baafour -
(Courtesy *Harper's Magazine* - October 1991)

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