

RHODESIA

ANCIENT RITES FOR NEW CHIEF

To Kesembe village, near the Belgian Congo, by bus and on foot come 5,000 Africans, including chiefs from the Congo, for the installation of a new chief to rule over about 50,000 tribesmen.

Representing the Governor of Northern Rhodesia, the Senior Provincial Commissioner of Western Province attends to mark official approval of the new chief Brown Ngombe ... led by Chief Kashiba, the chief-to-be mounts the traditional drum.

With leaves held between teeth to ensure his silence, Brown Ngombe listens as the tribal elders give him the traditional instruction. Now the new chief's bow, tautened according to old usage, is handed to him. This is followed by gifts from other chiefs and he is now the Chief of Kesembe.

Then, with dagger and axe his tokens of office, the new chief - himself a Christian - defies the gods, the devils and the world at large in defence of his people, who dance in his honour.