

world, said Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, Saudi ambassador to the United States, as he signed his government's agreement with the Smithsonian. As part of the International Centre, there will be a centre for Islamic studies, where scholars from around the world can study the contributions that Islam has made to architecture, art and folk traditions. Plans also include a residence programme for visiting scholars.

The Centre will be the focus of an institutional effort to preserve cultural values and traditions and the environment in which they exist. It will sponsor a programme of research internships, symposia and exhibitions in the Asian and African gallery, as well as performances of traditional music and readings from the literary traditions of Africa and Asia.

Both Prince Bandar and S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian, signed the agreement for the donation that will go towards meeting the building construction fund goal of 75 million dollars. The Saudi contribution, said Ripley, will go far in the vital effort to find new and better ways to interpret to the American public the rich diversity of the cultures of Africa and Asia. He termed the project "one of the most important developments in the entire history of the Smithsonian".

The Museum complex, known as the "quadrangle", is expected to be completed in January 1986. Half the construction funds have already been voted by the U.S. Congress. Additional funds have been pledged by the governments of Japan, South Korea and Bahrain, as well as by individuals, foundations and corporations.

Music and Dance played a heavy part in the *African U.S. cultural climate in 1983*. The Barrett Sisters, three dynamic young women who specialize in American Gospel music electrified audiences in Zimbabwe, Zaire, Malawi, Lesotho and Mozambique on a one-month tour in November and December.

Another U.S. group, 14 performers who dance in five different American ethnic styles, including American Indian, demonstrated their unusual talents in 13 western and central African countries in September and October.

And in *November* at the famous and prestigious *Carnegie Hall*, a New York landmark, three leading practitioners of traditional African music presented a recital of a wide range of music on a variety of instruments, many of them new to American audiences. The artists were *Djimo Kouyate* of Senegal, *Seleshe Damessae* of Ethiopia and *Ephat Mjuru* of Zimbabwe, who all now reside in the United States. They played to a sell-out audience. Ephat Mjuru is now a visiting artist and lecturer at the University of Washington in Seattle.

KAY ROBERTS, USIS

STEELBAND WORKSHOP IN GERMANY

A 'Steelband Non-stop Workshop' was held in Wiesen, Austria, from 8th May to 10th July 1983, organised by Dr Manfred Kremser, Inst. für Völkerkunde der Universität Wien, A-1010 Vienna, Universitätsstr. 7, Austria. Instruction in making, tuning and playing all sizes of steeldrum was given every day from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m. by Ivan Smith, well-known steelbandsman from the island of St. Lucia, and leader of the "North Stars Steel Band", with cultural depth provided by Dr Kremser with his multi-media shows on Caribbean and in particular, Rasta, culture. The workshop ended with a mass with organ and steeldrums in the Wiesen parish church, followed by a concert in the festival park with steelband, both alone and in combination with other musical groups, filmshows and Caribbean fare.

IWALEWA-HAUS, BAYREUTH

Keeping up his eventful and multi-media calendar at Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth University, Dr Wolfgang Bender has continued to sponsor the African arts in Germany with his invitation of Muraina Oyelami, Yoruba drummer, and former member of the Duro Ladipo Theatre Company