

### Note on Script and Spelling

In October 1961, after this Grammar had gone to press, the Government of Eastern Nigeria announced an official decision about script and spelling for Igbo which can be studied in the booklet issued by the Ministry of Education of Eastern Nigeria, "The Official Igbo Orthography as recommended by the Onwu Committee in 1961: Notes on Script and Spelling for Teachers".

In the official orthography Roman letters with diacritics are used for the vowels, as in this Grammar. The consonants we use here for linguistic purposes are simplified in the official orthography for use in general, written Igbo. The spelling differs in some small points from ours, as, for example, in the use of a hyphen with the auxiliary verb and in writing *-ghi* throughout instead of showing vowel harmony, *ghị* (*-ghị*) as we do in this book. But the principles of word division are the same.

For the convenience of readers who are accustomed to the former, so-called "new" orthography, as used at one time by the Education Department in its periodical "Amamihe", we give a text in that orthography on p. 9, as well as in the transcription used in this book. The official orthography has, of course, now rendered the "new" orthography obsolete.