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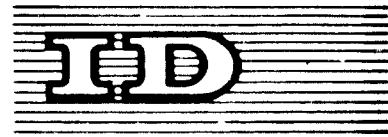
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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

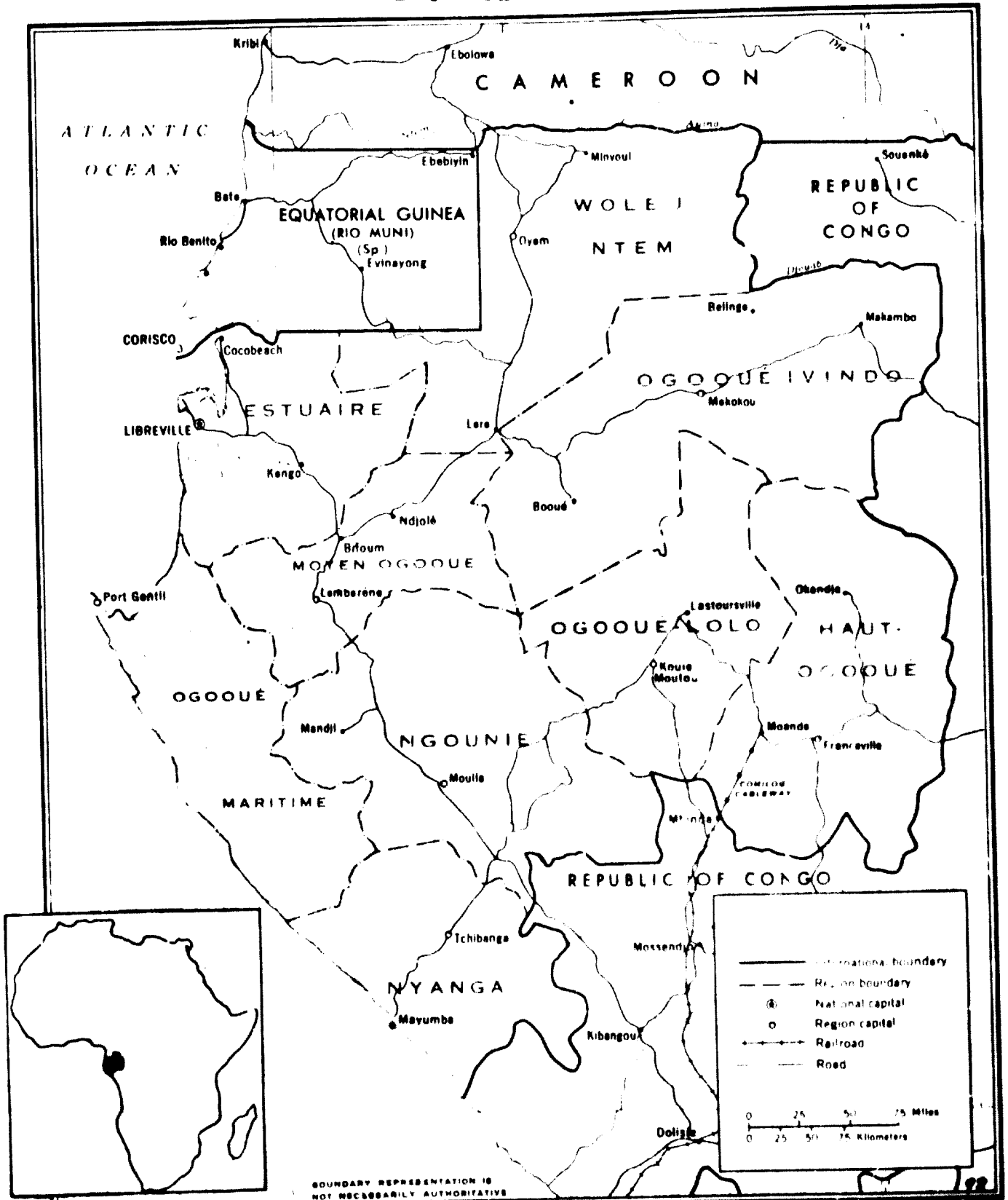
GABON

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GABON



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ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) **AREA:** 102,290 sq. miles
- b) **GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE:** Gabon has Equatorial Guinea in the northwest, Cameroon to the north and Congo Brazzaville to the south and east. The Atlantic Ocean washes its shores for 300 miles on the west. The climate is tropical. There is one long dry season from May to September and one long rain season from mid January to mid May. The average temperature is 25 centigrade.
- c) **POPULATION:** 630,000 with rate of growth 1%.
- d) **LANGUAGES:** The official language is french but each ethnic group has its own language.
- e) **MAIN CENTRES:** The main towns are:
 - Libreville (Capital) 65,000
 - Port Gentil 30,000
 - Moanda-Mounana 11,000
 - Lambaréné 10,000
- f) **TRANSPORT FACILITIES:** - National roads around 1,918 km, Regional Roads 2,811 km. There are also about 1500 km of track.
 - There is no real railway lines. But Gabon will have a major railway linking Belinga with Owendo.
 - The Ogooné river is navigable for 150 km. It is an important means of communication particularly in transporting wood.
 - There are two principal ports, Port Gentil and Libreville. A big mineral port at Owendo is projected.
 - Libreville and Port Gentil are international airports. 20 other airports can take DC 3.

2) POLITICAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD: Gabon attained independence in August 1960. She is a member of UN, the EEC Associated States, the OAU, the African Malagasy Union, OCAM and the Central African States Customs Union, UDEAC.

The ministries in the economic field are:

Ministry of Finance and Budget

Ministry of Mines and Water resources

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Trade, Industry and the Rural Economy

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Economy.

Sources: - AID Economic Data Book Africa 1970

- EUROPA Year Book 1969

- Africa 1969/70 The editorial Staff of "Jeune Afrique"

- I.B.R.D. "The Economy of GABON" 1968.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

a) NATIONAL CURRENCY: 1,000 Franc C.F.A. = US\$ 3.67
275 Francs C.F.A. = US\$ 1

b) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:

Per Capita: US\$ 479 in 1966
Primary Sector: 22.9%
Secondary Sector: 32.8%
Transport, Trade, Services: 44.3%
Rate of growth, 1960-1966 100.0%
9.7% (at current prices) 4.3% at constant prices.

c) PER CAPITA INCOME: US\$ 287 in 1967

d) BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:	<u>(1966) in billion CFAF</u>	<u>Average annual Change</u>
Total Exports	26.6	+ 7.8%
Total Imports	18.6	+ 10.2%
Trade Balance	8.0	
Net invisibles	<u>-5.8</u>	- 2.7%
Balance of Current Account	<u>+2.2</u>	+ 2.4%
	=====	
Transfer Payments	- 3.3	
Non-monetary Capital known	5.0	
Other non-monetary capital and errors and omissions	- 5.1	
Monetary Capital (net)	<u>1.2</u>	-2.2
	=====	

2) NATURAL RESOURCES: - The agricultural land is less than 1% of total area. Agriculture is greatly undeveloped as a result of the density of the forest, poor quality of the soil, restricted transportation. The cocoa, coffee, palm oil and rice are the main crops. Equatorial forests cover 75% of the area and represent the country's exports. - 200 million ton deposit of manganese (42% metal content) at Moanda. The recently discovered iron ore deposit in northeast Gabon is one of the largest deposits in the whole world (64% ore). Mining and up grading of uranium is done at Mounana. Small amount of gold ore mined. Petroleum accounts 14% of Gabon's total exports.

3) LABOUR FORCE: In 1963 the labour force was estimated about 51% of population. 84% of labour force engaged in agriculture. Less than 20% in the modern sector.

4) ORIGIN OF GDP: The GDP is 55.3 billion CFAF in 1966 as follows:

	<u>1963</u> at factor cost	<u>1966</u> at factor cost
Agriculture and forestry	29.9	22.9
Manufacturing and energy	6.2	5.9
Construction	5.8	8.8
Transport, Storage	7.9	9.7
Commerce	11.3	10.0
Mines	14.3	18.1
Others	24.6	24.6
GDP	<u>100.0%</u> =====	<u>100.0%</u> =====

5) MAIN INDUSTRIES: At first Gabonese industry was mainly concerned with timber but it has expanded fast since 1967 with the opening of the port Gentil oil refinery and the brewery.

Food: Coffee processing plants, oil mills, a rice mill, brewery, commercial bakery, ice factory.

Wood: Saw mills, plants for cutting and sawing Gabon timber, Plywood factory, Carpentry workshops and furniture factories.

Chemicals: Factory for uranium concentrates, soap factory, paint factory and oil refinery.

Building: Clinker crushing plant (cement).

Textiles: Garment manufacture.

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 1) INVESTMENTS: The total investments in the Five Year Plan 1966-'70 (certain investments) are 66.560 million CFAF and as follows: (in million CFAF)

	Public		Private	Total
	Domestic	Foreign		
I. PRODUCTION				
Agriculture, livestock, fisheries	453	442	235	1130
Forestry	4430	797	2150	7377
Mining	-	-	27400	27400
Industry	372	350	22386	23108
Tourism, transport and trade	36	-	1835	1871
Total planned production	5291	1589	54006	60886
Total fairly certain	2602	1282	38696	42580
Total uncertain	2689	307	15310	18306
II. INFRASTRUCTURE				
Total planned infrastructure	8130	18056	62	26248
Total fairly certain	7413	16372	62	23847
Total uncertain	717	1684	-	2401
III. SOCIAL INVESTMENTS				
Total social investments	1244	1314	-	2558
IV. STUDIES	9	566	-	575
TOTAL PLANNED INVESTMENTS	14674	21525	54068	90267
<u>Fairly certain investments</u>	11268	16534	38758	66560
<u>Uncertain investments</u>	3406	4991	15310	23707
	=====	=====	=====	=====

D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

1) FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE (in million CFAF)

<u>Exports</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	
France	8753.1	9246.2	11404.4	11969.0	11277.4	59.8 51.0 50.5 46.2 43.5
EEC (excl.Fr.)	2464.5	3237.5	3618.1	3738.7	4682.0	16.8 17.9 16.1 14.4 18.1
United States	495.2	2381.0	3630.2	5647.2	5873.1	3.4 13.1 16.4 21.8 22.6
African countries (excl.UDE)	788.5	786.9	1113.2	1307.6	1500.6	5.4 4.4 5.0 5.1 5.8
Rest of World	2126.2	2473.9	2774.7	3242.7	2587.1	14.6 13.6 12.3 12.5 10.8
TOTAL	14627.5	18125.5	22540.6	25905.2	25920.2	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0
<u>Imports</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	
France	6319.6	7093.5	8082.5	9021.6	9633.2	62.8 59.7 58.8 58.5 58.7
EEC (excl.Fr.)	1034.6	1422.6	1732.3	2032.8	2408.6	10.3 12.0 12.6 13.2 14.7
United States	971.5	1404.6	1729.4	1802.7	1783.7	9.6 11.8 12.6 11.7 10.9
African countries (exc.UDE)	779.2	786.1	939.6	1051.9	650.7	7.7 6.6 6.8 6.8 4.0
Rest of World	963.0	1169.0	1258.8	1515.8	1908.3	9.6 9.9 9.2 9.8 11.7
TOTAL	10067.9	11875.8	13742.6	15424.8	16384.5	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS (in million CFAF)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	
Meat and fish, fresh and preserved	510.6	552.6	605.2	517.4	488.3	3.0
Dairy products and eggs	116.4	142.6	170.0	177.1	193.8	1.2
Wheat flour	145.4	138.1	162.1	147.8	209.9	1.3
Vegetables + fruit, fresh + preserved	196.7	251.2	253.1	266.4	301.8	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	737.9	717.0	833.2	861.3	805.8	4.9
Pharmaceuticals	150.1	181.5	166.1	167.8	206.0	1.3
Rubber tires + tubes	117.5	149.1	169.6	184.3	243.1	1.5
Paper + products	162.2	173.9	206.6	237.4	285.4	1.7
Cotton textiles	267.3	380.2	374.4	368.2	336.2	2.1
Clothes + shoes	442.6	571.4	683.8	727.6	568.3	3.5
Cement	183.4	174.2	181.5	212.2	256.2	1.6
Gasoline, gasoil + lubricants	444.5	572.3	602.3	652.4	814.9	4.9
Iron + steel prod.	872.2	963.0	1396.1	1730.9	1755.3	10.7
Motor vehicles + parts	1370.9	1935.2	1944.5	2506.7	2344.1	14.3
Machinery, electrical + non-electrical	1663.7	1962.1	2353.3	2971.3	3317.8	20.3
Instruments	129.8	181.0	183.1	180.8	196.9	1.2
Other	2556.7	2830.4	3452.7	3515.2	4060.7	24.7
TOTAL	10067.9	11875.8	13742.6	15424.8	16384.5	100.0

3) VALUE OF EXPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS (in million CFAF)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>%</u>
Wood	8904.8	9461.0	11328.8	10462.4	10084.9	38.9
Minerals and metals	2657.0	5368.0	7123.4	11216.0	11149.0	43.0
Fuel + Lubricants	2533.3	2591.3	3129.4	3386.2	3866.2	14.9
Cocoa	265.0	245.4	305.7	255.6	327.0	1.3
Coffee	93.0	88.1	173.3	102.1	132.2	0.5
Other exports	174.4	371.7	480.0	482.9	360.9	1.4
TOTAL	<u>14627.5</u> =====	<u>18125.5</u> =====	<u>22540.6</u> =====	<u>25905.2</u> =====	<u>25920.2</u> =====	<u>100.0</u> =====





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