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01218



Distr.
LIMITED
ID/WG.66/12
25 June 1970
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Meeting to promote specific Industrial
Projects in African Countries.

Nairobi, Kenya, 30 November - 4 December 1970

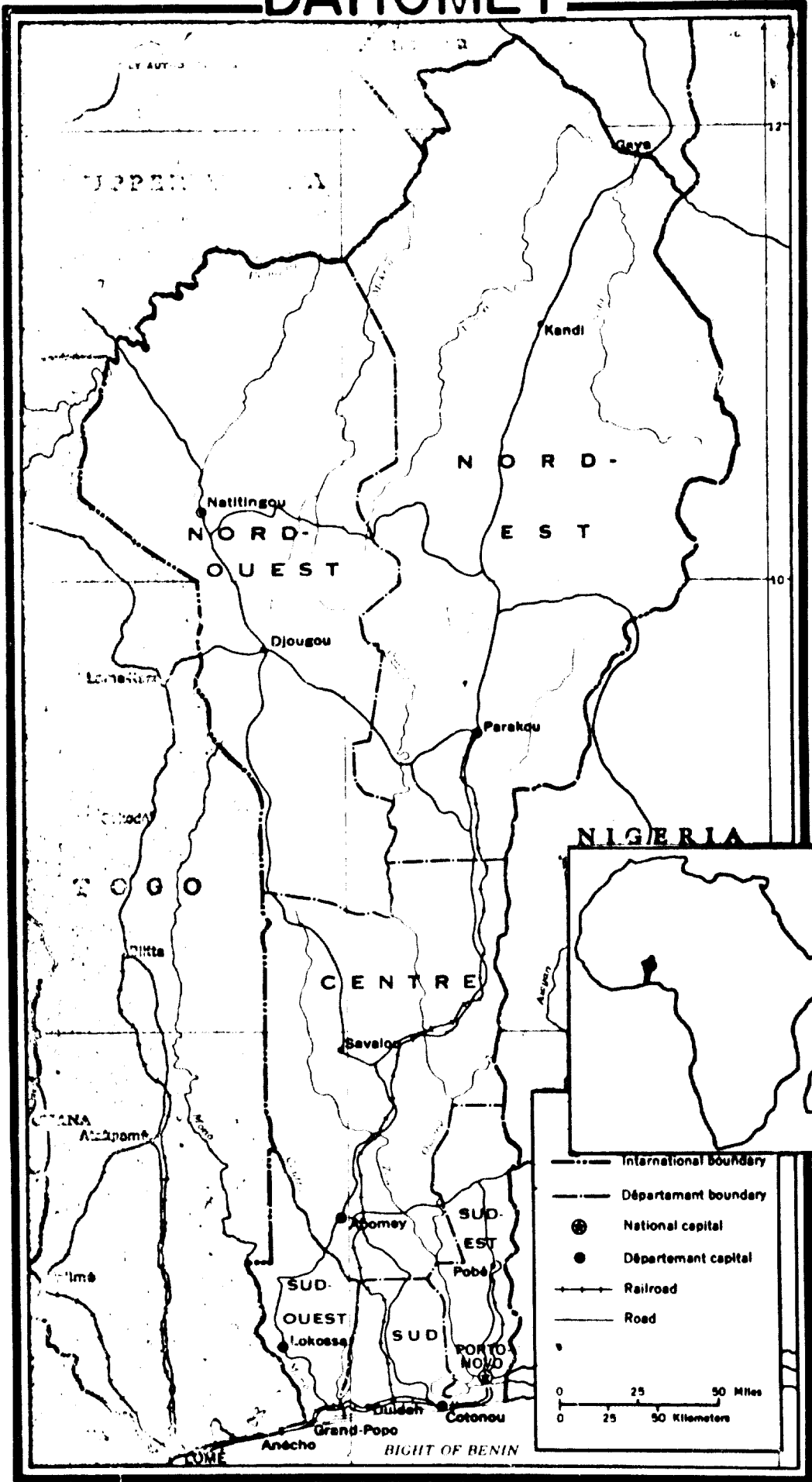
COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

DAHOMEY

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ID.70-4004

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DAHOMY



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ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) AREA: 43,480 square miles, 116,000 sq. kms.
- b) GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE: Dahomey is flanked by Nigeria and Togo. The climate is tropical with average temperature of 20°-34°C and heavy rainfall.
- c) POPULATION: 2.5 million; mid 1969 estimate with annual growth of 2.1%.
- d) LANGUAGES: The official language is french.
- e) MAIN CENTRES: The main towns are:
 - Porto Novo: Capital 85,000
 - Cotonou: (Commercial Capital) 120,000
 - Abomey: 30,000
 - Ouidah: 20,000
 - Parakou: 16,000
- f) TRANSPORT FACILITIES: - Railroads are about 395 miles. The main line (272 miles) runs from Cotonou on the Coast to Parakou in the east center of the country. A 67-mile line connects Cotonou with Porto Novo (Capital) and Pobé in the southeast.
 - Roads are 3,828 miles, 369 miles paved.
 - Only international airport is at Cotonou.
 - Deep-water port constructed at Cotonou came into operation in 1965.

2) POLITICAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD: On December 1958 the Republic of Dahomey was proclaimed. The proclamation of independence was in August 1960. Dahomey admitted to UN in 1960. She is a member of most big international Organizations. It is also a member of the Entente Council, of OCAM, the OAU, the Afro Malagasy States, the African Associated States with EEC, the West African Customs Union and the West African Monetary Union.
The ministries in the economic field are:
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Rural Development and Planning.

-
- Sources: - A.I.D. Economic Data Book - Africa 1970
- The EUROPA Year Book 1969
- IRRD - Economic situation and prospects of Dahomey - April 1970
- Africa 1969/70 The editorial Staff of "Jeune Afrique"
- U.N. Year Book of International Trade Statistics 1967.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

a) NATIONAL CURRENCY: The principal Unit of Currency is the franc Communauté Financière Africaine (CFA). The exchange rate: 275 CFA = US\$ 1.

b) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT: at market price 1966 CFAF 48.9 billion; US\$ 198 million.

Per Capite: CFAF 19,000; US\$ 77	
Primary Sector:	50%
Secondary Sector:	9%
Government, Transport, Trade, Services:	41%
Rate of growth, 1960-1968	100%
4.5% (at current prices)	====

c) PER CAPITA INCOME: In 1963 US\$ 64

d) BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:

Billion CFA Francs

	<u>1968</u>	
Total Exports f.o.b.	6.00	
Total Imports c.i.f.	-14.00	
Trade Balance	- 7.10	
Services	0.80	
Total	- 6.30	
Transfer Payments	5.00	
Balance of Current Account "after transfers"		<u>- 1.30</u>
Private Capital (net)	2.30	
Monetary Sectors (net)	- 0.80	
Errors and Omissions	- 0.20	<u>1.30</u>

2) NATURAL RESOURCES: - The agricultural land is about 4.9 million acres, only 18% of total area.

- Subsistence food crops account for 70% of cultivation. Palm kernels and oil produced mainly in the south are the main cashcrops.
- Fisheries is a major industry with good growth potential. Annual catch 30,000 tons.
- Forests are 20% of area, mainly north.
- There is low-grade iron ore in remote north and lime stone deposits.
- Oil found in 1967 in offshore waters.

3) LABOUR FORCE: 84% of labour force in agriculture. There are about 29,000 salaried workers. Underemployment is a serious problem.

4) ORIGIN OF GDP: at current prices (CFAF billions)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Primary sector	20.2	21.4	23.9	24.0	22.9
Secondary sector	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.6	4.6
Tertiary sector	12.0	12.6	13.2	13.9	15.0
Government	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.4	6.4
GDP	<u>42.2</u>	<u>44.0</u>	<u>46.5</u>	<u>47.9</u>	<u>48.9</u>
	====	====	====	====	====

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The first plan from 1962 - 65 was too ambitious and had to be abandoned and replaced by a five year plan 1966-1970 with the principal objectives of improving the national production and after 1970, of accelerating the growth of the Dahomey economy.

There are three priority sectors: rural development, industrial development and infrastructure. The social and administrative needs are lower in the scale of priorities.

INVESTMENTS: An investment code gives privileges to the medium, small scale industry and important firms working under agreement with the state for a period of more than 25 years. Certain foreign firms can freely transfer their profits.

D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

1) FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE: (in million CFA Francs)

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
<u>Imports C.I.F.</u>					
Total Trade	8249	7762	8491	8264	10745
France	5110	4530	4651	4293	5364
Senegal	437	366	334	363	364
Nigeria	372	345	212	172	178
United Kingdom	265	258	293	283	251
Belgium-Luxembourg	238	152	293	305	364
Germany-Fed. Republic	217	224	293	281	489
<u>Exports F.O.B.</u>					
Total Trade	3155	3254	3367	2585	3750
France	2255	2442	1845	1365	1301
Senegal	77	9	50	18	45
Nigeria	64	46	77	127	169
United Kingdom	30	61	46	35	6
Belgium-Luxembourg	8	17	31	2	-
Germany-Fed. Republic	58	210	306	119	246

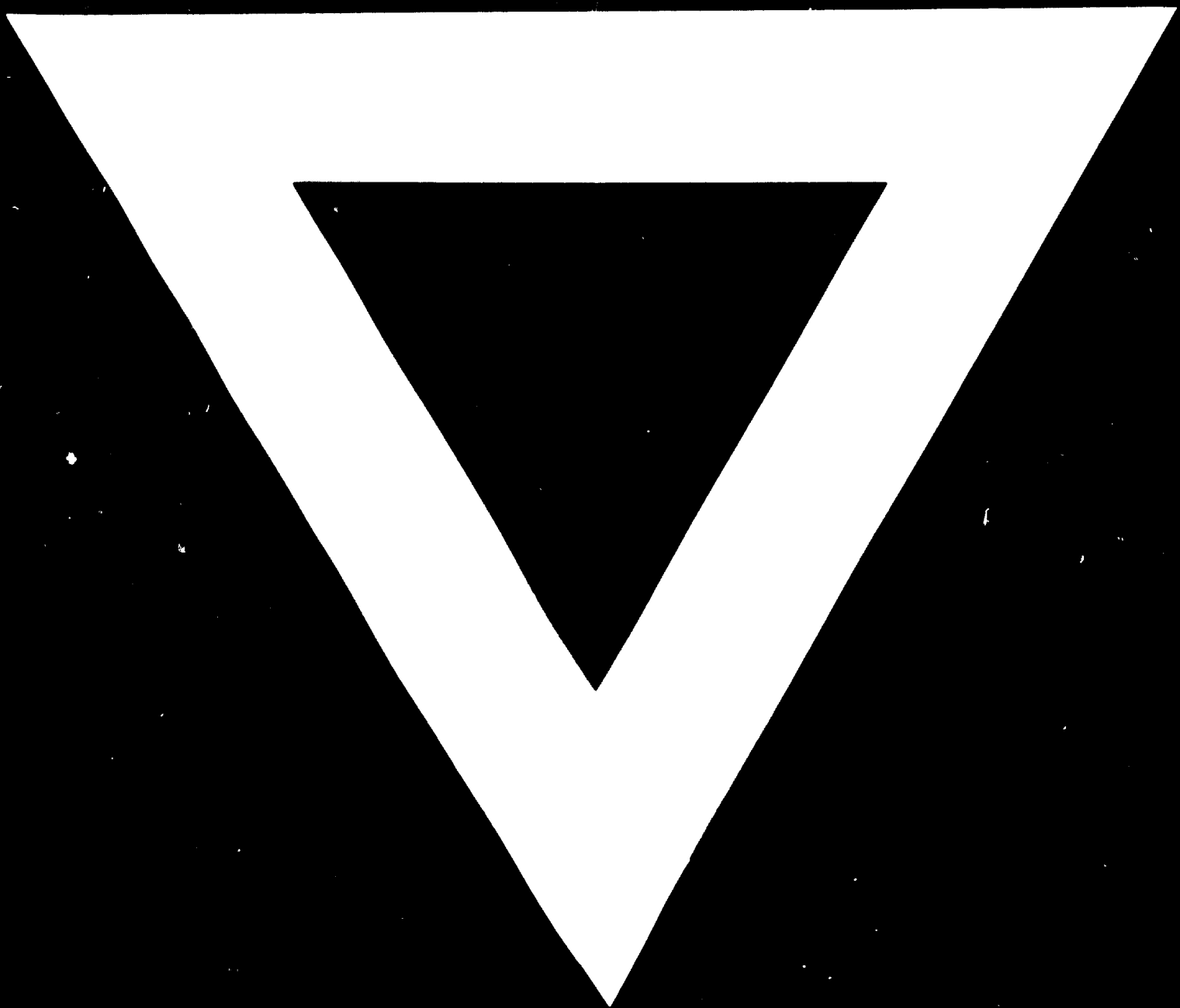
2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS: (in CFA franc million)

	1965	1966	1967	1968 (six months)
Food, beverage, tobacco	1680.1	1785.2	2038.6	1011.6
Fuel and petrol products	470.4	367.7	463.5	257.5
Raw mat. and semi processed	789.3	698.6	863.5	336.6
Equipment goods	1452.0	1524.8	2553.0	1290.7
Finished consumption goods	4090.2	3893.4	4825.0	2343.6
Total	8482.0	8269.7	10744.6	5240.0
	=====	=====	=====	=====

3) VALUE OF EXPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS:

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u> (six months)
Palm Oil	741.6	447.5	263.7	
Palm Kernel Oil	984.8	508.2	873.5	
Palm Kernels	508.6	225.9	140.0	
Palm cakes	130.7	97.9	250.8	
Groundnuts (shelled)	95.8	113.3	223.1	
Sheanuts	100.5	44.5	170.7	
Conna	89.8	71.5	25.4	
Cotton	431.1	271.9	331.4	
Coffee	108.9	107.5	139.4	
Others	85.0	607.2	1332.0	
Total	<u>3366.8</u> =====	<u>2585.4</u> =====	<u>3750.0</u> =====	<u>2966.0</u> =====





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