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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

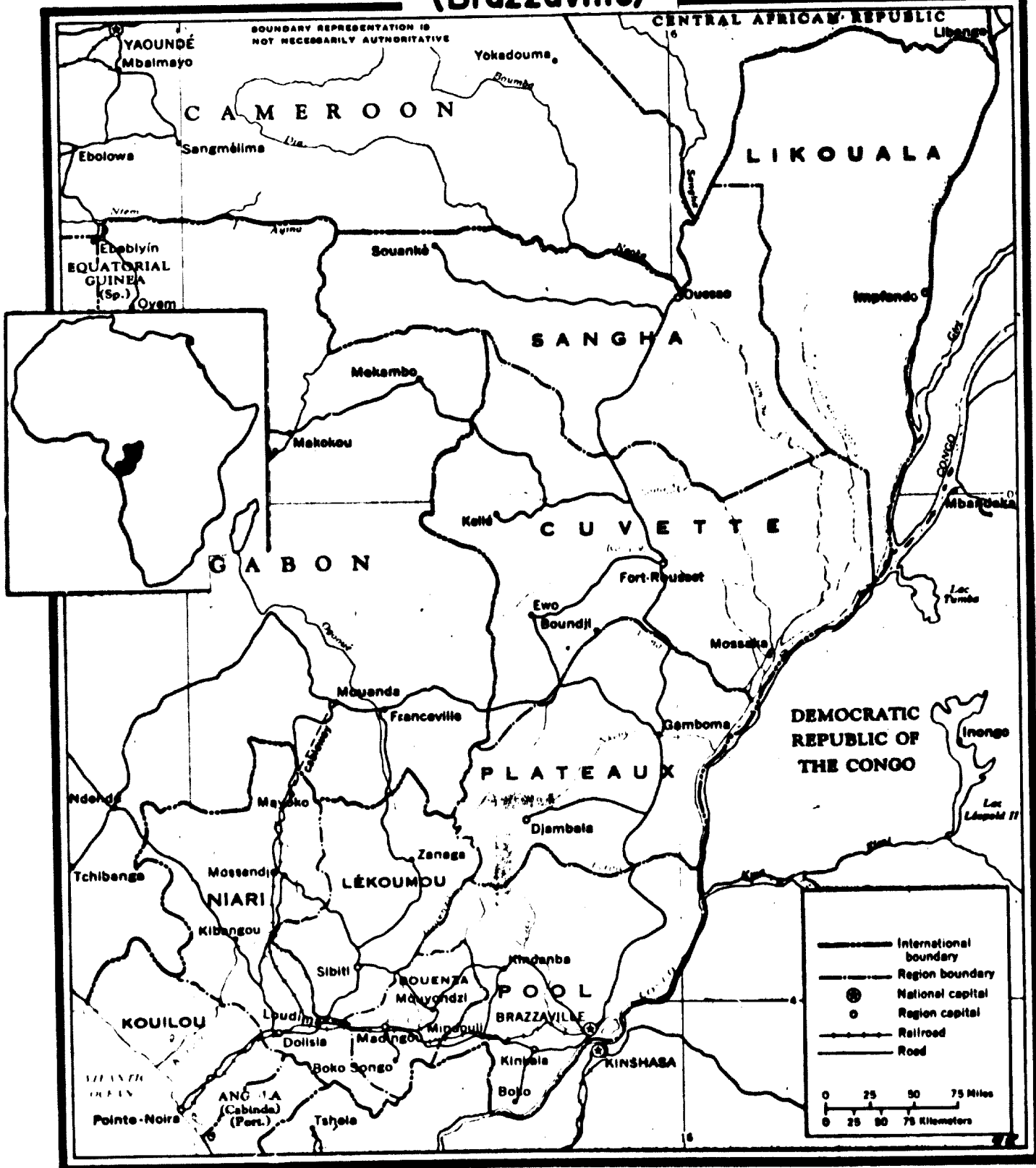
CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

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CONGO

(Brazzaville)



Base 57657 11-67

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) AREA: 139,000 sq. miles; 360,000 sq. km.
- b) GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE: Congo-Brazzaville has the Atlantic and the Republic of Gabon to the East; Cameroon and the Central African Republic to the North and Congo Kinshasa to the West and South. The climate is tropical or sub-tropical. The average temperature is 24° C.
- c) POPULATION: One million (estimate s at end of 1968, with 1.5% rate of growth).
- d) LANGUAGES: The official language is French.
- e) MAIN CENTRES: The main cities are:
 - Brazzaville (capital): 200,000
 - Pointe Noire: 100,000
 - Dolisie: 20,000
 - Jacob: 15,000
- f) TRANSPORT FACILITIES: There are 12,000 km of roads.—There are two railway lines, the Congo-Ocean (Brazzaville-Pointe Noire) and the Comilog getting the manganese from Gabon's Moanda mine to Pointe Noire.
 - There are 3,700 km of navigable rivers.
 - Pointe Noire is an excellent maritime port and is of great use to the whole Central Africa.
 - Brazzaville and Pointe Noire are international airports.

2) POLITICAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD: The Congo became independent on August 1960 and on September of the same year it was admitted into the United Nations. The United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF have offices in Brazzaville. The Ministries in the economic field are:

- Prime Minister and Minister of State Planning and Administration
- Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Forests
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Industry, Trade and Mines

Sources: I.B.R.D. The Economy of Congo-Brazzaville.
 Lloyds Bank Report, December 1968.
 A.I.D. Data Book - Africa 1969
 EUROPA Year Book 1969
 Africa 1969/70 - the editorial staff of "Jeune Afrique"

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

a) NATIONAL CURRENCY: The national currency is the C.F.A. Franc.
The rate of exchange is: US\$ 1 = 275 CFAF.

b) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT: 34.2 billion CFA F. in 1963

Per capita: 39,500 CFA F.; US\$ 160.-

Primary sector: 23.4%

Secondary sector: 17.0%

Transport, trade, services: 59.6%

Rate of growth, 1958-63: 100.0%

4% (at current prices)

c) PER CAPITA INCOME: 38,500 CFA F. in 1963

d) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

1963 = 100

<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>June 1968</u>
102	108	112	116	121

2) NATURAL RESOURCES: The country poor soils have limited development of agriculture. Only 1.5 million acres of arable land. Leading cash crops are peanuts and palm kernels, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and sugar.

- Resources of ocean fish are abundant and domestic demand is high.

- Tropical forests cover about one-half of the country. Wood and products account for over 75% of the value of total exports.

- Petroleum is only mineral produced in quantity and exported. Small amounts of lead, gold, tin and copper also mined. High grade iron ore discovered. A large potash deposit will become an industrial project

3) LABOUR FORCE: Almost half of the population is economically active. About 64% of labour force are engaged in agriculture.

4) ORIGIN OF GDP: (in billion CFAF)

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1963 %</u>
Agriculture, forest etc.	7,0	8,0	23,4
Manufacturing, Construction, Electricity, Gas, Water	3,9	5,8	17,0
Transport, Storage, Commerce	7,8	11,7	34,2
Public Administration	5,1	8,7	25,4
Total	<u>23,8</u>	<u>34,2</u>	<u>100,0</u>
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- 5) MAIN INDUSTRIES: Food: 2 sugar refineries (140,000 tons) - 4 breweries (108,000 hectolitres of beer and 18,000 hectolitres of mineral waters) - oil mills (2,680 tons) - soap (2,000 tons) - a mill produce flour and cattle food.
Textiles: Textil complex (3.5 million metres)
Chemicals: An oxygen and acetylene factory; plastics factory; paint factory, glass works.
Building: One Cement factory (80,000 tons)
Various: Ship repairing; aluminium products; nails; metal furniture and 24 saw mills.

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Congo gives priority to the state sector (mainly industry) and the co-operative sector (agriculture). The private sector also has an important part to play in economic development.

The two priorities in the intermediate development plan 1964-1968 were agriculture and the processing industry.

- 1) INVESTMENTS: The investments of the plan (1964-1968) and the 5 years before it (1959-1963) were as follows: (in billion CFA francs)

	<u>1959-1963</u> (Estimate)	<u>1964-1968</u> (Plan)
Investment in the		
Public Sector	<u>17.0</u>	<u>27.0</u>
Infrastructure	10.0	18.3
Production	2.5	4.2
Health and education	2.0	2.8
Rural development	0.5	1.7
Statistical studies	2.0	-
Private Sector	<u>13.7</u>	<u>23.3</u>
Mining	12.2	12.0
Wood processing industries	.3	1.5
Agricultural and food processing industries	.9	4.0
Other industries and services	.3	5.8
Total	<u>30.7</u>	<u>50.3</u>
=====	====	====

- 2) SOURCES OF FINANCING: The plan (1964-1968) and the 5 years before it (1959-1963) were financed as follows: (in billion CFA francs)

	<u>1959-1963</u> (Estimate)	<u>1964-1968</u> (Plan)
Financed by		
Domestic public and semi-public resources	6.2	9.7
Foreign public grants	9.0	12.5
Foreign public loans	8.3	9.3
Foreign private loans and investment	7.2	18.8
Total	<u>30.7</u>	<u>50.3</u>
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FOREIGN TRADE DATA1) FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE: Principal Destinations of Exports (US\$ millions):

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
West Germany	10.3	9.8	10.1
Netherlands	8.9	11.9	9.3
United Kingdom	10.7	10.6	8.0
France	5.2	4.5	4.5
Belgium + Luxembourg	4.7	1.6	1.6

Principal Sources of Imports (in US\$ millions):

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
France	36.5	39.4	42.6
West Germany	5.2	3.7	5.2
U.S.A.	3.3	3.9	3.2
Netherlands	2.9	1.8	1.9
Belgium + Luxembourg	2.6	2.4	1.4
United Kingdom	1.9	1.7	1.4

2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS: (in US\$ millions)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Food + live animals	8.5	7.1	7.6
Beverages + tobacco	4.0	2.9	2.5
Mineral fuels	4.2	3.7	4.2
Chemicals	3.9	4.1	4.8
Manufactured goods, classified by material	17.1	17.9	18.8
Machinery + transport equipment	19.2	22.3	25.7
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	6.4	6.0	5.1
TOTAL all items	<u>64.8</u>	<u>64.7</u>	<u>69.6</u>
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3) VALUE OF EXPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS: (in US\$ millions)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Timber	18.7	17.8	19.2
Diamonds	19.7	19.9	15.2
Mineral products	1.5	1.2	1.2
Petroleum	1.0	1.0	0.9
Palm oil + kernels	1.4	1.2	0.7
TOTAL all items	<u>47.4</u>	<u>46.8</u>	<u>43.2</u>
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