



**TOGETHER**  
*for a sustainable future*

## OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



**TOGETHER**  
*for a sustainable future*

## DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

## FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

## CONTACT

Please contact [publications@unido.org](mailto:publications@unido.org) for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at [www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)



# D01465



Distr.  
LIMITED

ID/WG.66/17  
11 August 1970

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

Meeting to Promote Specific Industrial  
Projects in African Countries

Nairobi, Kenya, 30 November-4 December 1970

COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

SIERRA LEONE

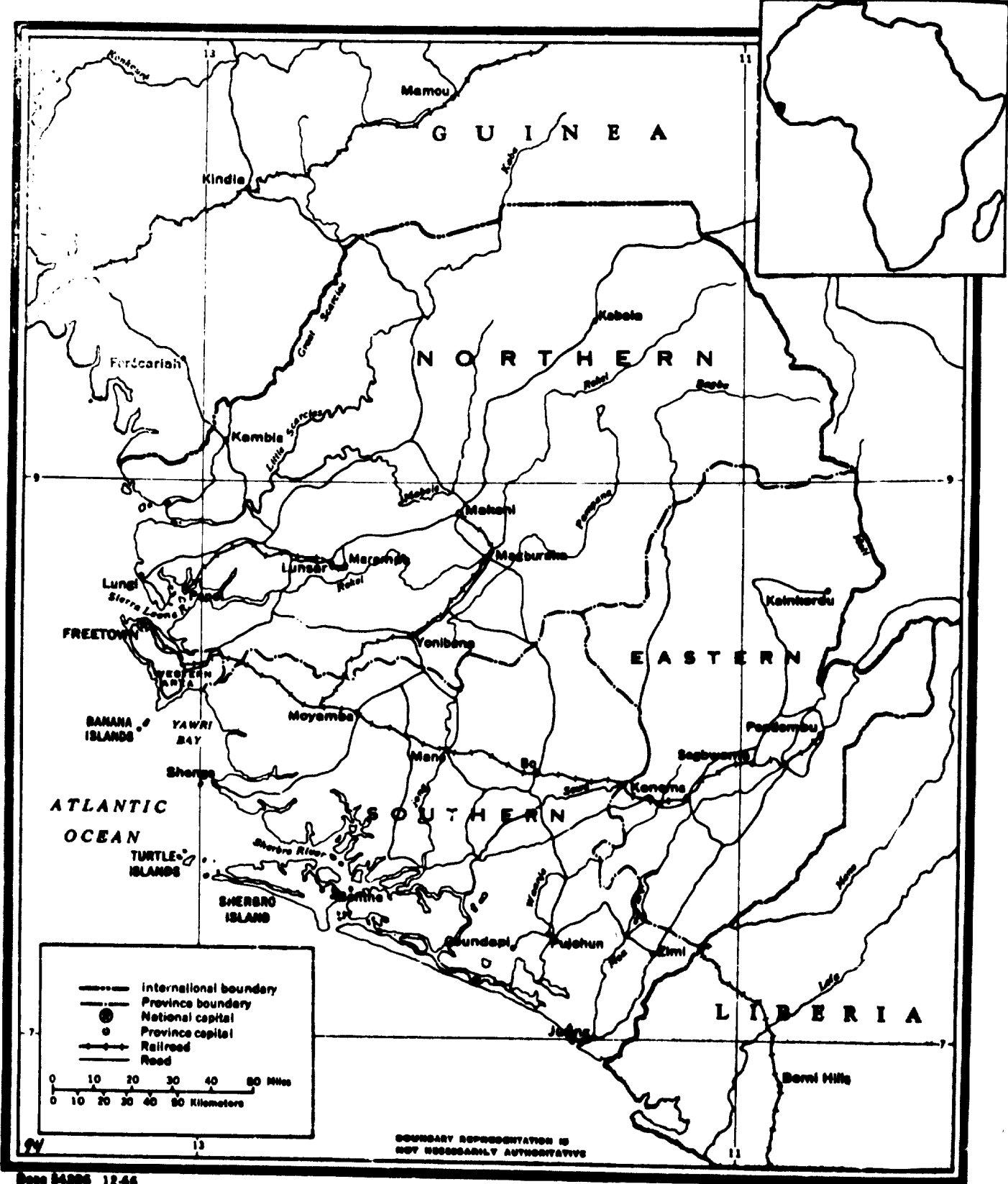
---

✓ This information sheet is drawn from various United Nations and other sources as noted, and has been reproduced by UNIDO without formal editing.

id.70-4423

We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

# SIERRA LEONE



BOUNDARY REPRESENTATION IS NOT NECESSARILY AUTHORITY

BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1. Geography

- (a) Area 27,925 square miles
- (b) Situation, climate, physical features, etc.

Sierra Leone has the Atlantic on the West, Guinea in the North and East and Liberia on the South. Its coast is cut by creeks, estuaries and lagoons. There are hills in the West and South of not more than 1,000 ft. On the East and North is a plateau of 1,500 ft. Mount Sula and Kangari are 3,000 ft. Burtimane and the summit of Tingi chain reach 5,000 ft. The climate is equatorial with a dry season from mid-November to mid-April and a rainy season from mid-April to mid-November. Dry conditions associated with the harmattan prevail along the coast from late December to early February while inland they prevail for longer periods. Consequently humidity may fall to 15-25%, contrasting sharply with the 80 to 90% humidity experienced normally during the dry season. Day-time temperatures may rise to 88° F. to 99° F. At night it may be cold. Then there follows a rainless but very humid 2 or 3 months. From late March are hot humid days with day temperatures rising to a maximum of 95° F. or exceed 100° F. at times. Because of sea breezes, coastal areas have cooler temperatures. No part of the country receives much less than 100 inches of rain.

(c) Population

2.5 million (1968)  
Rate of growth: 1.5% per annum.  
About 1,500 are Europeans, 3,000 Lebanese and 150 Indians.  
Density: 75 persons per square mile.  
In the Freetown peninsula the density is 790 per square mile.  
There are 13 ethnic groups, apart from the creoles. The most important are: Mende and Temne. 93% of the population live in rural areas.

(d) Language

English is the official language. Mende and Temne languages are widely spoken. Krio (creole) form of pidgin English is also spoken.

(e) Main commercial centres

Freetown, the capital (132,000); Bo (30,000); Kenema (14,000); Makeni (15,000); Lunsar (12,000).

(f) Transport

- (a) Road. About 2,500 miles of road are tarred.
- (b) Railway. The main line runs from Freetown to Pendemba with a branch line between Banya and Makani; and another line runs from Lunsar - Marapma iron ore works to the Port at Pepel.
- (c) Ports  

Freetown has one of the best harbours in Africa, with deep water and four big quays. Pepel, the mineral port has most modern equipment.
- (d) Air. Lungi is an international airport which takes jets. There are internal flights as well as international ones serving the West Coast of Africa and Europe, etc.

2. Government

Sierra Leone attained independence within the Commonwealth in April 1961. The Queen of Britain is head of State, represented by the Governor-general. The Constitution provides for the Prime Minister, who is head of Government in his capacity as leader of the majority party. There are two main political parties. The executive powers are in the hands of the Prime Minister. He appoints his Ministers.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1. Economic indicators

- (a) National currency. The Leone is the national currency.  
1 Leone = US\$ 1.20  
1 US\$ = LE 0.833
- (b) Gross National Product  

At factor cost (1965/66) Le. 231.8 million  
(US\$ 278.2 million)  
Per capita 1965/66 US\$ 124

-5-

(c) Consumer Price Index (1961 = 100)Freetown

<u>Period</u>	<u>All items</u>	<u>Food &amp; drinks</u>	<u>Clothing</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
1961	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1962	99.1	95.6	97.1	106.1	105.2
1963	99.9	89.8	94.9	124.2	106.2
1964	111.4	98.5	94.8	151.1	109.5
1965	116.5	102.3	95.2	161.8	113.1
1966	121.1	104.8	98.0	175.5	115.5
1967	127.7	109.5	104.3	185.5	120.3
March 1968	129.7	108.0	106.2	195.1	120.0

Mining Areas

1961	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1962	103.5	103.1	97.5	104.3	109.0
1963	103.9	102.9	98.4	108.6	106.7
1964	109.4	110.0	117.6	93.6	105.9
1966	109.7	108.6	120.1	97.8	110.7
1967	111.7	111.2	119.8	96.9	112.8
	118.8	122.0	121.8	96.6	117.5

Source: Labour Department.

(d) Balance of payments 1963-1967  
(Le million)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u> <u>Prelim.</u>
<b>A. <u>Current account</u></b>					
1. Exports f.o.b.	57.9	68.0	63.2	59.1	50.6
2. Imports c.i.f.	-59.7	-71.0	-77.0	-71.7	-65.0
3. Trade balance/ inadjusted	-1.8	-3.0	-13.8	-12.6	-14.4
4. Adjustments (for coverage and to bring imports to f.o.b. value)	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 6.3	+ 6.3	
5. Trade balance - adjusted	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 7.5	- 6.3	
6. Freight, insurance, transport, travel (net)	- 1.3	- 3.3	- 3.4	- 2.3	
7. Investment income (net)	- 5.5	- 6.5	- 8.5	- 4.8	
8. Other services	- 4.6	- 5.6	- 5.3	- 6.1	
9. Transfer payments (net)	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.3	4.3	2.0
Balance on current account	-12.3	-15.8	-24.5	-15.1	

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u> <u>Prelim.</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1968</u>
<b>B. <u>Capital account</u></b>						
1. Private long-term capital receipts (net)	5.9	10.8	18.4	6.7	6.7	
2. Government capital receipts (net)	<u>3.5</u>	<u>7.2</u>	<u>3.4</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>2.4</u>	
Capital account	<u>9.4</u>	<u>18.0</u>	<u>21.8</u>	<u>9.1</u>		
<b>C. <u>Errors and omissions</u></b>	+0.5	-2.6	-5.1	+3.5		
<b>D. <u>Changes in official reserves (A, B + C)</u></b>	<u>-2.4</u>	<u>-0.4</u>	<u>-7.8</u>	<u>-2.5</u>	<u>-2.0</u>	<u>+0.8</u>

Source: Bank of Sierra Leone.

2. Main origin of GDP at factor cost (Le. million)

	<u>1963/64</u>	<u>1964/65</u>	<u>1965/66</u>	<u>Distribution</u> <u>1965/66</u>
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	69.5	74.1	75.2	31.3
Mining and quarrying	36.6	42.0	46.2	19.2
Manufacturing and handicraft	12.0	13.6	15.1	6.3
Construction	7.1	7.7	8.7	3.6
Electricity, gas, water, sanitary services	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.8
Transport, storage & communication	14.5	17.4	18.6	7.7
Wholesale & retail trade	28.7	34.3	36.1	15.0
Banking, insurance & real estate	1.2	1.6	2.2	0.9
Ownership of dwellings	11.7	14.1	15.2	6.3
Public administration & defence	11.7	12.1	12.5	5.3
Services	<u>7.1</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>3.6</u>
	<u>201.2</u>	<u>226.2</u>	<u>240.4</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Source: Central Statistics Office.

3. Main industries

Mining and quarrying, food processing (eg. flour mill, vegetable cannery, oil palm refinery), brewery and distillery, cigarettes and tobacco factory, paint factory, oxygen and compressed gas plant, oil refinery, cement works, prefabricated housing, bricks and tiles works, etc.



4. Investments

National accounts suggest an increase in the investment ratio from 10% to 15.3% between 1963/64 and 1965/66. Even though these figures should be taken with caution, the trend would probably reflect a big rise in mining and public sector investments. Investments in mining was by foreign private investors.

5. Natural resources

Natural resources include: mineral deposits (diamond, bauxite, iron ore, chrome), forestry, fisheries, livestock, crops (such as: rice, groundnuts, coffee, cocoa, sweet potatoes, cassava, sorghum, millet, palm oil).

6. Labour force

There are 2.5 million people in Sierra Leone. In 1968 there were 952,600, 556 students in secondary schools, technical schools, universities, respectively, and 135,000 in primary schools. There were students abroad as well. These would provide some of the skills which are needed in the various sectors. However, foreign skills will be needed for a long time to come.

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The ten-year Plan 1962-72 was revised within the new five-year plan 1965-70. The main objective of the plan is expansion in agriculture, road construction, railway modernization, electric power.

## FOREIGN TRADE DATA

1. Foreign Trade Balance (US\$ million)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u> (Prelim.)
Exports (f.o.b.)	69.5	81.6	75.8	70.9	60.7
Imports (o.i.f.)	<u>71.6</u>	<u>85.2</u>	<u>92.4</u>	<u>86.0</u>	<u>78.0</u>
Trade balance	<u>-2.1</u>	<u>-3.6</u>	<u>-16.6</u>	<u>-15.1</u>	<u>-17.3</u>

2. Imports by commodity (Le million)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Food	10.0	9.8	11.3	13.8	12.6
Beverage and tobacco	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.9
Crude materials	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9
Mineral fuels	7.4	7.3	6.8	5.7	4.8
Animal and vegetable oils	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.6	1.3
Chemicals	3.2	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.5
Manufactured goods	15.6	20.3	19.6	19.2	17.8
Machinery and transport equipment	12.6	18.5	22.7	16.6	14.8
Misc. manufactured goods	6.2	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.4
Miscellaneous transactions	<u>0.9</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.0</u>
Total	<u>59.7</u>	<u>71.0</u>	<u>77.4</u>	<u>71.7</u>	<u>65.0</u>

Source: Central Statistics Office.

3. Distribution of imports (Le. million)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
United Kingdom	26,953	25,257	20,266
Commonwealth countries	8,830	9,309	8,981
U.S.A.	3,509	11,012	4,512
Japan	7,231	6,449	7,371
Netherlands	5,182	4,992	4,508
Western Germany	5,623	3,302	4,410
France	2,485	4,396	5,273
Others	<u>11,206</u>	<u>12,158</u>	<u>16,427</u>
Total	<u>71,019</u>	<u>76,875</u>	<u>71,748</u>

Source: Barclays Bank D.C.O., Economic Survey Report April 1968.

4. Exports by value (Le. million)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Diamond (Alluvial)	13,480	23,725	36,959	17,332	29,742*
Diamond (Other)	18,848	16,098	-	13,960	-
Iron ore	9,874	10,354	10,896	9,625	9,025
Palm kernels	4,907	4,870	5,681	5,103	1,098
Palm kernel oil	-	-	-	-	753
cocoa	1,194	1,136	-	1,435	1,456
Coffee	1,305	2,529	1,347	3,921	308
Piassava	540	714	437	168	391
Ginger	178	320	321	171	172
Bauxite	64	407	579	775	1,054
Rutile	-	-	-	-	882
Other exports	<u>561</u>	<u>728</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>897</u>	<u>1,340</u>
Total domestic exports	<u>50,881</u>	<u>60,883</u>	<u>57,538</u>	<u>53,387</u>	<u>45,468</u>

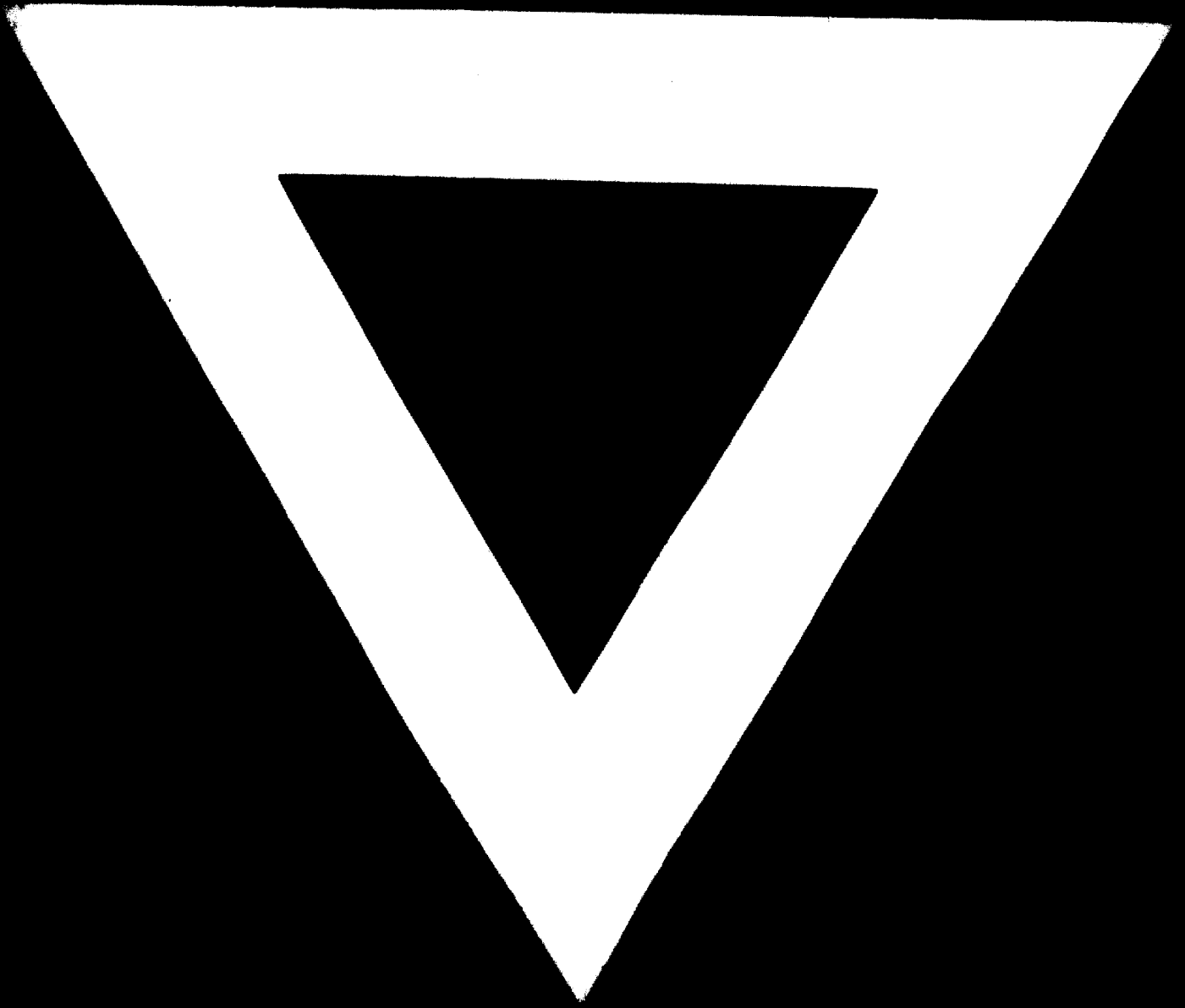
\* Total diamonds (Alluvial and other)

Source: Annual report; Quarterly Statistical Bulletins; Bank of Sierra Leone.

5. Distribution of exports (Le. million)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
United Kingdom	47,681	43,417	36,404
Commonwealth countries	334	453	643
Netherlands	5,961	6,106	6,677
Western Germany	4,206	4,275	3,624
Other West European countries	1,060	2,644	2,239
U.S.A.	1,032	376	3,376
Others	610	267	534
Total	<u>60,884</u>	<u>57,538</u>	<u>53,497</u>

Source: Barclays Bank D.C.O., Economic Survey Report April 1968.



**74.10.14**