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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

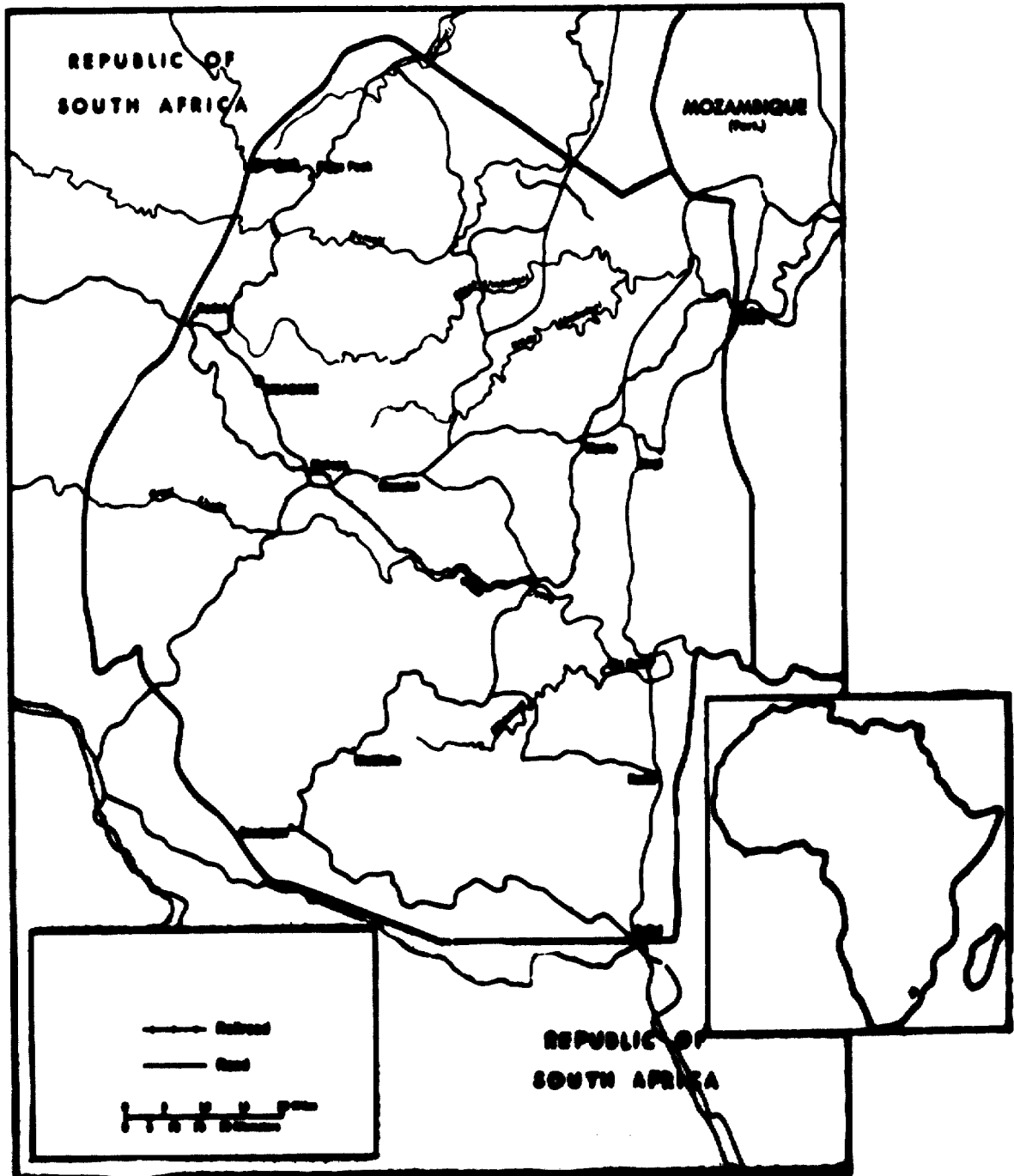
SWAZILAND

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SWAZILAND



BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1. Geography

- (a) Area 6,705 square miles
- (b) Situation, climate, physical features, etc.

This is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa, except on its Eastern border with Mozambique. In the West are highlands cut by deep valleys dropping to the East to a fertile plateau of 750 ft. high. The country enjoys sub-tropical climate. In the West rainfall is between 40 and 85 inches, and 30-40 inches in the Centre. The rainy season is from October to March. The mountains of the West are covered with forests while the centre has grasslands and savannah with a range of sub-tropical vegetation.

- (c) Population

397,000 people.
Rate of growth: 2.9% p.a.
Density: 58 per square mile
Density per square mile of arable land: 360

12,230 are non-Africans of whom 8,000 are Europeans. 60% of the population are Protestants and 40% Animists. Almost all Africans belong to one tribe the Swazi.

- (d) Language

English is the official language but almost all Africans speak Siswati.

- (e) Main commercial centres

Mbabane, the capital (pop. 14,000); Manzini (pop. 6,000); and Havelock (pop. 4,500).

- (f) Transport

- (i) Road. There are 1,400 miles of roads of which 65 of highway running between the Southern boundary with South Africa and the Eastern boundary with Mozambique are bituminized.
- (ii) Railway. There is a line used mainly for transporting iron ore from Ngwenya to the port of Laurence Marques in Mozambique. This line is 134 miles long.

- (iii) Air. There is an aerodrome at Matsapa used by South African and Mozambique aircraft. There are also about 20 landing strips.
- (iv) Port. The port of Laurence Marques in Mozambique is the outlet to the sea.

2. Government

The country achieved independence on 6th September 1968 and is a member of the Commonwealth. Parliament has an Assembly and a Senate. The Assembly has 24 members elected by universal suffrage for five years, 6 members nominated by the King and the Attorney-General who has no voting rights. The Senate has 12 members, 6 elected by the Assembly and 6 nominated by the King. The King is head of State as well as head of the executive. He has powers to suspend or dissolve parliament. The King nominates the Prime Minister who must be the leader of the majority party in the Assembly. There is also a national council of Swazis consisting of the King, the Queen mother and all adult men. It acts as a consultative body on tribal customs and the granting of mineral concessions. The King nominates the judges and the highest Appeal Tribunal is the Appeal Court. There are two main political parties.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1. Economic indicators

(a) National currency

The Rand is the national currency.
 1 Rand = US\$ 1.4
 US\$ 1 = Rand 0.714.

(b) Gross National Product

The Gross National Product per capita was estimated at R. 206 (£ 123) in 1966. The real rate of growth 1960-64: 19% per annum.

(c) Balance of payments

There was no reliable information on the balance of payments position at the time of writing this paper.

2. Origin of GDP, 1964 (at factor cost)

Agriculture	25
Forestry	11
Mining	14
Manufacturing*	1
Trade and transport	14
Other	35
	<u>100</u>

* Processing of principal agricultural (sugar) and forestry products included under agriculture and forestry.

3. Main industries

Mining (iron ore and asbestos), cotton ginning and small garment factories, paper pulp factory, food processing (sugar refineries, meat canning and fruit canning), lumbering.

4. Natural resources

Mineral deposits such as: iron ore, asbestos, gold, kaolin, barytes, beryl, pyrophyllite and tin; forestry, suitable climate and soil for rearing livestock, growing such crops as maize, cotton, rice, sugar.

5. Labour force

Population 397,000 provides source of unskilled labour. 20,350 people are employed in the primary sector, 6,450 in the service industries; 5,000 in industry, and 2,600 in building. There is a critical shortage of skilled and semi-skilled personnel.

C. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

1. Foreign trade balance (R. million)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Exports	15.2	21.8	22.6	30.2
Imports	<u>14.5</u>	<u>19.7</u>	<u>19.2</u>	<u>26.5</u>
Trade balance	0.7	2.1	3.4	3.7

In 1966 imports amounted to R. 25,685,000 and exports reached R. 40,920,000. So there was a favourable trade balance of R. 15,235,000.

2. Imports (R. million)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Food and drink	2.1	2.0	2.1	4.1
Motor vehicles, spares, petrol and lubricants	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.6
Timber and other building materials	1.3	1.9	2.4	3.0
Other merchandise	<u>7.3</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>14.8</u>
Total	<u>14.5</u>	<u>19.7</u>	<u>19.2</u>	<u>26.5</u>

Source: Swaziland Government Annual Reports and Statistical Report on Imports and Exports.

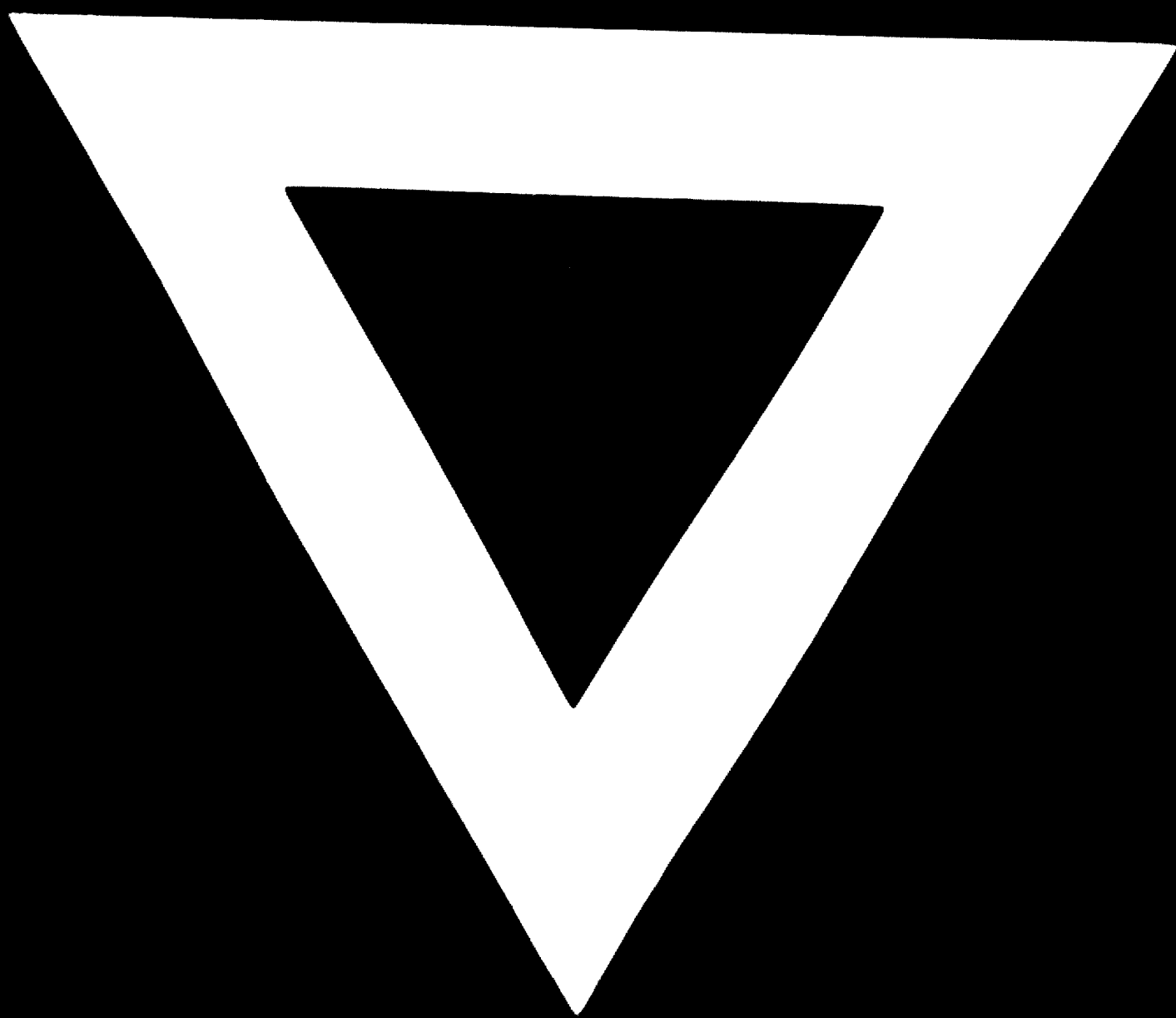
N.B. These figures are compiled from traders returns and should be regarded as incomplete.

The main supplier is South Africa.

3. Exports (R. million)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Asbestos	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.8
Iron ore	-	-	0.3	4.4
Other minerals	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Sugar	6.0	8.2	7.6	8.6
Forest products	0.8	4.2	5.8	7.8
Citrus	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9
Cattle	1.2	1.6	0.8	0.2
Seed cotton	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.5
Rice	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other produce	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.1</u>
Total	<u>15.2</u>	<u>21.8</u>	<u>22.6</u>	<u>30.2</u>

In 1966 total exports were valued at R. 40,920,000. South Africa is the major customer.



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