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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET

NIGER

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ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) AREA: 490,000 square miles; 1,269,000 sq. kms.
- b) GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE: Niger has Algeria and Libya to the north, Chad to the east, Nigeria and Dahomey to the south and Upper Volta and Mali to the west.
There is a dry season from October to June with temperature of 28° centigrade by day and 10° centigrade by night. Intense heat which sometimes reaches 46° in the shade.
- c) POPULATION: 3,585,000 (end 1968). Annual rate of growth 2.5%.
- d) LANGUAGES: French is the official language.
- e) MAIN CENTRES: The main cities are:
 - Niamey (Capital): 54,000
 - Zinder: 29,000
 - Maradi: 21,000
 - Tahoua: 21,000
- f) TRANSPORT FACILITIES: - There are 3,500 kms. of inter-state roads and 1,500 of national roads. There are about 10,000 kms. of tracks. The national roads link Mali and Chad via Niamey and Zinder. Various branch roads: Niger-Upper Volta, Niger-Nigeria, Niger-Dahomey and Niger-Sahara.
 - There are particularly no railways but the Benin-Niger link is to be extended to Dosso.
 - The outlets to the sea are Lagos port (Nigeria) and Cotonou (Dahomey).
 - There is a class A aerodrome at Niamey and four class B aerodromes at Agades, Marad, Tahoua and Zinder.

2) POLITICAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD: Proclamation of independence on August 1960. Niger is a member of the United Nations, the Conseil de l'Entente and the Organisation Commune Africaine et Malagache (OCAM).

The Ministries in the economic field are:

Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Public works, transports, mines and urbanization
Ministry of rural economy
Ministry of economic affairs, trade and industry.

SOURCES: - I.B.R.D. The economy of Niger July 1968
- Africa 1969/70 - The editorial staff of "Jeune Afrique"
- EUROPA Year Book 1969
- A.I.B. Economic Data Book - Africa 1970.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

- a) **NATIONAL CURRENCY:** The national currency is the CFA Franc.
The rate of exchange is US\$ 1 = 275 CFA Francs.
- b) **GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:** Estimated in 1966 77.0 billion CFAF at current prices.
Per Capita: (1964) CFAF 20,000; US\$ 80.
Primary Sector: 62%
Secondary Sector: 11%
Government, Transport, Trade, Services: 27%
100%
- Rate of growth, 1956-1966
32% (at current prices)
- c) **PER CAPITA INCOME:** US\$ 73 in 1963.
- d) **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:** African Consumer Price index:
July 1962-June 1963 = 100
1964 = 99.8
1965 = 104.9
1966 = 116.0
- European Consumer Price-Index:
Nov. 15-Dec. 15, 1964 = 100
1965 = 101
1966 = 105
1967 first quarter = 110

e) **BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:**

	<u>1964 Billion CFAF</u>	
Total Exports F.o.b.	10.3	
Total Imports C.i.f.	10.2	
Trade Balance	0.1	
Services	-	
Total	0.1	
Factor payments	-0.6	
Transfer payments	+0.3	
Balance of Current Account	-	<u>-0.2</u>
Change in reserves (decrease)	+1.0	
Errors and Omissions	-0.8	<u>+0.2</u>

- 2) **NATURAL RESOURCES:** - The agricultural land is 11% of total area.
Only 3% of the total land area is cultivated. Peanut is the main crop for export.
- Livestock and animal husbandry is a very important element in Niger's economy.
 - Forests are over 10% of total area.
 - Over 100 million tons of medium quality iron ore (45-65%) found at Say. Tin and tungsten. Large uranium deposits discovered in 1967 at Arlit. The deposits are estimated at 20,000 tons concentrated.

3) LABOUR FORCE: Roughly 95% of the population are engaged in agriculture and livestock.

4) ORIGIN OF GDP: (billions of CFAF)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1974</u>
Agriculture	40.0	n.a.	47.6		50.0
Manufacturing and construction)	7.3	n.a.	n.a.		10.0
Mining	13.6	n.a.	n.a.		3.0
Services	4.0	n.a.	n.a.		20.0
Government	<u>64.9</u>	<u>n.a.</u>	<u>n.a.</u>		<u>8.0</u>
Total (current prices)		<u>69.0</u>	<u>77.0</u>	<u>86.0</u>	<u>97.0</u>
Total (1964 prices)		67.0		86.0	97.0

5) MAIN INDUSTRIES: Food: 3 groundnut husking factories; 2 groundnut oil mills, one rice mill; one millet mill; 3 mineral water factories; a brewery; 2 slaughterhouses with cold stores.
Textiles: 3 cotton ginneries.
Chemicals: Soap works; plastic goods and shoes; perfumes.
Building: Cement works, brick works, tile factory.
New Projects: In the mining industry tin and uranium production is to be increased. In building materials: paving stones, ceramics and crockery. In the food industry: new rice mills, onion and groundnut drying plant, spaghetti, tomato, meat, milk products. In textiles: a complex and a cloth printing mill. In chemicals: paint, matches, batteries, transistory assembly and a compost plant.

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 1) INVESTMENTS: Niger started planning for its economy in 1961 and now comes under a ten year plan from 1965-1974 with priority given to the primary sector. This plan was divided in 3 programmes: The first 1965-1967. The second 1968-1971. The third 1972-1974. The 1968-71 programme, after a number of revisions is as follows: (billion of CFA francs)

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968-1971</u>	<u>1</u>
Surveys, studies, etc.	0.1
Infrastructure (Roads)	1.2 (0.8)	5.7 (5.5)	36.0 (34.6)
Social	0.8	2.9	18.2
Administrative training	0.2	0.9	5.8
Production	3.0	6.3	39.9
Water resources	(1.9)	(4.8)	(30.0)
Agriculture	(1.0)	(1.4)	(8.5)
Industry	(-)	(0.2)	(1.4)
Total net investment	<u>5.2</u>	<u>15.9</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Renewal and maintenance		1.0	
Local authorities	<u>0.06</u>	<u>0.6</u>	
Total estimated gross investment	<u>5.26</u>	<u>17.5</u>	
Other		13.0	

- 2) SOURCES OF FINANCING: During the period since independence, the financing of the Government investment budget and other public investments not normally financed by external development aid has assumed increasing importance as compared to that of covering the current deficit. This is shown in the following table, expressed in billions of CFA francs:

	<u>1962/63</u>	<u>1963/64</u>	<u>1964/65</u>	<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1966/67</u> (Provisional)
Current revenue	5.4	6.4	6.9	8.4	8.5
Current expenditure	<u>6.1</u>	<u>6.2</u>	<u>7.1</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.5</u>
Balance	-0.7	+0.2	-0.2	+0.6	0
Investment expenditures	<u>-0.8</u>	<u>-0.7</u>	<u>-0.9</u>	<u>-1.2</u>	<u>-1.0</u>
Total excess expenditures	-1.5	-0.5	-1.1	-0.6	-1.0
External contributions to the budget	.9	.7	.4	.25	.15
Of which: French	(.5)	(.6)	(.4)	(.25)	(.15)
Internal financing	.6	-0.2	.7	.35	.85

D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

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

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
<u>Exports</u>				
France	3,613	3,334	3,513	4,705
Other EEC	20	80	129	1,065
Nigeria	1,036	1,264	1,586	1,497
West African Monetary Union	273	284	318	472
Other	397	298	704	858
Total	<u>5,339</u>	<u>5,260</u>	<u>6,250</u>	<u>8,597</u>
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<u>Imports</u>				
France	3,061	4,624	4,944	5,730
Other EEC	345	789	1,040	1,096
United Kingdom	129	168	279	377
USA	219	287	324	424
China	69	128	451	609
Japan	2	25	64	399
Nigeria	438	260	162	164
West African Monetary Union	768	882	848	979
Others	943	951	1,188	1,337
Total	<u>5,974</u>	<u>8,114</u>	<u>9,300</u>	<u>11,115</u>
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2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS:(in billion CFA francs)

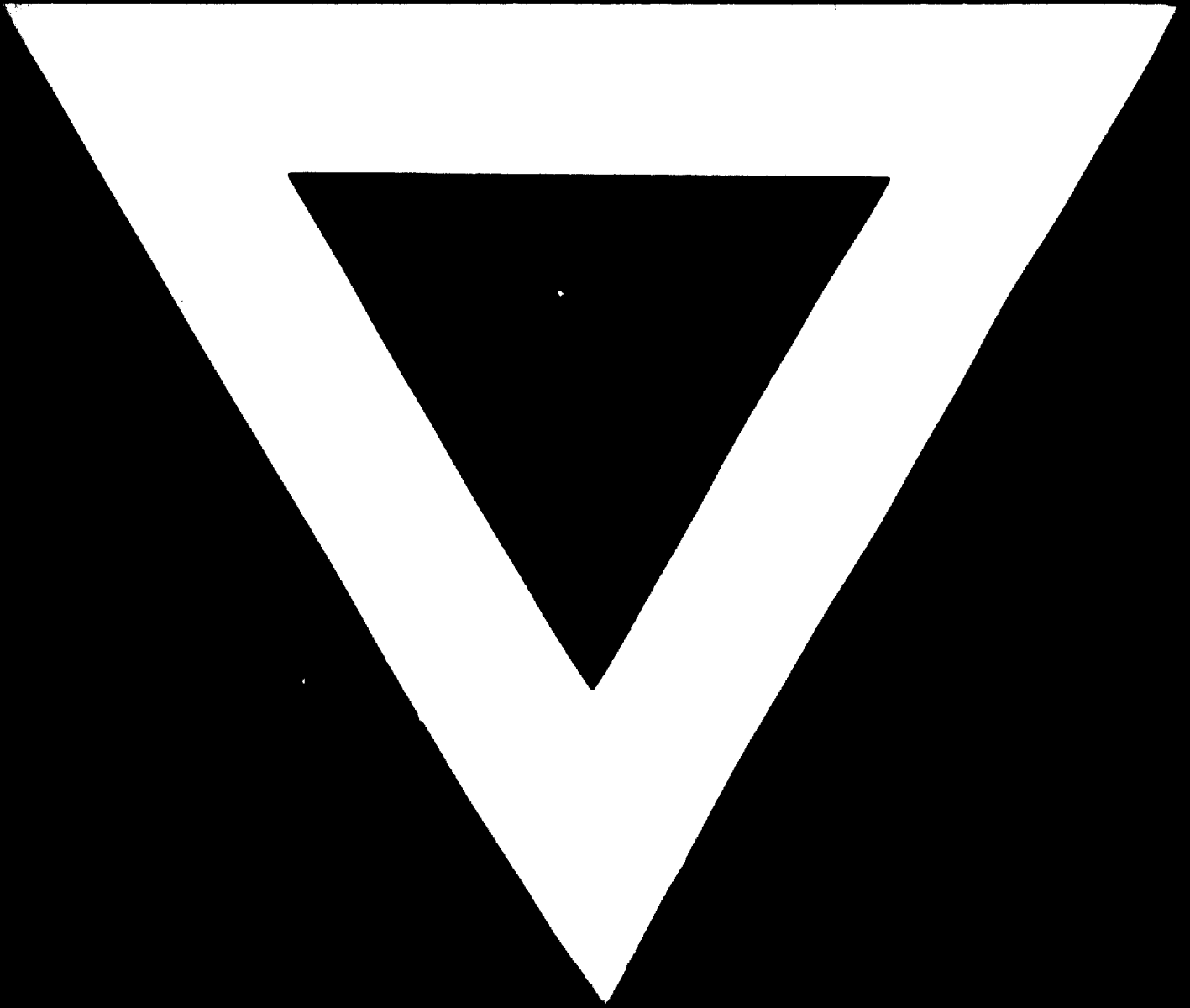
	<u>1963</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1964</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1965</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1966</u> <u>Recorded</u>
<u>Imports c.i.f.</u>	5.97	8.28	9.30	11.11
Food, beverages, tobac.	0.99	1.04	1.21	1.43
Petroleum products	0.64	0.60	0.52	0.86
Raw materials	0.09	0.15	0.13	0.25
Semi-processed prod.	0.25	0.44	0.36	0.43
Manufactured goods	3.88	5.94	7.04	8.14
-for private consumption	(1.15)	(1.48)	(1.52)	(1.60)
-for industry	(2.67)	(4.34)	(5.31)	(6.35)
-for agriculture	(0.06)	(0.12)	(0.21)	(0.19)
Others	0.12	0.11	0.04	-

3) VALUE OF EXPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS:(in billion CFA francs)

	<u>1963</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1964</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1965</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>1966</u> <u>Recorded</u>
<u>Exports, f.o.b.</u>	<u>5.34</u>	<u>5.26</u>	<u>6.25</u>	<u>8.57</u>
Groundnuts, shelled	3.38	3.29	3.06	5.33
Groundnut oil	0.21	0.41	0.28	0.66
Groundnut cakes	0.04	0.12	0.09	0.21
Cotton	0.14	0.27	0.26	0.50
Livestock on the hoof	0.99	0.60	1.02	0.94
Hides and skins	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.12
Dried and salted fish	0.07	0.03	0.01	
Beans, sorghum, millet	0.14	0.03	0.31	0.13
Tin ore
Others	0.28	0.39	1.07	0.68

General Note: Estimates of total exports and imports vary; the above estimate for exports in 1964 is lower than that of the national accounts (CFAF 10.0 billion). The inclusion of trading services in the latter cannot account alone for the difference.





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