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DO 1887

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**Distr.
LIMITED**

**ID/WG.66/49
4 November 1970**

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Second African Meeting for the Promotion of
Specific Industrial Projects in African Countries
Nairobi, Kenya, 30 November-4 December 1970**

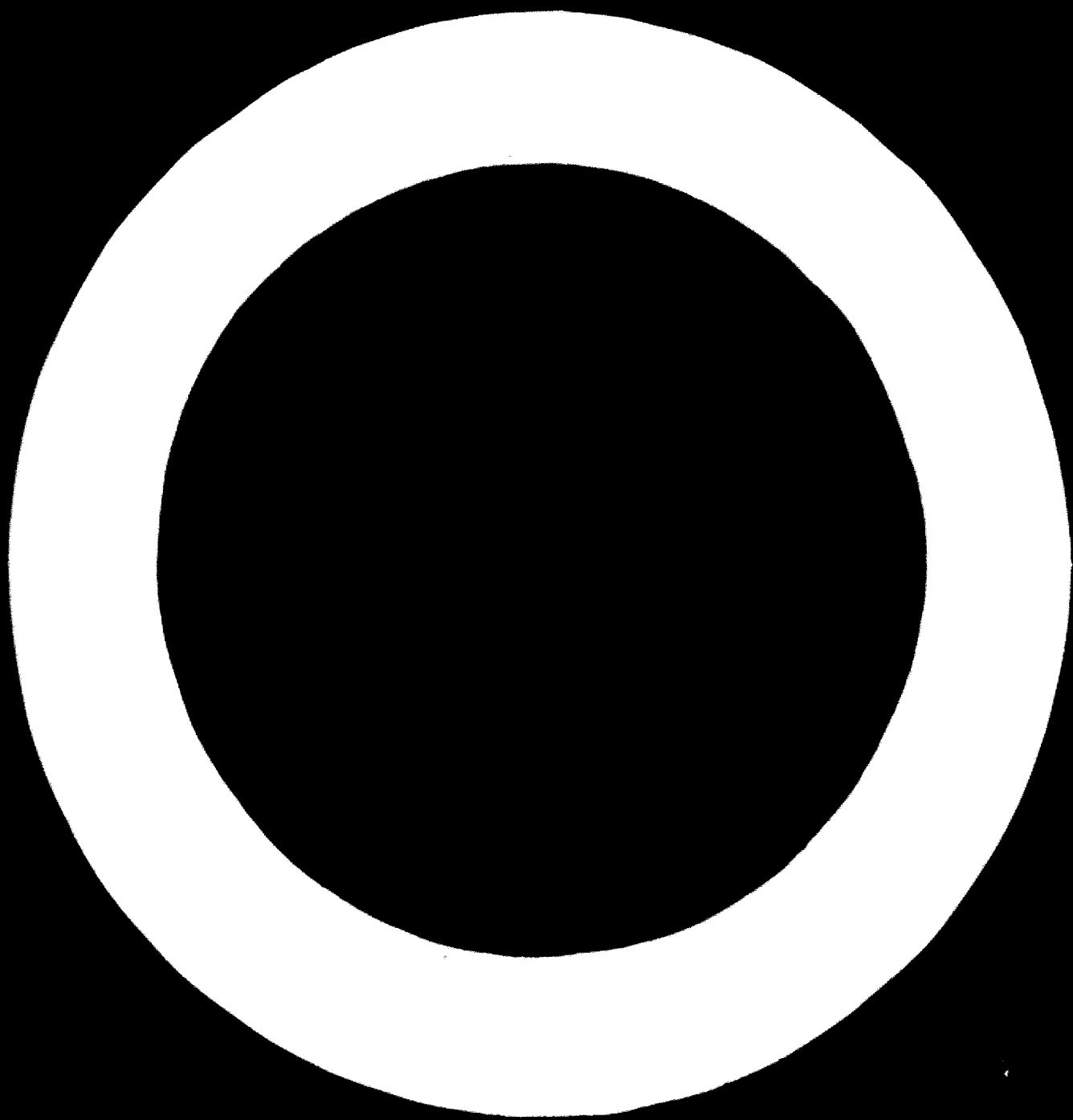
COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET

BOTSWANA

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id.70-6087

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BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1. Geography(a) Area 231,805 Sq. miles of which:

State lands	104,720 Sq. miles
Tribal lands	117,403 "
Freehold areas	9,682 "
11,805 Sq. miles are inland water	

(b) Situation, climate, physical features, etc.

Botswana has Rhodesia on the North-East, South-West Africa on the West and North and South Africa on the South. Botswana has also a common frontier with Zambia in the extreme North. It is a landlocked country. The country is a plateau, 3,300 feet with some points rising to 5,000 feet. The East is the most fertile land while the South-West is the Kalahari desert; the centre and West are also desert while the North-East is marshland. The North enjoys tropical climate and the rest has sub-tropical climate with temperatures varying from altitude and latitude. From August there is a seasonal dry wind blowing from the Atlantic. October to April is the rainy season but rain is insufficient and as such large areas remain dry and arid. The North is covered with dense bush and in the Kalahari the only vegetation is thorny trees. The East is the most fertile region.

(c) Population

629,000 (in 1969), with about 8,000 non-Africans half Europeans and half-mixed race. There are also about 500 Asians.

Rate of growth: 3 % per annum

Density: 3 persons per Sq. mile. 80% live in the East; the rest of the population is divided between the North and the West (plateau of Chansi).

The main ethnic groups are: Bushmen, Bamangwato, Bangwaketse, Bokwena, Batawana, Bakgatla, Bamatate, Barolong and Botlokwa. Most of the population follow ancestral religions. There are about 43,000 Catholics.

(d) Languages

English is the official language and Tswana is the main vernacular. The Bushmen speak their own language.

(e) Main commercial centres

Gaborone, the capital, (population 12,000)
Serowe (population 34,182), Kanye (population 34,045),
Molepolole (population 29,625), Tlokweng (population 17,700),
Mahalapye (population 13,100), Lobetsi (population 8,000),
Francistown (population 10,000)

(f) Transport

- (i) Road. Road transport is inadequate. There are two main roads: (a) the North to South road connecting Ramaquabane in the Rhodesian border to Hamattabane in the South African border; (b) Francistown-Kaun road. In addition, there are about 2,100 miles of district roads.
- (ii) Railway. The only railway traverses the country in the East from South Africa to Rhodesia. It is owned and operated by the Rhodesia Railways.
- (iii) Water. There is a barge operated by the South African Government for the transportation of government stores on River Chobe. There is also a privately operated barge service across the Zambezi between Kasane in Botswana and Zambia.
- (iv) Air. The Botswana National Airways has services to Lusaka and Johannesburg in addition to its internal services. The South African Airways also operates a service between Francistown, Gaborone and Johannesburg.

2. Government

There is a parliament of 31 elected members and 4 specially elected members and a president. The legislative powers are in the hands of parliament. The President is head of state and government and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. He is elected by parliament for a period of five years and all executive powers are vested in him. The judiciary is separate from parliament and government. The President of the Supreme Court is appointed by the head of State. The Court of Appeal is the highest appeal tribunal. There are four political parties.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

(1) Economic indicators

(a) National currency. The Rand is the national currency

Rand 1 = US \$ 1.40
US \$ 1 = R. 0.714

(b) Gross National Product at market price (1966): R. 39.3 million

GNP Per capital (1966) = R. 68 (\$ 95)

Gross Domestic Product at factor cost (1966): R. 38.6 million

(2) Industrial origin of GDP at current factor cost (in thousands of Rand)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>%</u>
Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing	16,738	51.2	16,147	45.1	18,143	47.0
Mining and quarrying	282	0.9	196	0.5	40	0.1
Manufacturing	2,725	8.3	3,758	10.5	2,909	7.5
Construction	1,010	3.1	2,063	5.8	2,087	5.4
Electricity, gas and water, and sanitary services	166	0.5	224	0.6	288	0.7
Transport, storage and communications	2,309	7.0	2,698	7.5	2,971	7.7
Wholesale and retail trade	3,650	11.2	4,133	11.5	4,818	12.5
Banking, insurance and real estate	168	0.5	191	0.5	214	0.6
Ownership of dwellings	1,765	5.4	1,911	5.3	2,145	5.5
Public administration and defence	1,272	3.9	1,499	4.2	1,635	4.2
Services	<u>2,637</u>	8.1	<u>3,021</u>	8.4	<u>3,349</u>	8.7
Total GDP at factor cost	32,722		35,841		38,599	

Source: Central Statistics Office: National Accounts 1964-66

3. Main industries

Mining, livestock rearing; manufacturing industries include: 2 clothing factories, tannery, 1 crushed bone factory, food processing such as: slaughter house, meat factory, maize mill, creamery and a brewery.

4. Natural resources

Some forestry, fisheries in rivers, mineral deposits such as: gold, asbestos, manganese, copper-zinc, diamonds, and coal pastures.

5. Labour force

The population is 629,000 of whom 28,148 are wage-earners in various organisations. 200,000 people were estimated in 1969 as being self-employed or employed in agriculture. There is a dearth of qualified people which will have to be met from outside for some time to come.

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The National Development Plan 1968-73 is a public sector plan. For the first three years, the plan envisages expenditure of R. 46.1 million, of which 58% will be for the Shashe copper-zinc complex. The plan assumes a rate of growth of 6% per annum. The expenditure is broken down as follows in millions of Rands.

		<u>%</u>
Physical infrastructure	31.1	67.4
Water resources	9.1	19.7
Education	2.0	4.3
Agriculture and livestock	1.4	3.0
Commerce and industry	0.9	2.0
Other	1.6	3.4
Of which Shashi complex will take	26.7	57.9

Source: National Development Plan 1968-73.

D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

Foreign trade balance (million rands)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Exports	8.4	10.2	10.8	9.2	11.7
Imports	<u>9.3</u>	<u>16.6</u>	<u>18.8</u>	<u>22.4</u>	<u>23.2</u>
Trade deficit	<u>-0.9</u>	<u>-6.4</u>	<u>-8.0</u>	<u>-13.2</u>	<u>-11.5</u>

Source: Statistical Abstracts 1966, 1967 and 1968.

Main Imports (million rands)

	<u>1964*</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Foodstuffs and livestock		4.0	5.8	5.6	5.8
Beverages and tobacco		1.1	1.6	1.6	1.7
Chemicals, fuels and lubricants		2.1	2.5	3.3	3.6
Manufactured goods, building materials and machinery		7.8	6.8	10.7	11.2
Other		<u>1.6</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>0.9</u>
	<u>9.3</u>	<u>16.6</u>	<u>18.8</u>	<u>22.4</u>	<u>23.2</u>

* Information on imports for 1964 does not allow classification on the same basis as for the later years.

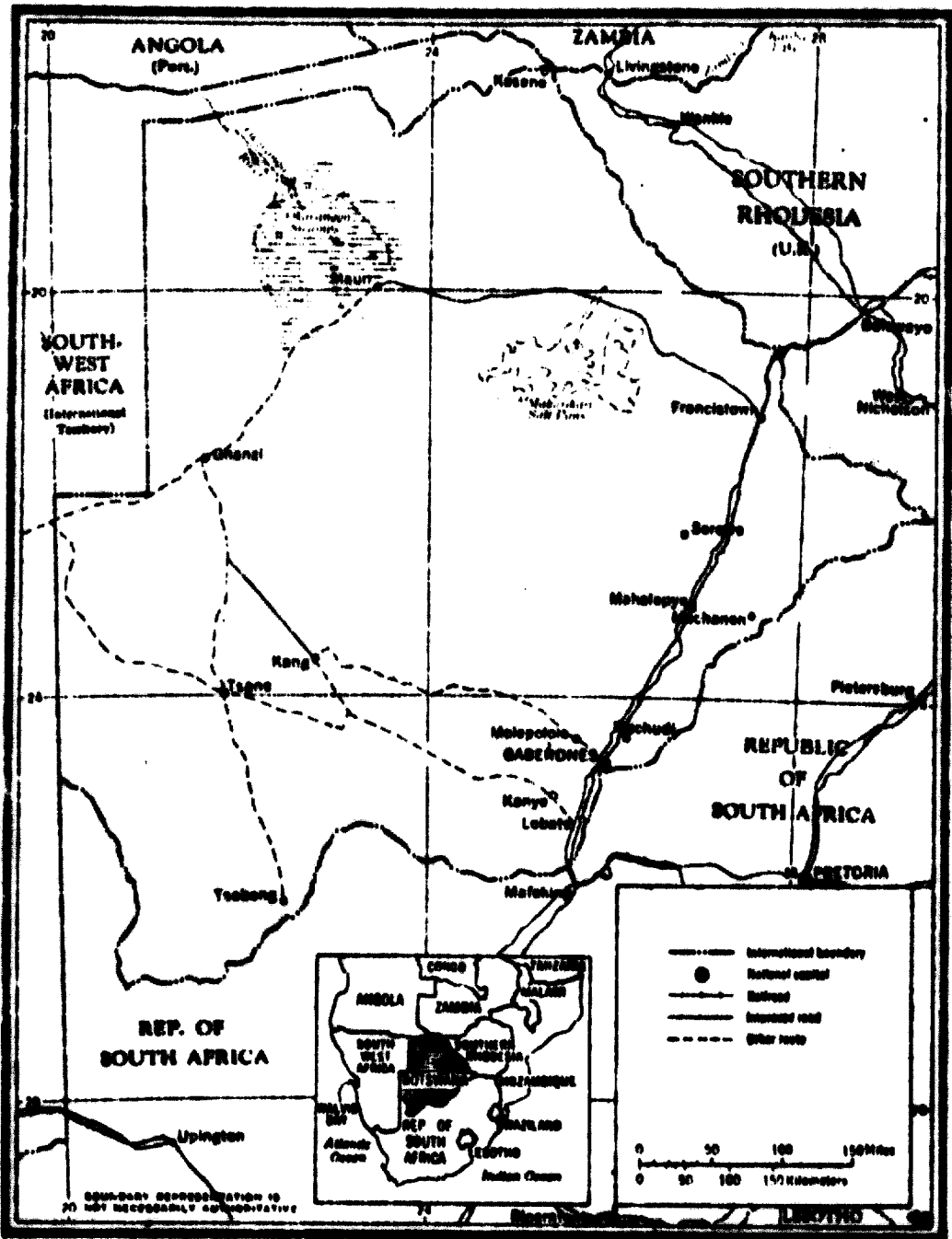
Source: Statistical Abstracts 1966, 1967 and 1968.

Main exports (million rands)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Livestock and livestock products	7.7	9.5	10.4	8.5	n.a.
Minerals	0.3	0.2	0.1	-	0.2
Other	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>n.a.</u>
Total	<u>8.4</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>10.8</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>11.7</u>

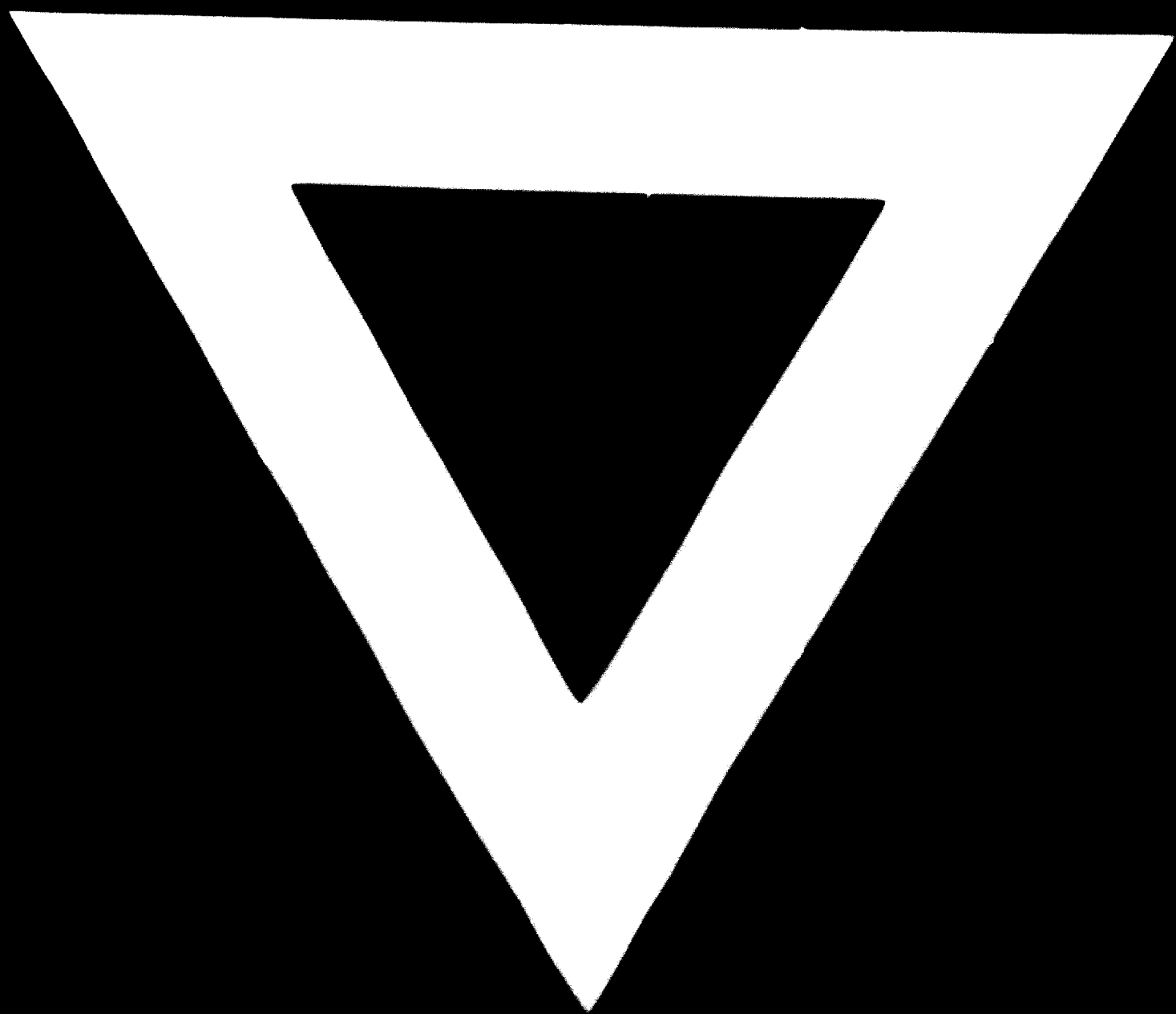
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