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13 April 1982

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

(FOUO No. 768)



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

DEFICIENCY OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES ASCRIBED TO COLONIAL DISMEMBERING

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1099, 27 Jan 82 p 31

[Article by Siradiou Diallo: "Did the Whites Leave Too Soon?"]

[Text] Commenting on the return to power of Flight Lieutenant Rawlings in Ghana on 31 December 1981, the British DAILY TELEGRAPH has asked the question whether, after all, decolonization was not premature. Of course, this should be understood to mean that the whites should have stayed in Africa longer to teach Africans to govern themselves....

This belief is rather common, and not only in colonialist circles, but even among the Africans. It derives from the worsening economic and social situation that most of our independent states are facing. Indeed, under colonial empires the various economies, though less prosperous, allowed the people to feed themselves, while also serving as a basis for the implementation of a number of operations related to the establishment of infrastructures. Twenty years after the advent of independence, most of these countries cannot feed themselves, to such an extent that one may well ask if, rather than call them developing countries, one should not actually place squarely on them the appellation of failing countries! The few hastily established industries seldom work at full capacity, while agriculture is in decline.

This situation is, first of all, due to the fact that the governments have been unable to correctly restructure the economies inherited from the colonial era, since they were founded on the export of cash crops involving, naturally, the importation of manufactured products. Ever since that time, not only has it been impossible to set them up again--that is, to base development on vital needs (food crops), but the purchasing power represented by the industrial crops themselves has been increasingly declining. Under the twin blows of the deterioration of the terms of exchange and world inflation, African countries are becoming poorer year by year.

Consequently, if it is true that there are instances where the inefficiency of those in power is partly to blame for Africa's difficult situation, one is duty-bound to acknowledge that most of the responsibility should be ascribed to the former colonial powers, both because of the developmental models they had imposed on us in years past and also because of the ignoble speculation which they practice today on the price of our raw materials: coffee, coca, copper, bauxite,

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manganese, phosphates, etc. The question, therefore, is not whether the decolonization of Africa was, or was not, premature. But rather why, after having been compelled to put an end to the colonial pact, Western countries continue to exploit our continent in other ways.

Are they seeking new justifications to recolonize the third-world countries? So much contempt, so many injustices and such exploitation, alas, can only be explained through our own weakness. How could it be otherwise, considering that Europe, by dismembering Africa in the 19th century, prevented it (for a long time) to acquire strong states? Precisely because the African empires were murdered before completing their gestation.

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CHAD

PESSIMISM IN NJAMENA SAID TO CONTINUE

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 205

[Text] Radio Tripoli announced on 14 January that the city of Faya-Largeau, in the prefecture of BET (Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti), had fallen to Hissein Habre's FAN (Northern Armed Forces). This news was confirmed on 18 January in Yaounde by a "reliable source" of the AFP.

The FAN has thus chosen not to attack Ati, where soldiers of the inter-African force are stationed, and rather than move toward Njamena, to instead return to the north of Chad, from which that guerrilla force initially set out and, with Libyan military aid, has managed to establish men from Tibesti in Njamena, at the cost of a continual struggle for power.

The seizure of Faya by Hissein Habre's forces is significant in that it cuts President Goukouni off from his ethnic base, the "Toubous" or the Teda Tu of Tibesti. Hissein Habre, himself a Teda of the plains, a member of the Anakaza group, is "at home" in Faya, as are a number of his followers.

This new aspect of the Chadian political situation has ended the government euphoria which followed President Goukouni's visit to Khartoum (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 15 January 1981, p 134). It was in fact believed that the result of that visit included the Sudan's "total support" for Chad's current government, with Khartoum pledging, according to a joint communique of 12 January, not to provide any aid to "any force acting against the legitimate government of Chad, in particular the Northern Armed Forces."

Both parties had also decided to immediately restore diplomatic relations between Njamena and Khartoum, as well as to resume flights of the Sudanese Air Company between the two capitals and to reopen the Chadian-Sudanese school in Njamena. Chad also requested that the Sudan use its good offices for national reconciliation and some observers anticipated a reconciliation between Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei.

Is such a reconciliation still possible? And is the FAN seeking only to negotiate with the greatest number of winning cards in its hands? This is not inconceivable, but there is still pessimism in Njamena, particularly as a result of the stagnation of the economic reconstruction process, the continuing rivalry between the various factions comprising the government and the government's decision to reduce the salaries of civil servants by one-half. The UN High Commission for Refugees announced on 14 January that 15,000 Chadian refugees in Cameroon have refused to be repatriated and are being moved to the Poli area. This is not a good sign either.

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CHAD

COT ON FRENCH OBJECTIVES

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 pp 205-206

[Text] The French minister for cooperation and development, Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, told the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly in Paris on 14 January that France can have only limited goals in Chad.

According to a communique published by the commission on the following day, the main features of French policy, as Mr Cot reiterated, are "absolute support for the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, no military intervention, approval of any effort to achieve a political solution and continued civilian cooperation" with the Njamena government.

The minister pointed out that France is also trying to make its principal EEC partners and the United States aware of the problems of the Chadian people.

The communique added that Mr Cot had noted that the Chadian situation is characterized by three main features: the withdrawal of Libyan troops, the installation of the inter-African force and the problems of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) in establishing its authority throughout the country.

Mr Cot added that the ambiguity concerning the role of the inter-African force has not been completely eliminated, since the OAU considers it merely a police force whereas the GUNT wants it to be a spearhead against Hissein Habre's troops.

Mr Cot recalled that France helped to establish this inter-African force through the total absorption of the Senegalese contingent (materiel, transportation, logistic support), by supplying munitions to the Nigerian contingent and by rotating means of transportation for the benefit of the Zairian contingent.

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ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY TAKE TOWN--Rome, 22 Mar (REUTERS)--Guerrillas fighting for the independence of Ethiopia's Tigray Province have killed 600 government troops and taken the Wollo Province town of Battie, the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front [TPLF] said here today. A communique from the TPLF's foreign relations bureau said its forces seized the town, which lies on the Addis Ababa-Aseb highway, after heavy fighting on March 19. The highway to the coastal town from the capital was still blocked, the TPLF said, adding that it captured 36 prisoners, 33 trucks and large quantities of arms and munitions. [Text] [JN221912 London REUTER in English 1850 GMT 22 Mar 82]

GUERRILLAS AMBUSH ARMY CONVOY--Khartoum, 19 Mar (REUTERS)--Guerrillas fighting for the independence of Ethiopia's northern province of Tigray said today they had killed or wounded 300 Ethiopian soldiers in a battle on Wednesday. A spokesman for the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) here said guerrillas ambushed a government supply convoy as it was travelling to Addis Ababa from the Eritrean port of Assab. The convoy, carrying large stocks of fuel, grain and cooking oil, was hit 50 km (30 miles) east of Dessie, the capital of Wollo Province, and some 200 km (130 miles) south of Tigre, said spokesman Yemani Kidane. The TPLF captured 19 government trucks, destroyed 14 others and captured over 300 tonnes of grain, 6,000 gallons of cooking oil, and large quantities of arms and ammunition, he said. The Afar people of Wollo Province helped by acting as guides to the guerrillas, he said. [Text] [JN192201 London REUTER in English 2159 GMT 19 Mar 82]

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GABON

SMIG INCREASE, CABINET DECISIONS ANNOUNCED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 206

[Text] The Gabonese Council of Ministers met for the first time this year in Libreville on 15 January with President Bongo presiding.

In an address delivered during the meeting, Mr Bongo referred to his year-end message and to the importance of the resolutions of the PDG (Gabonese Democratic Party) Special Congress in 1979, while also announcing that "concerned with promoting the welfare of Gabonese and improving their living conditions, the chief of state and the government have decided to increase wages as of 1 January 1982. Thus the inter-occupational guaranteed minimum wage (SMIG) is raised from 30,000 to 35,000 CFA francs. Compensation for national service is also raised from 10,000 to 15,000 CFA francs."

The chief of state also expressed his concern over people not providing proof of gainful, regular employment. In its report of 15 January, the daily L'UNION stated that a decree has therefore been issued, requiring anyone free of educational obligations to provide proof of gainful employment. A monthly check will therefore be made throughout the country by local and national police to determine the number, identity and addresses of unemployed persons and to subsequently orient them toward economic sectors needing their services.

The council approved the draft law and proposed guidelines concerning water and forest resources, which adapts and updates the decree of 20 May 1946 and its principal implementing regulations, which still constitute Gabon's Forestry Code.

With regard to housing, which the government intends to promote, the minister of state for public domain announced that the Gabon Land Bank (CREFOGA) will resume operations. Beginning 1 March, CREFOGA will grant loans to Gabonese wishing to purchase property for the first time and whose monthly income is between 150,000 and 600,000 CFA francs.

The council recalled that citizens whose monthly income is between 40,000 and 80,000 francs are eligible for the Self-Construction Assistance Program, which can provide for a portion of the work of building a house, up to the maximum amount of 2.5 million CFA francs.

Persons whose monthly incomes are between 80,000 and 150,000 CFA francs can purchase low-cost housing built by the National Building Society (SNI) through the lease-purchase program.

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GABON

OCTRA INCREASES RATES

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 206

[Text] The board of directors of the Trans-Gabonese Railroad Office (OCTRA) met in Owendo on 9 January with Mr Emmanuel Mefane presiding.

The question of rates, in particular, was discussed. The directors agreed that it was necessary to increase passenger and freight rates by 15 percent, instead of by 30 percent, as of 1 February 1982. First-class passengers on the Owendo-Ntoum line will now pay about 1,230 CFA francs instead of 1,075 francs.

With regard to timber shipments, the OCTRA board of directors pointed out that the new rates will be applicable only when the railroad will be operating beyond PK [point kilometrique: kilometer point] 200. The prices set in January 1981 shall be maintained until then.

The directors also granted the office free rein in setting leasing rates for land within railroad territory. A rate of 480 to 900 francs per square meter is therefore proposed, depending on the transaction concluded between the office and the company wishing to establish itself along the railroad.

The 1982 operating budget was also set at 3.8 billion CFA francs (+15 percent over 1981); the government's subsidy will be 2.6 billion francs (+4 percent over 1981).

The board of directors noted that six General Electric switch engines were put into service in 1981. Average monthly passenger revenues rose from 14.1 million CFA francs in 1980 to 19.3 million in 1981 for a cumulative total of 11 months, representing 85,475 passengers or a monthly average of 7,770 passengers.

The railroad will reach Booue (PK 341) by December 1982, but it will be necessary to wait 6 months after reaching Booue before freight shipments can be made. However, the Owendo-Ayem line will be open to freight traffic by September 1982.

It is also reported that the loading platform between the Franceville station and the Lebombi river (20 km) is entirely finished. Studies planned for 1982 concern the conclusion of contracts for completing the second section in early 1982 and the call for bids on pipes for the Booue-Franceville section.

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GABON

BRIEFS

ANGOLAN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS--The first economic talks between Gabon and Angola ended on 15 January in Libreville with the establishment of cooperation agreements and a legal framework for supervising the implementation of those agreements. The talks were held in the Gabonese capital from 12 to 15 January and were conducted by Mrs Honorine Dossou Naki, Gabonese secretary of state for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Mr Paolino Pinto Joao, Angolan secretary of state for cooperation. According to the final communique, the proceedings took place "in an atmosphere of understanding" and both sides initialed a general cooperation agreement and two other agreements on commercial and merchant marine affairs. These agreements will be signed in Angola by June 1982. Internationally, Gabon and Angola reaffirmed "their adherence to the principles of sovereignty and nonintervention in the affairs of other nations." They also pledged to continue to provide "their moral and material support to the Namibian people" in their struggle for independence. Concerning the situation in the south of Angola, the communique finally noted that Gabon "expresses its deep concern and requests the racist government of Pretoria to end all aggression."

[Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 206]
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GHANA

BRIEFS

EMBASSIES TO CLOSE--Accra, 30 Mar (REUTER)--Ghana has decided to close several African embassies and open mission in Libya and Cuba, the Ghana News Agency reported today. Quoting Foreign Secretary Obed Asamoah, the agency said 25 ambassadors named by the deposed president would be recalled, and the mission in Kenya downgraded to consular status. The embassies to be closed included those in Senegal, Zaire, Zambia, Uganda, Mali and Egypt. The fate of the missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia were still being considered, the agency quoted Dr Asamoah as saying. Ten of 43 existing embassies would be closed in all, in a drive to reduce government expenditure. [Excerpts] [AB301836 London REUTER in English 1732 GMT 30 Mar 82]

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IVORY COAST

PROBLEM OF SUCCESSOR TO HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY DISCUSSED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Jan 82 pp 20-22

[Article by Siradiou Diallo: "The Empty Chair"]

[Text] The fever pitch continues to rise among Ivorian politicians. Despite the wave of renewal following the Seventh Congress of the PDCI (Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast) and confirmed by the legislative elections of October and November 1980, temperatures have not returned to normal; quite the contrary. As we have seen at recent meetings of the National Council (November 1981), the people are asking questions, growing impatient and more and more irritated with every passing day. They cannot resign themselves to seeing the chair of the constitutional successor to the chief of state remaining empty, even for an instant, much less 14 months!

It is true that this is the first time since independence that the Ivory Coast has experienced such a constitutional vacuum. The constitution adopted in 1960 provided (in Article 11) that if the Office of President should be vacated by the death, resignation or absolute incapacitation of the chief of state, then his duties would be temporarily entrusted to a person chosen from within the National Assembly by its president. Consequently, the latter is invested with a power that seems not only excessive, but inherently uncertain. The power to appoint, even temporarily, the successor to the chief of state was judged too ambiguous and Article 11 was therefore modified.

By virtue of the law of 31 May 1975, the president of the National Assembly became, in the case of a vacancy in the Office of President, "the legal president of the republic, with all the rank, powers and prerogatives attached to the office." The text, which had the advantage of clarity, removed all ambiguities regarding the succession. However, in politics, clarity is not necessarily a synonym for agreement! By naming the successor *intuitu personae* and presenting him as the future president of the republic, he was thereby designated as the sacrificial lamb. In addition to his duties as president of the National Assembly and secretary general of the PDCI, Philippe Yace, who held the office at the time, was overnight viewed as the successor to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, a formidable position that immediately turned him into a target around whom all discontent crystallized. At any rate, depending on whether one loved or hated the No 2 man, one deputy at the time recalls that "one assumed the attitude needed to support, exalt or fight him." The result was

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a totally vitiated atmosphere. Accusations, intrigues and slander flourished to such a point that all low blows were permitted.

In order to put an end to the clan battle and restore unity and understanding within the party and the government, President Houphouet-Boigny once again had to undertake a revision of the constitution, of the famous Article 11, to be more precise. On 26 November 1980, the National Assembly adopted the following wording: "In case of vacancy of the Office of the President as a result of his death, resignation or absolute incapacitation, as confirmed by the Supreme Court at the request of the government, the vice president becomes the legal president of the republic."

At the same time, Article 9, which provides for the election of the chief of state for 5 years and by direct, universal suffrage, had to be modified. In its new provisions, it now stipulates that "he (the president of the republic) chooses a vice president, who is elected along with him."

Since that time, it has been the status quo. Not only does President Houphouet-Boigny remain stubbornly silent about the name of his successor, but he does not say when or how he intends to designate him. Will he wait for 1985, the date his term ends, to appear with the vice president he names? Will he resign before 1985 in order to appear with his "candidate," as some suggest? Or will he appoint the vice president he wants, without any popular backing, as Richard Nixon did in the United States when he named Gerald Ford to replace the resigning Spiro Agnew? Or as Ford himself did when, at the time of his sudden accession to the Presidency of the United States and making his own choice, he invested Nelson Rockefeller with the office of vice president?

Privately, at least, it is not rare to hear President Houphouet-Boigny refer to American constitutional provisions, unless he is tempted by the Maoist experiment. It will be recalled that the father of the Chinese Revolution gradually gave up the reins of power to the No 2 man he had chosen, while continuing, from his apartments in the Forbidden City, to inspire and guide the political life of his country. Once the vice president is chosen, in one way or another, the Ivorian chief of state may well think about that role as guide and symbol of unity for the Ivorian nation.

What is certain is that Houphouet wants neither a prime minister nor coordinator. He remains viscerally hostile to any idea of a diarchy at the head of state. He believes, in fact, that any mechanism suggesting or, what is worse, organizing shared power is not only monstrous, insofar as it breaks the unity of command, but also dangerous for young nations. He is deeply convinced that authority cannot be divided, even if it can, if need be, be delegated.

The problem is that, given his advanced age (77), the burden becomes overwhelming for the chief of state, who is, as Article 12 of the constitution states, the "exclusive holder of executive power." And, except for the vice president, the constitution provides for no other person in the order of succession. In the United States or France, for example, the mechanism is perfectly set up, and even more graduated. Even in Africa, most of the nations have finally settled the problem constitutionally, in one way or another.

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However, Algeria remained some 15 years without a constitution. If Boumediene had died during that period, no one would have known who was to call together the Revolutionary Council, which had fallen into disuse to boot. Nor would anyone have known who was to succeed him. In Tunisia, there has always been an appointed successor, even if the person has changed four times since independence -- that is, practically once every 5 years. In Morocco, where there is a monarchy, the problem has been settled. In Senegal, Cameroon and many other African countries, clear and stable choices have been made for the succession.

In view of these examples and aware that, since the constitutional revision of 26 November 1980, President Houphouet-Boigny no longer has any successor or real second-in-command or even any scapegoat, officials and intellectuals are worried and restless. They quite rightly fear that in the case of an accident, the Ivory Coast would plunge into the unknown, if not adventure and chaos. But in the 40 years that he has been in the political arena, Felix Houphouet-Boigny has had to meet many challenges. Knowing the concerns and way of thinking of his fellow citizens perfectly well, he refuses to be in any hurry about choosing a successor, for far from wanting to make him a "poisoned offering," he intends, on the contrary, to clear the way for him before stepping down.

The "Old Man" has to be trusted. Provided that he has the time, he will be able to complete his work without any need to touch the foundations or even upset the architecture of the Ivory Coast house.

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IVORY COAST

SITUATION GROWS MORE PRECARIOUS; SUCCESSOR STILL NOT NAMED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Jan 82 pp 22-25

[Article by Abdelaziz Dahmani: "The Wait"]

[Text] Long known as an island of prosperity in the region, the Ivory Coast is now going through a fallow period. Difficulties of every stripe have piled up, month after month, to such a point that the commentaries of certain members of the government and the writings in the official press now sometimes resemble the tracts of a still fictitious opposition germinating within the system. Nearly everywhere, one can feel the discontent and unrest building up, with outbreaks of fever caused by unemployment and banditry.

Nevertheless and with all things being equal, one can still live better today in Abidjan than in Bamako, Ouagadougou, Lome or even Dakar, even if fear, frustration and hope are just as great. Furthermore, the country is standing up well to dangerous temptations, which is not without merit when one realizes that over the past 2 years, the Ivory Coast has simply had half of its export receipts cut off in absolute value (JEUNE AFRIQUE, No 1092), without counting inflation, when it was precisely on the sales of agricultural products that a flourishing industry, prosperous commerce and very dynamic construction sector once developed.

The effects of the world situation were added on to this brutal drop in prices of export commodities, penalizing especially those countries that dared to plunge into the whirlwind of development without many safeguards. This is what the Ivory Coast did, with large oil purchases, waiting to become a producer (planned for 1984).

Nor does this take into account the appetites of the bankers and the unsettled conditions on international financial markets. Many government, semi-public or private companies of all sizes are thrashing about with wrenching money problems, aggravated by the high salaries of expatriate cadres and scourges which President Houphouet-Boigny enumerated in his speech on 7 December 1981 on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of independence: absenteeism, favoritism, professional negligence, misappropriation of funds, poor management, and so on.

These evils have always existed to some extent, but are infinitely more bearable in times of the "fatted calf" and increasingly intolerable for the unemployed

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today, unemployed now numbering some 1,100 to 1,200 among higher-level and management personnel, plus some 5,000 intermediate-level employees and foremen. On 11 December 1981, several hundred of these intermediate-level employees organized a march on the presidency, in downtown Abidjan. They did not stop until they were only 200 meters short of their goal. After bitter negotiations with the mayor of the city, Emmanuel Dioulo, a delegation of 12 unemployed workers was received by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He assured them of his understanding and promised that a National Solidarity Fund would soon be set up, supplied by a 1-percent deduction from all wages for 2 years.

A few days previously, Abidjan nearly experienced a much more dangerous march. In the low-income section of Abobo-Gare, a policeman killed a taxi driver. Spontaneously, thousands of persons, engaged by other excesses, set out for downtown Abidjan, but Abobo-Gare is a distant suburb and the army had time to intervene. "Fortunately, the killing did not take place in Treichville. The consequences would have been much more serious," officials told me.

In Treichville today, the rich neighboring sections (Plateau, Cocody, Deux-Plateaux) are no longer looked upon with the same pride -- or indifference -- as in the past. The many famous glowing towers of over 30 floors in Plateau are deemed at least partially responsible for the poverty of the rest of Abidjan. And whenever anyone speaks about the buildings in Plateau or the houses in Cocody thinks first of all about the 50,000 expatriates, most of them enjoying every luxury while the upper-level national personnel are unemployed and while those below them cannot even make both ends meet. Here again, the problems are more acute and viewed more emotionally than before. People are not afraid to speak openly about two resounding failures: those of the university and Ivorianization.

The university (about 12,000 students in 1981, compared with 13,000 the previous year) has become "a factory turning out unemployed." President Houphouet-Boigny himself does not hesitate to say that the country has "servilely inherited the French educational system," which "does not correspond to the country's real needs." We are very far here from the euphoria manifested in January 1978, at the time of the visit of then French Chief of State Valery Giscard d'Estaing. At that time, in fact, Houphouet-Boigny rendered homage "to the high sense of duty, the admirable development, the fervor, courage and excellent human and professional quality demonstrated by French technical assistants, particularly the teachers."

As for Ivorianization, this governmental campaign, officially begun in 1971, has not attained its goals. Former Minister of Agriculture Charles Donwahi, member of the Political Bureau of the PDCI, president of the party's Ivorianization committee and the association of Ivorian cadres in the private sector, explained at length in the 4 December issue of the government daily FRATERNITE-MATIN. "The problem of our way of thinking still seems to me to be the most important thing," Donwahi writes. "It is not certain that after 10 years, we have yet succeeded in making certain expatriates admit that Ivorianization is first of all a legitimate political act, one of the attributes of our sovereignty. Token Ivorianization still exists because certain enterprises engage in it only in order to provide a response to a political demand."

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But there are other obstacles. For example, having come in principle for a limited stay, certain expatriates later do everything to remain. In the companies, this can result in the creation of needs requiring their presence and the implementation of a tactic aimed at preventing Ivorian management personnel from understanding the operation of the enterprise. In the face of the retirement of certain boards of directors often meeting in Paris or elsewhere, the Ivorians have tried to circumvent the difficulty by acquiring a greater share of the capital. The movement did accelerate, especially in the banking sector (at the government level as well as with respect to private capital), but it has slowed down the past 2 years because of the circumstances.

Undeniably, the Whites have lost a great deal of their magic and the cult that surrounded them is dying, the victim of their own egotism. It is a positive consequence, mingled with concern and disappointment over education and Ivorianization and the desire to conserve the national languages, which have been totally neglected because of the use of French. It remains to be seen which ones to choose out of at least 60 ethnic groups, which are often rivals. It would appear nevertheless that a consensus is emerging in favor of the Dioula, Baoule and Bete.

Another consequences -- this one more dramatic -- of the swing from prosperity to stagnation: a resurgence of banditry and armed attacks. Abidjan (with its suburbs) is beginning to resemble Chicago in the 30's. Security measures have been stepped up. It is no longer a rare sight in the evening to see armed police patrols walking the streets in Indian files in groups of four. Raids, arrests, inspections of suspicious sites have increased in number. And yet, there is a definite lack of security, as well as an escalation of means used in attacks. In particular, more and more weapons are being stolen from police stations.

A year ago, the names of Sirike Konate, known as "Zerbo," an Upper Voltan, Lawson Trusty, "Prince Tony" or "the Aviator," a Togolese, and Issiaka Traore were constantly in Abidjan headlines. The attacks they pulled off with their rings before being arrested now seem old-fashioned. Other bolder gangs have now appeared and have gone after the banks, heretofore off limits, particularly the BIAO (International Bank for West Africa) in Cocody, the SIB (Ivorian Banking Company) in Marcory, and the SGBCI (General Banking Company of the Ivory Coast) in Treichville and Vridi.

The holdups are generally attributed to foreigners, mainly the Upper Voltans, some of whom have been arrested. But for the SIB, one of the authors of the robbery (which involved some 50 million CFA francs) shouted, as he left: "Tell your authorities that we are not Upper Voltans, but Ivorians...unemployed!" He then sprayed the ceiling with a machine-gun burst.

Emotions were even higher when an arms cache (eight cases containing about 40 automatic pistols) was seized "by accident" at the Port-Bouet airport in Abidjan. The cases were reportedly sent from Switzerland in mid-December by a Lebanese who, when he arrived, did not find his accomplices who were to take delivery without inspection. "I have already gotten others through!" he reportedly said upon being arrested.

Precisely who was to have received the weapons? Members of the underworld or other such circles? Ivorian officials are extremely reserved on the subject and hide behind "the investigation underway." They obviously do not wish to add to the reigning malaise, or to the political uneasiness maintained by the ignorance in which Felix Houphouet-Boigny has kept the country regarding his succession. At the age of 76, the "Old Man" remains the main bulwark against any mishaps that might assail the country on the pretext of the crisis it is now going through.

But for the very reason of the difficulties, people are beginning to ask whether Houphouet still has the energy needed to head the nation's affairs alone, as he has always done. He is urged to name a vice president, as the constitution provides, or at least a "coordinator," as suggested by close aides aware of the Old Man's reservations on this delicate problem.

A few days before the now famous statement by dissident Deputy Camille Adam, "Resign and have yourself represented by your appointed vice president!" Houphouet declared that his successor would be named in a will, which declaration was variously interpreted. Consequently, in order to cut short any erroneous interpretation, he said on the day of the closure of the National Council: "Speaking of my will, I have said that this is not a family matter. There is not a single member of my family who has political responsibilities in this country.... I do not want any son, nephew or cousin to enter the political arena to compete against anyone."

He then whispered: "You are speaking about the vice presidency! Do you know how many candidates there are?" Silence in the room. He then resumed: "In the difficult struggle in which we are engaged, I do not want to add any more divisions at this time...." The Old Man even allowed a glimpse of a certain skepticism about the results of the free elections last year because many of those defeated "have not accepted the choice of the ballot boxes."

Felix Houphouet-Boigny's reticence is also explained by the fear of renewed tribalism, even at the highest levels: "There must not be a Baoule president, a Bete president or a Dioula president, but a president of the Ivory Coast." The fact remains that, despite certain rumors, the good health of the chief of state should quiet fears, even if each of his stays in Yamoussoukro, his native village, does feed Radio-Trottoir [Sidewalk Radio]. Some speak of fatigue; others of sickness. At any rate, late in 1981, Houphouet made several trips abroad, particularly to France, on the occasion of the French-African Conference (3-4 November) and Dakar for the CEAO (West African Economic Community), ANAD (Nonaggression and Defense Agreement) and UMOA (West African Monetary Union) summit conferences at the end of November.

Finally, Houphouet missed only one meeting: the Cancun summit conference (22-23 October). But it is said in Abidjan that the illness invoked on that occasion was diplomatic! During preparations, the Ivorian chief of state had learned that his speech was being limited to 10 minutes and that he should not speak of raw materials. Furthermore, there could be no question of discussing the prices of these same raw materials, even though they are one of the underlying reasons for the inequality in international trade, especially between the North and the South.

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On this subject, Houphouet's bitterness grows and he speaks more than ever about the "looting of our raw materials by the West," condemning the "egotism of the rich, who do not care about our situation." This observation he illustrates by the colorful saying, "You do not offer a chair to a frog crouching for the spring."

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MADAGASCAR

PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES CABINET, DISCUSSES ECONOMY

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 pp 210-211

[Text] As President Didier Ratsiraka announced in his important speech of 10 January, in which he explained his "development strategy" (see below), the government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar was considerably reorganized on 15 January, as was the Supreme Revolutionary Council. This reshuffling, the fourth since 1975 and one of the announced measures for rational implementation of the new "strategy," is characterized by the following principal actions:

National Police Colonel Desire Rakotoarijaona, who has been prime minister since 1977, will be retained as such.

Two ministers who are considered "liberals" and who occupy key posts will be dismissed: Mr Rakotovao Razakaboana (Finance and Planning) and Mr Justin Rarivoson (Economy and Commerce). They are respectively replaced by Mr Pascal Rakotomavo, former general manager of the ARO [Insurance, Reinsurance, Omnibranch] insurance company, who has been named minister of finance (Planning will be directly reassigned to the Office of the President of the Republic), and Mr Georges Solofoson, former director of President Ratsiraka's civilian staff, who becomes minister of industry and commerce.

Transportation and Agriculture will be assigned to men close to the president and who are considered "loyal": Mr Joseph Bedo, former general secretary to the president of the republic, will become minister of transportation, food and tourism, replacing Mr Jean Bemananjara, while Mr Nirina Andriamanerasoa, former assistant general manager of ARO, will be appointed minister of agricultural production, fishing, livestock breeding and agrarian reform, replacing Mr Pierre Simon.

Transfers of posts should also be noted: Mr Georges Ruphin, former minister of information and ideological orientation, will become minister of public administration, labor and civil service; he will be replaced by Mr Bruno Rakotomavo, former minister of public works. A military engineer, Maj Victor Ramahatra, will become minister of public works.

Among the six ministers who have not been reassigned to their posts, four will be appointed supreme revolutionary councilors: Messrs Rakotovao Razakaboana, Pierre Simon, Celestin Radio and Georges-Thomas Indrianjafy, respectively the former ministers of finance and planning, rural development and agrarian reform, labor and justice.

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Finally, the departure of Messrs Charles Ravoajanahary, Gilbert Sambson, who has been appointed minister of justice, keeper of the seals, and Robert Koto from the Supreme Revolutionary Council should be noted.

The previous government dated from August 1977 and included the same number of ministers.

The reshuffling of 15 January appears to be a political-technical arrangement required both by the country's current very serious economic problems, of which President Ratsiraka has made no secret in his most recent speeches, and by the upcoming presidential elections in late 1982, for which Mr Didier Ratsiraka, elected president on 27 December 1975, has announced his intention to request a new 7-year term.

The government's socialist choice is obviously not being called into question; much to the contrary, as confirmed by the retention of the present prime minister and the elimination of "liberals," Mr Rakotovo Razakaboana and Mr Rarivoson, who had obtained the confidence of international financial circles, in particular the IMF and World Bank group, at a time when the Malagasy economy needs foreign aid more than ever.

In his New Year's message to the nation, President Didier Ratsiraka discussed the country's economic problems and announced that he would himself soon disclose the measures which he intended to take (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 15 January 1982, p 156). On 10 January, the Malagasy chief of state elaborated on the topics already discussed in two long speeches (one in French and one in Malagasy) delivered to members of the diplomatic and consular corps, the Malagasy Government and the Supreme Revolutionary Council in Ambohitsorohitra Palace. We have excerpted statements from those speeches concerning the "consistent and harmonious overall strategy" which the Revolutionary Government intends to implement.

1) Agricultural Development: "Food self-sufficiency is still the priority of priorities. We must therefore increase productivity in the agricultural sector in order to eliminate food dependency. Such a development is possible only through a radical transformation of social structures in rural areas. And in this area, we need the means of our policy."

2) Industrial Development: "Increasing agricultural productivity requires the use of industrial products (fertilizer, insecticides, equipment, construction and energy). But the installation of the respective industries is also the first stage in establishing the autonomous basis for domestic accumulation (industrializing industry)."

3) Reorganization of Public Finances, the Economy and Government: "To achieve these goals, we must complete the very hard but absolutely necessary effort to stabilize our finances and our economy, without which Madagascar would undergo a ridiculous and absurd disaster, but thanks to which it will see the road to prosperity open for all men and women, as well as the road to a socialist paradise."

President Ratsiraka proposes the following means for achieving these goals.

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a) Concerning the economy, finance and government, an overall macroeconomic model for the Malagasy economy is being prepared with the aid of staffs of national and international experts. The management of public finances is also in the process of being totally computerized (operating and investment budgets, debt monitoring, supervision and control of expenditures ...). An economic model will also be established for better selection of investment projects and for verifying their consistency and profitability.

Finally, government officials will tackle the problem of profound tax reform to prevent budget revenues from becoming too dependent on import taxes.

b) Concerning agricultural and industrial investments in general: "With agriculture as the basis of development and industry as its driving force, we will orient industrialization toward the satisfaction of agricultural development needs."

It is on this basis that investments have been made for the purchase of tractors, the production of farm implements (plows) and spare parts (Toly, Ecam plants ...), the construction of cement plants (Ibity, Amboanio, Soalala) and an electrical steel plant for the production of reinforced concrete in particular.

It is also on this basis that nitrogen (Ze Ren) and vegetable (Zema) fertilizer plants have been built.

Finally, it is on this basis that efforts are being made to achieve energy self-sufficiency: Electric power: Namorona, Andekaleka; unconventional petroleum at Bemolanga (bituminous sandstone), whose exploitation will begin this year; fuel oil at Tsimororo; uranium at Tolagnaro and alcohol plant at Ambilobe; conventional petroleum in the Morondava region with Mobil Oil and in the Sakaraha region with Occidental Oil Company.

c) Concerning agriculture, the main effort is oriented toward satisfying national rice and cooking oil needs. In the case of cooking oil, the palm oil operation at Toamasina and soybean oil (MAMISOA [expansion unknown] at Antsirabe) operations are underway and there is optimism concerning their results.

With regard to rice, whose importation currently accounts for nearly one-half of the trade balance deficit, a major policy for stimulating production and productivity has been launched. It consists mainly of making the most of the important existing potential in this area. Aid priority should therefore be given to the farming sector, which is the basis of this production, whether it is large farms managed by development companies or other areas under government supervision (state farms, OMIPRA [Agricultural Production Military Operation], cooperatives).

Such an agricultural policy implies a revitalization of basic resources (organizations for training and popularization) and the achievement of better organization at the national level for better coordination of the various programs.

An initial priority phase for implementing this policy has already begun, which consists of rectifying the situation of development companies. A study is now being conducted to obtain a detailed diagnosis of their internal situation and to analyze their place in their overall environment, in order to lay out reorganization programs

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and to revive those enterprises. A maximum period of 6 months has been set for doing so and this operation is already underway with the aid of the Bache Company, the World Bank and national technicians (Lake Alaotra, Samangoky, etc.).

It is also known that German cooperation is financing the measures for the recovery and intensification of the Marovoay farm, and for making it more profitable, following the FIFABE [expansion unknown] improvement.

A second priority is naturally the expansion or improvement of new arable areas by OMIPRA, state farms and cooperatives.

Finally, applied research agencies in agriculture will be reassigned to the Ministry of Rural Development.

To implement this policy, President Ratsiraka has announced: --a government reshuffling for better cohesion and better efficiency; --his intention to request a new 7-year term at the end of his present term in office; --the floating of a large national loan (whose details will be specified later) to reduce public spending (FNDE [National Development and Equipment Fund]) and subsidies, to reduce the total amount of money in circulation and to finance the accelerated development of rice production to halt the heavy drain of foreign exchange caused by the importation of approximately 200,000 tons of rice annually.

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MAURITIUS

MSIRI EXPERIMENT BACKED BY BRITISH

Drip Irrigation Study

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 31 Jan 82 p 1

[Article: "Drip Irrigation Study Will Benefit From British Aid"]

[Text] The Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI), which had requested British assistance in setting up a comprehensive study project concerning drip irrigation in the sugarcane fields, has obtained highly interested support from the British Institute of Hydrology.

As a matter of fact, the latter has gotten the go-ahead from the British government to set up a comprehensive study. According to a press release issued yesterday the the British high commission, the project, which will require 200,000 pounds (4 million repees) will be financed by British technical cooperation funds.

According to the high commission's press release, however Great Britain will put at MSIRI's disposal an agricultural expert specializing in irrigation research. The expert will work in conjunction with the institute for a 3 to 5 year period in order to study the various aspects of irrigation and its effects on the harvest.

In addition to the scientist's services, the British Government will lend the entire experience of the British Institute of Hydrology, including equipment for irrigation programming and analyses of the data of computer studies.

Some of the latest equipment of the British Institute of Hydrology, such as the neutron sound for detecting the water content of the soil and the automatic scanning devices for microclimate data, will be utilized in Mauritius during the execution of the project.

Two scientists of the Institute of Hydrology (Bell and Batchlor) are expected in Mauritius today for preliminary discussions with MSIRI concerning the project. MSIRI has set up an entire program of visits to sugar plants and irrigation projects.

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J. Goldson, the natural resources advisor to the Office of the British Overseas Development Administration in Nairobi, will accompany the two scientists and will visit other projects in the country which have received British aid.

Drip Irrigation Results

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 4 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[Article: "Average 50 Percent Increase in Tonnage in Medina Thanks to Drip System"]

[Text] An experiment performed in Medina on a 40 acre area planted in cane using the Agriplas drip system yielded results considered very satisfactory for the 1981 sugar campaign. Roger Fayd'herbe & Co, Ltd officials, who represent Agriplas (Pty) Ltd in Mauritius, told L'EXPRESS that the tonnage of cane harvested per acre had increased by an average of 50 percent, up from 33 tons to 49.

As is known, there has been much talk about drip irrigation in Mauritius over the past few years, and several experiments have been attempted, based on different systems, but as far as the Agriplas system is concerned, only the Medina experiment, instituted in 1979, was set up with truly modern standards.

Since drip irrigation appears to be assuming prime importance in the development of agriculture and of sugar production in particular, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute furthermore solicited (and obtained) assistance from the British Institute of Hydrology (see Sunday's L'EXPRESS) in order for a careful study spread over a 3 to 5 year period to be done in this field.

In another connection, it is interesting to note that in a recently published interview (L'EXPRESS, 21 January 82) Herve Koenig, the new director and president of the Mauritius Sugar Producers' Association, expressed the opinion that drip irrigation will result in increasing production and that if this growth were about 50 percent, that would represent an appreciable gain.

This increase is precisely what has been achieved in Medina, and the Roger Fayd'herbe officials have disclosed to L'EXPRESS that three new plans for sugar businesses (20, 40 and 90 acres respectively) are presently under study.

The Roger Fayd'herbe firm has been representing Agriplas (Pty) Ltd in Mauritius for 8 years. This system was initially set up in Israel, before being Americanized.

As with most systems, the water passes through a control station equipped principally with filters and a small computer which makes daily or weekly programming of irrigation possible. Fertilizers, and in certain cases a herbicide are also supplied to the main pipes conveying the water to the fields to be irrigated.

These main pipes, as well as the lateral pipes, are all made of PVC--which makes them particularly strong--while the smallest pipes crossing the fields (the dripper lines) are polyethylene.

These small pipes, which are generally placed between 6 and 10 inches under the ground's surface, are equipped with very solid emitters at the rate of 1 per meter. These emit exactly the amount of water programmed, thus making possible the most efficient irrigation with a minimum of the precious (and costly) liquid.

Before the Medina project, Agriplas had equipped several other smaller experiments, not exceeding 15 acres, for MSIRI, St Antoine, Mon Desert Mon Tresor, Case Noyale and Bel Ombre, among others, but all these projects had to cope with major drawbacks, such as the necessity of laying the pipes on the surface or that of connecting them over old installations.

The lands chosen in Medina for the experiment were not the best. This fact gives the 50 percent increase in yield its full significance. An Agriplas technician who recently came to determine the results of the Mauritian experiments on site said he was otherwise satisfied with these results.

The injection of fertilizers in small, continuous doses also makes possible maximum yield and savings in this field as well. If herbicide is used, it makes a zone immediately next to the emitter sterile; this prevents any roots from growing across and obstructing it. It should also be stressed that depending on the space between two rows of canes, a cover crop is possible with the addition of a surface pipe.

For the major projects, the preliminary studies are performed by local technicians, and plans are proposed to Agriplas' South African agents.

In order to avoid the problems of financing; new projects (the initial cost is proving quite high), the Roger Fayd'herbe firm has also made arrangements to set up a financing system spread over periods varying between 2 and 5 years of credit, at relatively low interest rates.

Even though the Agriplas system was still at the experimental stage in Mauritius and even though very encouraging results are only now being obtained, the system had already proved itself, especially in Hawaii, Australia and South Africa.

Drip irrigation has the following advantages, among others: substantial savings in use of available water; reduction in electrical energy consumption; reduction of labor employed; better distribution of fertilizers and savings in fertilizers; the virtual disappearance of weeds; and, of course, increased production.

We note, finally, that the Agriplas system could be adapted to individual needs--orchards, kitchen gardens, and other agricultural activities. Pipes and other equipment are available for that purpose with money, and the investments involved are quite low. One-thirtieth of the projects have been

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carried out at this level and as many more look as though they will be carried out.

Advances to Sugar Producers

On Wednesday 10 February 1982 the Sugar Association will give a new advance to sugar producers on sugar from the 1981 harvest on the following basis:

Category of Producers Producing for Export	Advance Per Metric Ton Rupees
0 - 20 tons	250
20 - 75 tons	175
75 - 1,000 tons	160
1,000-3,000 tons	125
More than 3,000 Manufacturers and manufacturers/planters	60

This advance is granted after taking into account differential payments made by the association for each category of producer

1. For the export tax
2. To MSIRI
3. To SIFB [expansion unknown]

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NIGER

BRIEFS

THIRTEEN CCCE-FINANCED PROJECTS--The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation (CCCE) granted 13.745 billion CFA francs to Niger in 1981 to finance 13 development projects in the sectors of rural development (2.665 billion), energy (6.120 billion), television and telecommunications (2.740 billion) and transportation (2.220 billion), according to a CCCE communique released in Niamey on 7 January. The biggest single grant is earmarked to finance the construction of 2 SONICHAIR (Nigerien Coal Company of Anou-Araren) thermal power plants in the desert, in the department of Agadez. Other CCCE financial aid is earmarked for areas as diverse as the development of aquiculture, the spread of cooperative farming, agricultural projects at Maradi and Dosso, expansion of the passenger airport and the establishment of a freight airport at Niamey, the installation of telecommunications ground stations and establishment of a transit depot in the port of Lome. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 200] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11915

CIVIL SERVICE SALARY INCREASES--The Nigerien Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Col Seyni Kountche, adopted 4 decrees on 7 January, increasing the minimum wages of employees and officials of the government and related establishments by an average of 10 percent as of 1 January. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Jan 82 p 200] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11915

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SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT SAID TO USE BIOLOGICAL METHODS AGAINST BLACKS

PA172200 Havana PRELA in English 1920 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Report by Mirta Balea]

[Text] Havana, 18 [as received] Mar (PL)--The Pretoria regime appears to entrust its future in part to biological and chemical methods used to reduce the African majority population.

The South African authorities, report the wire services, have contaminated the waters supplying the regions inhabited mostly by black people with chemical and genetic substances that effect the rate of growth and increase infant mortality among other damage.

For the ruling class in South Africa with its world view that has nothing in common with normal nations or ethics, any method is valid so long as it eliminates the national liberation struggle against apartheid.

Disdain for public opinion, a characteristic symptom of the regime performance seems to be present in its plans to develop bacteriological weapons which can be used against its neighbors as well.

The South African press admits that genetic warfare is broadly used in the black townships and in the Bantustans where the African majority population is confined.

The practices are applied by the Bureau of African Affairs, allegedly created to take care of the "needs" of the black people, but which the ruling Nationalist Party assigns funds mainly for that macabre program.

The aim of the plan is aggressively immoral, with a vengeance. It is the conception of a ruling minority group that utterly ignores elementary human rights in favor of the insane idea of "white supremacy."

At the end of last year news media reported the creation of a special base for training troops in the methods of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological warfare on Red Hill near the Simonstown Base at the Cape.

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That work began, however, back in 1960 in violation of the convention banning the development, production and storage of bacteriological or toxic weapons of which South Africa is a signer.

The South African virology institute which has the cooperation of the biological research center of Porton Down, Great Britain, has become a center for the development of those weapons. It has a laboratory where the most dangerous viruses are studied that are capable of killing as much as 90 percent of the persons effected.

But really, should it come as a surprise that the apartheid regime is using a new form of extermination against the Africans? Its defenders can be relied upon to make every effort to cover up those practices.

Nonetheless, the truth cannot be kept from public opinion. Condemnations can be expected of these most recent violations by "public enemy number one" of all Africa, including, of course, the people of South Africa.

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ZAIRE

ECONOMY DEPARTMENT REVIEWS 1980-1981 ECONOMIC SITUATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French Nos 1888, 1889, 15, 22
Jan 82

[15 Jan 82 pp 151, 152]

[Text] The Zaire Department of National Economy, Industry and Commerce has released issue No 20 of its annual report (December 1981 edition) on the economic situation during fiscal 1980-1981, and Mr Leonard, adviser to that department, is described by Commissioner of State Pay Pay Wa Kasige in the preamble as having been the "driving force" behind that report for many years.

The report comes out at a time when, in accordance with the commitments made when a "rescue" loan was granted by the International Monetary Fund in June 1981, the government is engaged in the difficult task of implementing austerity measures and of stringent management in an effort to reestablish a balanced budget, rehabilitate the public finances, restore foreign credit, realign the economy and reorganize the state apparatus to correct serious inadequacies which have been perpetuated over the years and which are at the root of a profound deterioration of the country's position.

This important document covers the various sectors of Zairian activity in 1980 and the early months of 1981, and contains many statistical tables (production, foreign trade, budget, balance of payments and others).

In June 1981, the very serious financial situation and the burden of its foreign debt forced the Zairian Government to carry out a further 40 percent currency devaluation which, added to a previous 30 percent readjustment made in February 1980, has reduced the parity of the zaire to 0.1575 SDR [special drawing rights] (that parity had been set at 1 SDR in March 1976 when the exchange rate of 1 zaire for \$2 was abandoned).

On 22 June 1981, the IMF provided extended facilities for Zaire by opening a credit line of 912 million SDR or \$1.2 billion (the largest amount of aid

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given by the IMF) to be disbursed over a 3-year period to finance the 1981-1983 recovery plan which hinges on modernizing the means of production and the infrastructure.

Also, on 9 July 1981, 14 creditor countries (Abu Dhabi, the FRG, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland) and the World Bank agreed to ease the burden of their outstanding debts by rescheduling the still pending annual payments for the 1976 to 1980 period (funded debt). On 1 January 1980, outstanding debt (financial, governmental and commercial) totaled \$3.2 billion and pending arrears on the funded debt amounted to \$400 million.

The gross domestic product which had dropped in real terms by a yearly average of 3.7 percent between 1975 and 1978 registered a positive growth estimated at 1.8 percent in 1980, and figures for the first 6 months of 1981 indicate a 1.6 percent growth. The rate of inflation, which in 1979 was still above 100 percent, was brought down to 50 percent in 1980.

The budget deficit, which climbed to 1.9 billion zaires in 1979 and to 2.1 billion in 1980, has been reduced in the 1981 budget in which a deficit of 500 million zaires is anticipated.

Trade and Finances

Foreign Trade--To measure the growth in foreign trade one must take into account the changes in the par value of the zaire over the past 3 years. The following figures in millions of zaires show the growth in today's terms:

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Imports	1,629	850.7	1,673.7	3,748.9
Exports	986.3	1,311.4	3,130.6	5,304.4
Balance	- 642.7	+ 460.7	+ 456.9	+1,555.5

In 1980, mining production accounted for 83.6 percent of all export receipts and agricultural products for 12.8 percent. In spite of a substantial increase in copper exports in 1980, Zaire's earnings from these exports did not increase because the prices for copper and cobalt dropped and have continued to drop during the first 6 months of 1981.

Balance of Payments--After large deficits between 1977 and 1979, the general balance of payments showed a surplus of 48.5 million zaires in 1980 due to a surplus in the trade balance and despite the deficit in the category of services (1.6 billion), the payment of commercial arrears (1 billion) and the servicing of the debt.

Budget--The budget for fiscal 1981 projected revenues of 5.6 billion zaires (up by 2.3 billion compared to 1980) and outlays of 6.1 billion (up by 2.9 billion).

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Under the heading of expected resources, revenues from direct taxes will increase by 1.3 billion and receipts from indirect taxes by 0.9 billion. Under expenditures, economic operations account for 1 billion and credits for equipment for 0.4 billion.

Energy and Mines

Energy--The amount of electricity generated increased by 3.2 percent in 1980; the Shaba industrial region greatly increased its consumption of high voltage electricity. The Inga II hydroelectric plant is scheduled to carry out trial tests in January 1982 with actual operations due to start in July 1982. Two Belgian groups (for civil engineering and for the power plant) have been entrusted with the building of the Mobaye Dam on the Oubangui River, at the border with the Central African Republic, and this project will take 4 years to complete.

In the development sphere, the creation of the Inga free industrial zone should attract renewed interest on the part of foreign investors; the ordinance-law of 2 April 1981 granted various tax advantages and a guarantee of transfer to enterprises set in that zone.

Compared to 1979, petroleum production declined, with 6.7 million barrels pumped in 1980 (down by 12.58 percent). During the first 6 months of 1981, 3.4 million barrels were pumped. Only 14.5 percent of the crude extracted was delivered to the Zairian-Italian Refining Company (SOZIR, a joint company) which had to import the rest of the crude it required and which produced 405,600 tons of refined products in 1980 while operating at only 54 percent of its capacity.

In addition to its exploitation of and search for hydrocarbons in the coastal zone, toward the end of 1980 the Zaire-Amoco-Shell partnership began a series of drilling operations in the asphalt sand beds in the region of Mavuma.

Mining Output--The country's chief mining operations, concentrated in the South Shaba region, underwent a marked recovery in 1980 and during the first half of 1981. Copper production was estimated to be 495,000 tons for 1981 (compared to 462,200 tons in 1980). In 1980, GECAMINES [General Quarries and Mines Company] extracted 425,700 tons and in 1981 it is approaching its full production capacity of 470,000 tons. But low market prices and the ensuing lack of funds have forced GECAMINES to postpone plans to increase its copper production by 100,000 tons and upgrade its metal concentration and refining plants.

Cobalt production amounted to 14,500 tons in 1980 (a 3.2 percent increase) and to 7,500 tons during the first 6 months of 1981. Zinc production remained at the 43,800-ton level and pewter production continued to drop. Production of concentrated manganese ore was not resumed because the Dilolo-Lobito railroad line, which is the only cost effective route over which to haul the output, remains closed.

In Eastern Kasai, there was a decline in the mining of industrial diamonds which dropped to 8 million carats. In 1981, barely 6 million will be mined. In 1980, 1,834 kg of gold were mined, a 19.8 percent decline.

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Total earnings from mining exports amounted to 5.3 billion zaires in 1980 (compared to 3.1 billion in 1978); the higher figure is partly due to the devaluations of the national currency.

GECAMINES (a state company) and the Industrial Development and Mining Company of Zaire (SODIMIZA, in which the state holds a 20 percent interest) are the two big mining companies operating in the South Shaba region. In the Kivu region, the Mining and Industrial Company of Kivu (SOMINKI, a joint company), which extracted 2,600 tons of cassiterite in 1980, has discovered a gold deposit in the southern zone but big investments are required to mine it. The existence of an important deposit of pyrochlorite has been established in North Kivu.

Lake Kivu is estimated to contain 50 billion tons of exploitable reserves of methane gas. A study conducted by a German firm in 1980 sets out methods to extract, treat and transform this gas into products which can be utilized by countries which are members of the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lake, by directly burning the gas, by transforming it into methanol or by making fertilizers.

The International Finance Corporation is expected to provide financing to diamondiferous mine rocks and alluvial deposits in Eastern Kasai (\$80 million). In Western Kasai, there are iron ore deposits in the Luebo region. The Lower Zaire region contains bauxite deposits with estimated reserves of 65 million tons with an average aluminum content of 35 percent, but for the time being these deposits do not seem to be profitable to mine.

Agricultural Production

Agriculture has a low priority in the 1981-1983 investment program because the head of state has decided to get that sector back into private ownership in order to boost production.

Food production remains inadequate and some 120,000 tons of corn and 141,000 tons of wheat will have to be imported in 1981. The coffee crop remains at 80,000 tons. The output of palm oil has continued to decline because palm groves are too old; in 1980, it amounted to 93,200 tons (down by 5.5 percent). The same problem is facing a gradually declining rubber production amounting to 19,500 tons (down by 5.7 percent). On the other hand, cotton crops have improved, yielding 29,200 tons of cottonseed in 1980 (up by 55.5 percent). Efforts have been made to increase the soya harvest and at the beginning of 1982 cash crops to produce tomato juice will be started on an experimental basis.

In January 1981, the International Development Corporation and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation agreed to finance a project to rehabilitate and expand sugarcane plantations in Lower Zaire (487,300 tons of cane in 1980). Two sugar companies produced 64,500 tons of sugar in 1980 (up by 24.9 percent).

Tobacco growing continues to increase given the short supplies of imported tobacco; the crop for 1981 will amount to approximately 2,600 tons (an 80 percent increase).

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The harvest of hard fibers (mostly punga) was brought up to 900 tons in 1980; that fiber is used locally.

Industrial Production

For several years, the activity of the manufacturing industries had been hampered by the shortage and irregularity of supplies and obsolete equipment. At the end of the first half of 1981, a quota of \$50 million was allocated to the manufacturing sector for supplies. Also, prices were decontrolled but the profit margins allowed were kept under control.

In the food industry, 132,900 tons of wheat flour were milled in 1980 (an increase of 3.8 percent) and 57,900 tons during the first 6 months of 1981 from grain imported from the United States. Production of cornmeal from corn imported mostly from southern Africa amounted to 180,800 tons in 1980 (down by 2.7 percent) and to 96,000 tons for the first 6 months of 1981. The amount of beer brewed dropped by 5.1 percent to 2.6 million hectoliters. The production of carbonated beverages is increasing and 600,000 hectoliters were produced in 1980. The cigarette industry produced 2.7 billion cigarettes in 1980 (a 5.1 percent drop) but increased its output in the earlier months of 1981.

The cotton textile industry registered an increase of 8.1 percent in 1980, producing 60.8 million square meters of cloth. That cloth, woven from local cotton fibers, was used to make 28.2 million square meters of printed fabrics. For 1981, the textile industry required 21,300 tons of cotton. The Kinshasa Textile Cotton Factory (UTEXCO), which is the biggest textile enterprise in the country, is operating at only 55 percent capacity; the same applies to the rest of the textile spinning, weaving and printing mills.

The synthetic textile industry is also working below full capacity as a result of short supplies of imported yarn. In 1980, the manufacture of synthetic fabrics registered a 17.2 percent drop.

The same problems have affected the footwear industry. In 1980, Bata-Zaire, the main manufacturer, operated at only 24.8 percent of its capacity and during the first semester of 1981 that level dropped even further to 21 percent (2.5 million pairs of shoes were made in 1980).

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[Text] Since 44 percent of the country is covered with forests and these forests represent 47 percent of all the thick forests of tropical Africa, Zaire's second most important resource after copper is timber. The felled timber is used mainly to make veneer by SIFORZAL [expansion unknown], a subsidiary of the DANZER [expansion unknown] group which exported 8.6 million square meters in 1980 (compared to 6.1 million in 1979). Production continued to climb during the first 3 months of 1981 when 2.8 million square meters were exported. The management of the state-owned Forestry and Commercial Company (FORESCOM) has been entrusted to cooperating Canadians as part of a loan agreement which will make it possible to replace the equipment and to resume exploitation.

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Several enterprises are manufacturing light packaging from recycled paper and cardboard boxes. In 1980, Goodyear-Zaire produced 2,600 tons of tires for light and heavy vehicles (down by 18 percent).

In 1980, some 2,600 tons of margarine and fats and 3,900 tons of cooking oil were produced, mostly by the Margarine, Soap and Cosmetics Company of Zaire (MARSAVCO) which is currently expanding its production capacity. One of two sugar mills also produces alcohol (2,750 hectoliters).

The Zairian Match Factory (MAZAL), owned by the SIFA [expansion unknown] group, made 100,700 cartons, each containing 1,500 boxes of matches, in 1980 (down by 8.7 percent); production went up in the first quarter of 1981.

Plants manufacturing plastic packaging which are entirely dependent on imported supplies had to stop production many times and their output was only 46 percent of the 1972 production.

The completion of repair work on the furnace of the Kinshasa Bottle Manufacturing Company (BOUKIN) in February 1981 will make it possible to boost production (15.4 million bottles were made in 1980).

The Steel Manufacturing Company (SISIDER) plant has been operating at less than 10 percent of its capacity since it was built in 1972 due to a shortage of supplies. A project is under study to build a copper refinery in Maluku using cathodes from GECAMINES.

In the metal manufacture branch, the CHANIMETAL [expansion unknown] complex in Kinshasa consists of a naval shipyard (river material), a foundry and different kinds of metal manufacturing works; it did 90 million zaires worth of business in 1980. Several enterprises are manufacturing, among other things, sheet metal, frames, pipes, farming tools, metal furniture, household utensils and metal containers for the local market.

The manufacture of bicycles registered another big drop in 1980 (9,800 units compared to 16,100 in 1979) due to lack of supplies. During the past 3 years, plants where vehicles are assembled and mounted have operated at a very reduced rate: 121 cars, 300 pickups and 230 trucks in 1980. Three subsidiaries of worldwide automotive companies (General Motors, Fiat and Magirus) are established in Zaire.

A local branch of a U.S. company producing electric batteries needs to be protected against imports of similar goods.

In the sphere of construction materials, five cement plants produced 402,000 tons of cement in 1980 (down 3.1 percent). There was a recovery during the first semester of 1981 (a 20.9 percent increase), mostly the result of exports, since the domestic market remains depressed. The overall production capacity of these five plants is 1 million tons a year with the Zaire Cement Company (CIZA), located in Lukala, able to produce 550,000 tons. Starting in the second half of 1982, tiles and marble slabs to cover walls will be exported to the Congo and to Cameroon, and granite to the United States.

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Transportation and Communications

In 1980, the volume of traffic for the big rail and river transportation networks went up by 6.6 percent over 1979 but transportation of the mining output of GECAMINES accounted for most of this increase. The upward trend continued in 1981 and, in August, more than 20,000 tons of copper had accumulated in the transit river port of Ilebo.

The question of building a national railroad system, without abrupt changes in fees charged, is becoming a priority.

The Zairian National Railroad Company (SNCZ), a state-owned company, operates three different networks with a total of 4,752 km of track of different width. Zaire's National Transportation Office (ONATRA) operates 502 km of railroad lines, 12,174 km of river transportation services, the ports of Matadi, Boma and Banana and river ports on the Zaire and Kasai and their tributaries.

Big investments are required to repair and standardize the railroad tracks, to electrify the railroad, to replace the engines and rolling stock and increase their volume, to improve the river ports and modernize the river fleet.

In addition to the national airline Air Zaire, many small companies operate domestic air routes. In 1980, the volume of Air-Zaire traffic increased by 2.5 percent compared to 1979.

The year 1980 and the first half of 1981 were, for the Zairian economy, the lowest point in a period of gradual deterioration. As a condition for the rescue aid granted by the IMF and for the rescheduling of the debt arrears over a 9-year period, the Zairian Government has had to make a commitment to follow a strict financial discipline, to boost the manufacturing sector by assigning to it quotas of foreign exchange to purchase vital supplies of raw materials and spare parts and, in the domestic sphere, to correct its management defects.

So far, the effects of the Mobutu recovery plan are hardly noticeable. A study of the overall economic situation in Zaire at the end of 1982 will make it possible to judge the determination, tenacity and austerity of the present government team. A permanent increase in copper prices would greatly help.

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