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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
French Equatorial Africa

SUBJECT
Societe Africaine des Etablissements Rondon/
Cotton Production and Ginning Facilities

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

DATE DISTRIBUTED
17 May 55

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #
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DATE ACQUIRED (By source)
27 Apr 55
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DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, events or conditions described in report existed)
27 Apr 55

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

- "In Brazzaville I called on Mr Max Christophe, the local manager of Societe Africaine des Etablissements Rondon which is located at Boite Postal No 2012, Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa.
- "Christophe speaks very little English, but we got along in good fashion. He has just come in from French Indo-China to take charge of the Brazzaville office; and he is a very likeable chap. He is interested in developing their machinery section and cutting down on their work on consumer goods. The Brazzaville office is the head office for all of French Equatorial Africa, and they have major branch offices at Pointe Noire (the sea port) and at Bangui, the largest town in French Equatorial Africa other than Brazzaville. They have several minor out posts, but Christophe says that these are hardly worth mentioning.
- "There is some 40 thousand to 50 thousand bales of cotton being raised here along the Ubangui River and adjacent to the Belgian Congo and the Sudan. As you can see, there is not much opportunity to sell vast quantities of our gin machinery, but still there may be an occasional small order from that area. Most of the ginneries are quite small, using gin-stands of 40, 60 and up to 80 saws, but averaging only one or two gin-stands per ginnery. So, this can only be a market for some of our very smallest plantation type ginneries of one or two stands per plant.
- "The cotton produced in French Equatorial Africa is of our typical Upland type, and the fibres are around one inch in length. The cotton is raised by the natives on relatively small tracts of land, and no great increase in production is anticipated, although the French always have many beautiful projects planned on paper. All of the cotton is ginned at these small ginneries, and is then brought by various means to the shores of the Ubangui River and is concentrated at Bangui. From Bangui the cotton is shipped by river steamer down to Brazzaville, from which point it is put on the little train which runs from Brazzaville down to Pointe Noire. Thus you can see that transportation is one of their greatest problems. The river is navigable only five months of the year, December through April, inclusive.

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- 5. "Christophe is definitely interested in handling our line of machinery, and he has two or three technical men in his organization. They handle the Ferguson line of tractors, Ruston (English) Diesel engines, and several other lines of machinery - plus small appliances and consumer goods."

- end -

Lucy
Cotton Ginning
Group (source)
40-54.8

Cotton
45-49.2

Area

Tr. Equat. Africa
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TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA

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