

25X1

DOC NO GI M 86-20228

[Redacted]

FILE

OIR 3

P & PD 1

29 SEP 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Gregory Bradford  
Office of Regional Affairs  
Bureau of African Affairs  
Department of State

FROM:

[Redacted]

Chief, Geographic Issues Division  
Office of Global Issues

25X1

SUBJECT: Background Papers for Secretary Shultz's  
African Trip

1. We are forwarding for your team's use a briefing paper entitled West Africa: The Fisheries Dilemma. The paper summarizes and expands upon a longer study recently distributed to the Departments of State and Defense. As you know, sanitized versions of the full report have also been used for bilateral discussions with the French and the Canadians and have been provided to State and DOD for distribution (without Agency attribution) to selected West African government officials. This brief provides background on a resource issue of critical economic and political significance in West Africa--an issue which the United States, through its African Coastal Security (ACS) program, is actively assisting African states to solve.

2. Per previous discussion between your office and mine, we are also attaching a preliminary, working paper on South African Townships: Crucibles of Violence. Though this report will not be available in finished form for another month, you and your associates might still find it useful in helping to prepare Mr. Shultz for his trip.

25X1

3. The fisheries brief was prepared by [Redacted]  
our Near East-Africa Branch [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

29 September 1986

**WEST AFRICA: THE FISHERIES DILEMMA**

**Key Issues**

The waters off West Africa support some of the richest concentrations of marine life in the world. West African fisheries represent an important source of foreign exchange for a number of financially strapped coastal states and provide the generally malnourished region with much needed protein. Nevertheless, these fisheries present a serious dilemma for the States involved.

- Non-Africans, including the Soviets, continue to be the main beneficiaries of the region's rich fisheries, harvesting almost 60 percent of the annual catch.
- West African states are unable to manage or police their offshore waters effectively, and heavy, often unrestrained exploitation of fish by Soviet and other non-African vessels poses a growing threat to the resource. Stocks of some of the main commercial species are now in danger of depletion.
- A decline in the fisheries resource would be a grave loss to this food deficit region and would further erode the economic stability of several West African exporting states.
- Growing dissatisfaction with the current situation, including Soviet abuses, is making most West African states more receptive to US advice and assistance than ever before.

This briefing paper was prepared by [redacted] Near East-Africa Branch, Geographic Issues Division, Office of Global Issues.

25X1

[redacted]

25X1  
25X1

[redacted]

*GI M 86-2028*

[redacted]

25X1

## Background

### Non-African Involvement: Principal Players

Non-Africans--especially the Soviets and Spanish--benefit most from the still poorly developed local African fishing industry. No US vessels are currently fishing in the region.

- A wide range of fishing activities provide the Soviet Union with avenues for economic and political penetration of West Africa. The Soviets take 10 percent of their national catch in West African waters, and supply large amounts of the "imported" fish products consumed in the region. They are suspected by both Africans and Western fishery experts of grossly underreporting catches. Fishing agreements with five coastal states in the resource rich northern zone now give the Soviets access to local ports and allow them to position their vessels near international shipping lanes for potential intelligence collection activities. Soviet joint ventures are involved in harvesting, marketing, and processing fish in the region.
- Spanish vessels are also heavily involved. The Spanish catch by value exceeds that of other nations fishing in these waters, and, like the Soviets, the Spanish are frequently cited for violations and are suspected of overfishing and underreporting. They are active primarily off the coasts of Morocco, Mauritania, and Senegal, but also fish in the Gulf of Guinea and in central African waters.

### Economic and Nutritional Significance

Marine fish and fish products hold economic and nutritional significance for many West African states. They play an important role in the trade balances of several coastal countries.

- Fish sales are the principal sources of foreign exchange for Senegal, Cape Verde, and Guinea-Bissau, and will probably exceed iron ore as the principal source in Mauritania in 1986; in Morocco they comprise a major item of trade and source of employment. Their estimated unrealized foreign exchange values in Guinea and Sierra Leone are \$60 million and \$42 million respectively.
- Fish are a critical source of protein in the region, and rapid increases in population and recurrent droughts in traditional grazing areas have added to their importance. About one-half of the animal protein consumed in most coastal states is in the form of fish and fish products.

- Available statistics suggest that West Africa's catch is less than one-half the fish that the region currently consumes. Imports of fish products represent a sizable drain on limited foreign exchange holdings especially for large importers like Nigeria or economically strapped countries like Sierra Leone or Togo.
- The fishing industry in West Africa employs an estimated 600,000 traditional and 15,000 industrial fishermen. Additional workers are employed in marketing, processing, and distribution. Morocco, Spain's Canary Islands, Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Ghana are the primary exporters of marine fish and fish products in the region.

### **Management Problems**

West Africa's coastal states are currently hard pressed to manage and police their offshore waters and lack adequate technical expertise and administrative structures to develop and implement appropriate new policies. Because of the difficulty of mobilizing fishery expertise and financial resources at the national level, most basic fishery management functions have been carried out by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's Fishery Committee for the East Central Atlantic. Naval and coast guard units in most of these states are generally small and poorly funded, and the coastal states from Sierra Leone to Morocco are especially helpless to stop overfishing abuses.

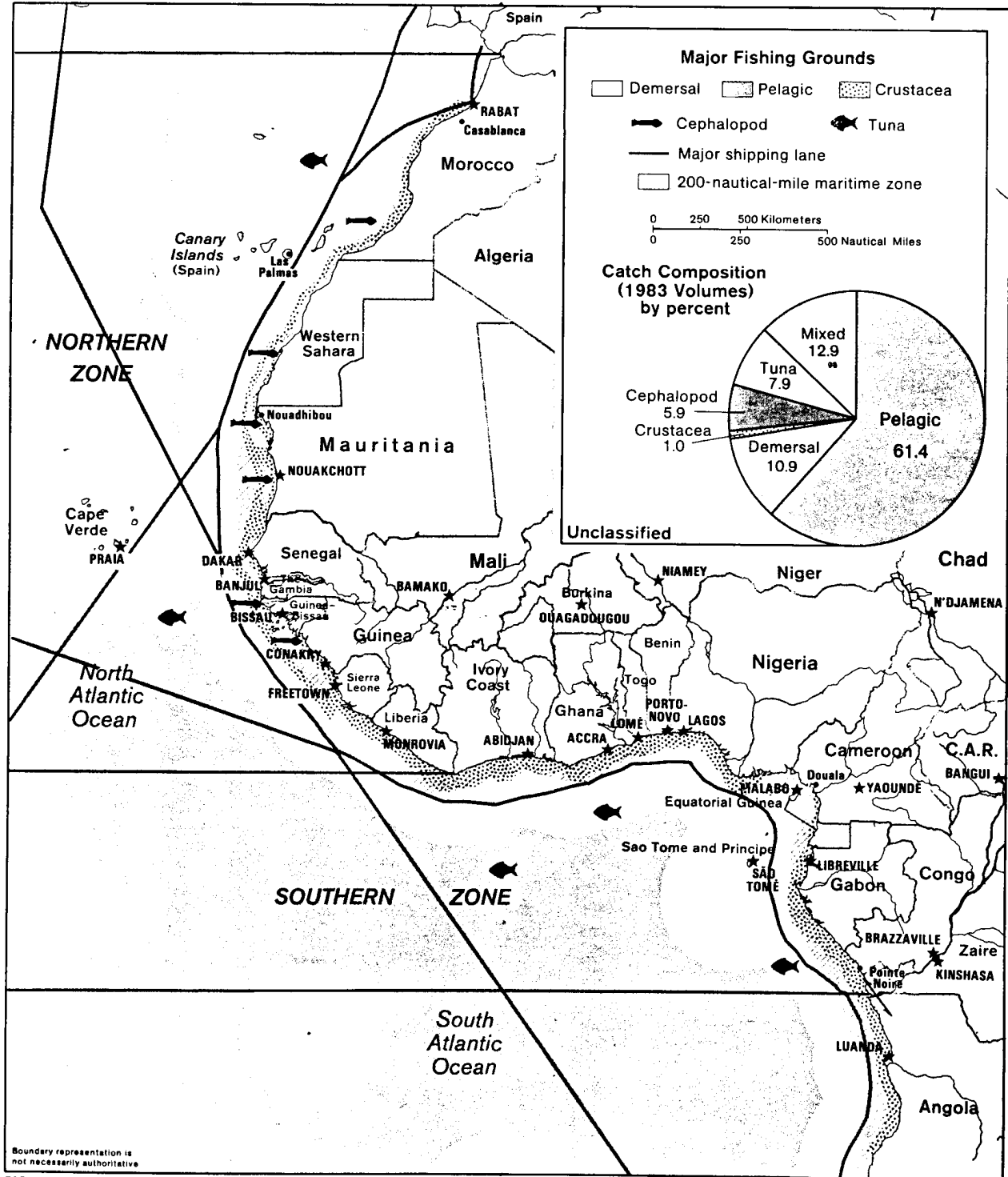
### **Opportunities for the United States**

We believe that US efforts to help West Africans develop their management capabilities and to encourage private investment could help reduce Soviet presence in the fishery sector.

- West African coastal states that still maintain agreements with the Soviets are increasingly dissatisfied. Past arrangements have not resulted in the development of viable local fishing industries or satisfied pressing food needs. Complaints include Soviet failure to construct promised shore facilities, train local personnel, or deliver necessary fish supplies, and Soviet use of destructive fishing practices.
- Despite this unhappiness with Soviet performance, several West African countries--including Morocco, Mauritania, Guinea, and Sierra Leone--have continued to deal with Moscow. Reasons vary from fear of jeopardizing urban fish supplies and foreign exchange earnings to the lack of viable alternatives for financing fishery development.

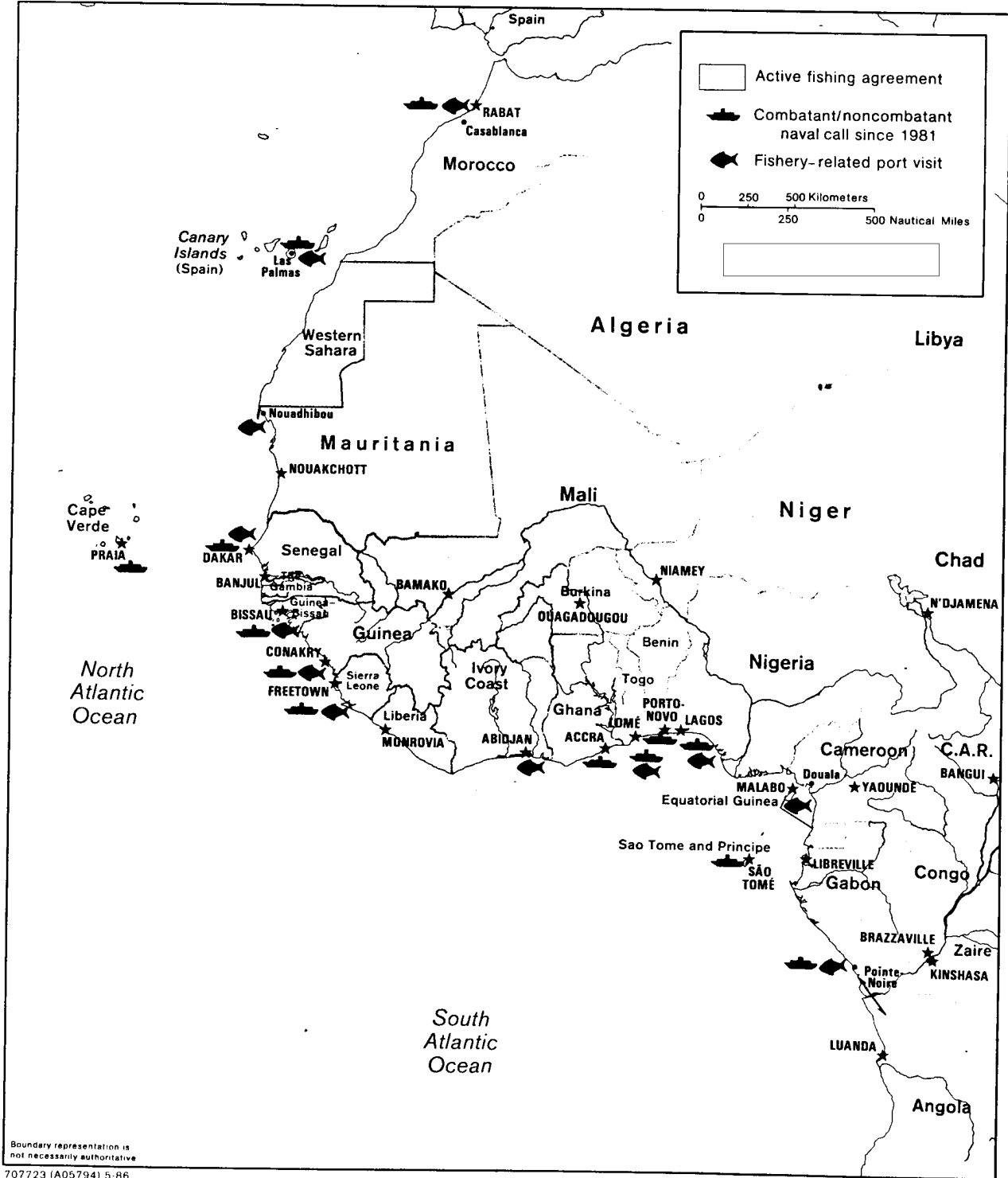
- Deteriorating economic conditions, concern for food security, and a growing awareness of the threat to marine resources among West African states have made prospects for remedial actions more favorable now than at any time during the past decade. A number of countries including Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Mauritania are requesting US assistance in the management of their fisheries.

West African Fisheries



Secret

Soviet Access to West African Ports



25X1

Secret

25X1

25X1

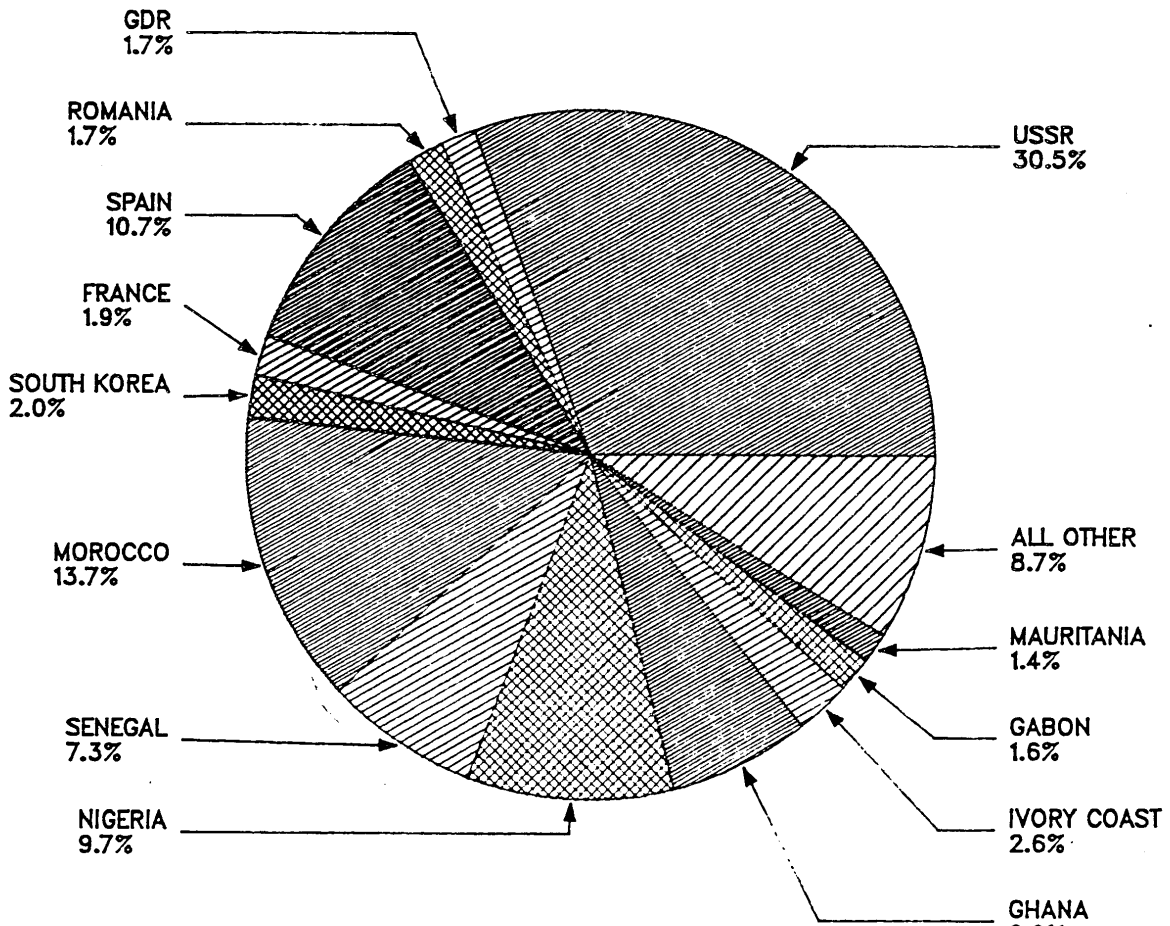
COUNTRY	LENGTH COASTLINE KM	EXTENT CONTINENTAL SHELF KM <sup>2</sup>	ENFORCEMENT UNIT	FISHERY PATROL CAPABILITIES (JANUARY 1986) ESTIMATED NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL PATROL CRAFT	CHRONIC PROBLEMS				
					POOR MAINTENANCE	LACK OF FUEL	SHORTAGE OF SPARE PARTS	INADEQUATE OR INSUFFICIENT TRAINING	LACK AIR SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES
MOROCCO	2,300	75,000	Navy	17	X			X	X
MAURITANIA	754	32,500	Navy	8		X	X	X	
SENEGAL	500	30,000	Navy	9		X	X		
GAMBIA	80	5,200	Harbor Patrol	2	X	X	X	X	X
CAPE VERDE	1,000	10,200 3,500	Navy	1	X	X	X	X	
GUINEA- BISSAU	350	52,500	Navy	6	X	X	X	X	X
GUINEA	320	39,500	Navy	4	X	X	X	X	X
SIERRA LEONE	300	29,900	Navy	0	X	X	X	X	X
LIBERIA	560	17,400	Coast Guard	2	X	X	X		X
IVORY COAST	600	11,600	Navy	6	X	X	X	X	X
GHANA	550	21,700	Navy	3	X	X	X	X	X
TOGO	70	1,700	Navy	2					
BENIN	100	2,600	Navy	0	X	X	X	X	X
NIGERIA	860	32,300	Navy	37*	X		X	X	
CAMEROON	450	25,000	Navy	4	X		X		X
EQ. GUINEA	200	50,763	Navy	0	X	X	X	X	X
GABON	800	39,000	Navy	4					
CONGO	180	16,000	Navy	9	X	X	X	X	X
ZAIRE	40	1,029	Navy	4	X	X	X	X	X
SAO TOME/ PRINCIPE	135	43,903	Navy	2	X	X	X	X	X

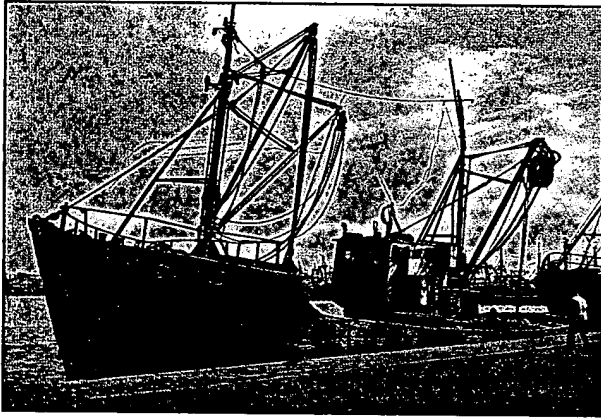
\* A large number of these craft are probably not operational



# CAICH BY COUNTRY

1983

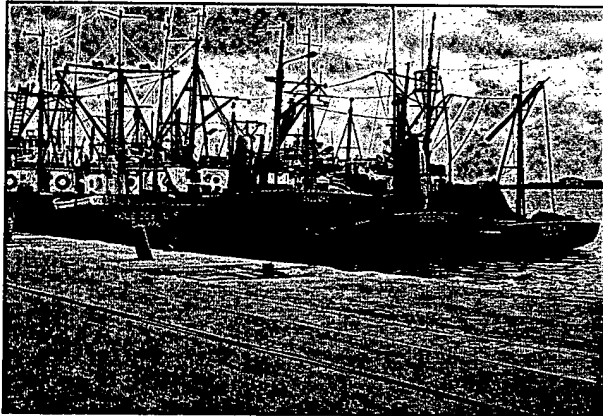




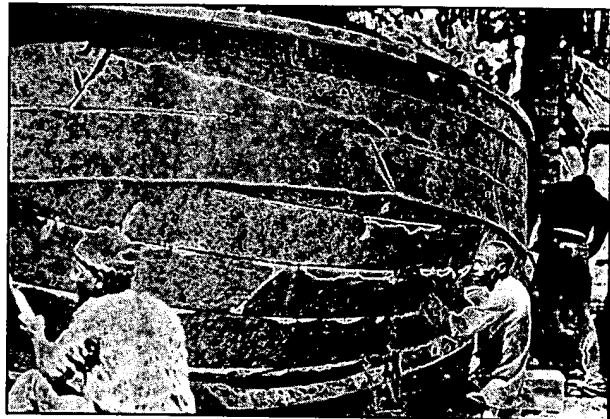
1. Part of Senegal's aging industrial fishing fleet



2. Modern Soviet factory trawler, Dakar



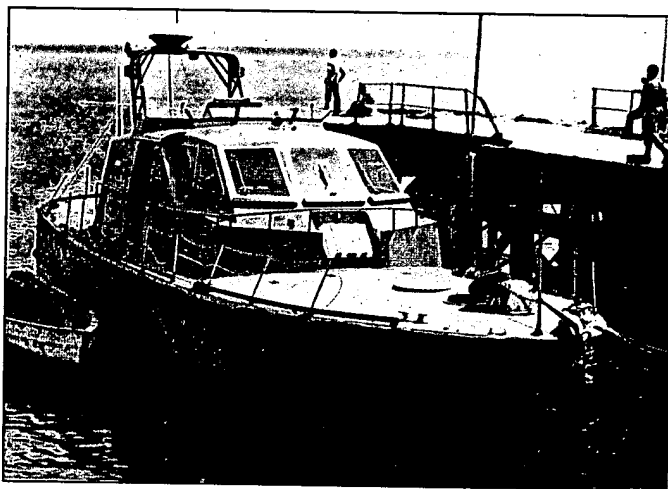
3. Spanish tuna boats in fishing port, Dakar



4. Building traditional fishing boats, Banjul

309066 5-86

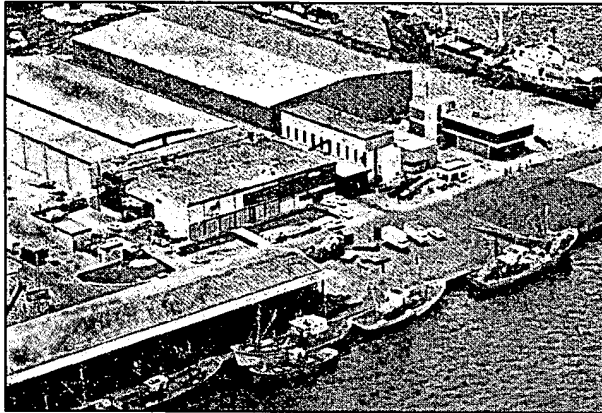
25X1



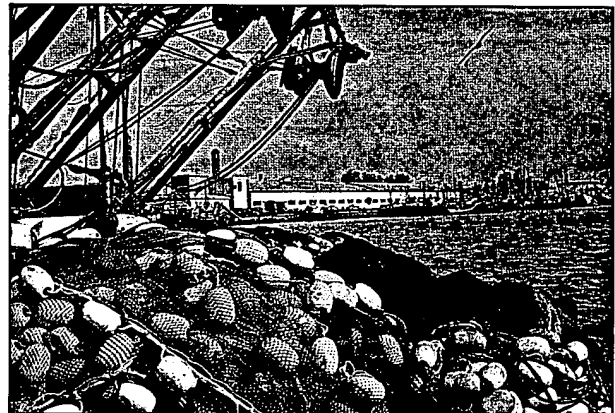
5. *The damaged Siaka Stevens, Sierra Leone's only patrol vessel*

309067 5-86

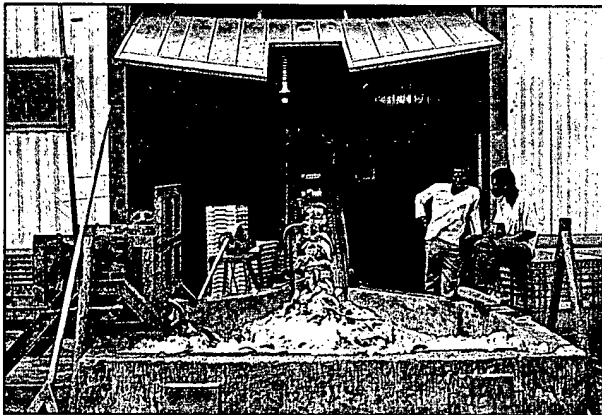
25X1



6. Fishing port and cold storage plant, Abidjan



7. Fishing port, Dakar



8. Frozen fish packing plant, Dakar



9. Laborers at fish processing plant, Dakar

309068 5-86

25X1



10. *Repairing nets, Dakar*

[Redacted]

309069 5-86

25X1