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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

19 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans (OIR)  
Colonel Gerald F. Lillard, USA (G-2)  
Captain Allan L. Reed, USN (ONI)  
Colonel Jack E. Thomas, USAF (AFOIN-2B)  
Captain John A. Holbrook, USN (JIG)

SUBJECT : NIE-83: Conditions and Trends in Tropical  
Africa

1. The attached terms of reference, indicating the allocations of production responsibility, were agreed on at the meeting of the IAC representatives on 18 February.

2. It is requested that contributions be received in this office by the close of business on Friday, 31 July.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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Executive Secretary

Distribution "B"

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 February 1953

SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE: NIE-83: CONDITIONS AND TRENDS  
IN TROPICAL AFRICA<sup>1/</sup>

THE PROBLEM

To assess the strategic importance of Tropical Africa; to identify the major forces and trends in the area; and to estimate probable developments there and the strategic consequences of these developments.<sup>2/</sup>

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

OIR  
and  
Services

I. INTRODUCTION

What are the essential characteristics of Tropical Africa's global position and internal situation? (Last great colonial

<sup>1/</sup> This estimate deals with all the African territories between the Sahara desert and the Union of South Africa, excepting the [Anglo-Egyptian] Sudan. A list of these territories, with their status and desired statistics, is at Annex A.

<sup>2/</sup> We believe that this estimate should be open-ended and should emphasize the long term.

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area; under-developed, raw materials-producing economies; population distribution and general condition; impact of Western culture; disparate policies of colonial powers; communications; etc.)

OIR

II. THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TROPICAL AFRICA

A. Economic

1. What Tropical African strategic materials are available or potentially available to the West in significant quantities? From which territories? How essential are they in terms of the total supply available to the US and the West? Briefly, what plans or programs for further development are underway?
2. What economic contributions do the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and Portugal receive from their African territories? What effect would the disruption of trade with, and/or control over, the colonies have on the economies of these powers?

Services

B. Military

1. In event of general war during the 1950's to what extent would present and potential military bases

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and facilities in Tropical Africa be important and be available to the West? In which of the territories?

2. To what extent could the territories provide troops for use overseas particularly if military equipment is provided by the West? For internal security missions?

OIR

C. Political

1. How do political problems and developments in Tropical Africa affect its strategic importance? What is the strategic importance of these areas to the metropolises?

OIR

III. OVER-ALL PROBLEMS OF TROPICAL AFRICA, AND PROBABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- A. Social, economic, and political problems. What are the key social, economic, and political problems of Tropical Africa, aside from racial relations? For example, what is the impact of industrialization? To what extent is there over-population in various areas? Antiquated farming practices? What is the impact of evolutionary political development and the growth or lack of educational facilities? What is the prospect for solutions to these problems?

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B. Inter-racial relations

1. What is the extent and nature of racial animosity in Tropical Africa? To what degree does it have an economic basis? A social basis? A nationalistic, anti-colonialist basis? To what degree have developments in North and South Africa or elsewhere exacerbated racial feeling?
  
2. What is the probability of intensified racial animosity, agitation, and violence in Tropical Africa in the short and long term? What is the long range trend? What are the likeliest danger areas, and when is serious trouble likely to erupt? Is the governing authority in any of the dependent territories likely to be overthrown by force in the foreseeable future? Will future developments in North and South Africa (as estimated in NIE-69 and NIE-72) or elsewhere have a significant impact on situations in Tropical Africa? What is the likely effect of developments in one part of the area or other parts; e.g., repercussions of the Mau Mau uprising? What is the probability of establishment of an acceptable modus vivendi in those territories inhabited by more than one race?

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C. European colonial policy. What is the probable evolution of European colonial policies? To what extent do the several colonial powers anticipate having to relinquish authority in their possessions? What is their view of the future of their colonies? What are the views of the white settlers, and what role do they play?

D. The Asian problem. What is the present size of the Asian population? What political, economic, and cultural role does it play? What is the current and prospective rate of immigration? What is the likely development of Indian policy toward the area? To what extent does the Indian problem constitute a long range threat to Western interests in the area?

E. Communism

1. What is the extent and nature of Communist penetration in Tropical Africa? In which territories does it have a foothold, or play a significant part? What is Soviet policy toward the African territories, and how is that policy implemented? Is there any evidence that Communist activities are directed at denial of strategic materials to the West? Are the governing authorities

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in the territories aware of the Communist danger, and are they actively attempting to inhibit the spread of Communism? With what effect? Are they in liaison on this question?

2. What are the prospects for increased Communist influence in Tropical Africa? What obstacles bar the spread of Communism? What conditions favor its spread? Which are the most, and which are the least vulnerable territories? Are Communists, or Communist sympathizers, likely to become an important political element, either overtly or covertly in any Tropical African territory in the foreseeable future?

OIR IV. IMPORTANT REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS

- A. British West Africa. Discuss briefly the UK's gradual relinquishment of authority in Nigeria and the Gold Coast, and its effect on regional stability. As autonomy passes to native governments is instability likely to grow? Are these governments likely to remain cooperative with the West, or will they move toward neutralist or pro-Soviet positions?

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- B. French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa. Discuss briefly the Ewe, Togoland, and Cameroons unification issues, and their effect on regional stability. Discuss the prospects for, and likely policies of the Democratic African Rally (RDAs); for the growth of other political groups; and for the growth of a nationalist and separatist sentiment hostile toward assimilation in the French Union.
- C. Liberia. Discuss briefly the prospects in Liberia.
- D. Ethiopia-Eritrea and the Somalilands. Discuss briefly the stability of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Federation. Is the position of the royal family likely to remain secure? What are the prospects in Somalia?
- E. British East Africa. Discuss briefly the outlook for increasing disorders in Kenya, and their spread to Uganda and Tanganyika. What is the stimulus and strength of the Mau Mau movement? Is the restoration of order in Kenya likely without an increased commitment of armed forces?
- F. Belgian Congo. Discuss briefly any prospective threats to the prevailing stability in the Belgian Congo. Is there any evidence of native reaction to events elsewhere in Central Africa?



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G. British Central Africa. Discuss briefly the outlook for federation of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland. If it comes into being, what are the prospects for its effectiveness? Would failure of agreement on federation produce seriously unstable conditions?

H. The High Commission Territories and South-West Africa. Discuss briefly the likelihood of Britain's turning over the administration of Bechuanaland, Swaziland, and Basutoland to South Africa. Will the prospective increasing racial friction in South Africa have repercussions in these territories? Also, discuss briefly the outlook for serious racial disorders in South-West Africa.

I. The Portuguese colonies. Discuss briefly the likelihood of serious disorders in Angola and Mozambique.

J. Madagascar. Discuss briefly the prospects in Madagascar.

V. THE STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS

OIR and  
Services

A. Are the territories of Tropical Africa likely to be stable sources of strategic raw materials and military manpower over both the short and long term?

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- B. Are prospective disorders in the colonial territories likely to be such as to require increasingly large commitments of forces and materiel by the European colonial powers?
- C. Will prospective developments, including political and economic evolution, work to the serious economic disadvantage of the European colonial powers?
- D. Will prospective developments prejudice the West's establishment or full use of military bases in the strategically located territories?
- E. What is the likely effect of prospective developments in Tropical Africa on the attitudes of other countries, particularly the Arab-Asian countries.

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"ANNEX A"

THE TERRITORIES OF TROPICAL AFRICA

Territories	Dependency	Population			Important Resources	% of Free World Supply
		Native	White	Asian		
French West Africa (including French Togoland*)	French					
Fr. Equatorial Africa (incl. Fr. Cameroons*)	French					
Portuguese Guinea	Portuguese					
Rio Muni	Spanish					
Liberia	Independent					
Gold Coast (including British Togoland*)	British					
Nigeria (including Br. Cameroons*)	British					
Sierra Leone	British					
Gambia	British					
Belgian Congo (including Ruanda-Urundi*)	Belgian					
Angola	Portuguese					
Mozambique	Portuguese					
Northern Rhodesia	British					
Southern Rhodesia	British					
Nyasaland	British					
High Com. Territories	British					
Bechuanaland						
Basutoland						
Swaziland						
South-West Africa*	South Africa					
Ethiopia-Eritrea	Independent					
French Somaliland	French					
British Somaliland	British					
Somalia*	Italian					
Kenya	British					
Uganda	British					
Tanganyika*	British					
Zanzibar	British					
Madagascar	French					