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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

LIBYAN ROLE IN CHAD PORTRAYED

Libyan-French Influence Sharing

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 80 p 1

[Commentary by Siradiou Diallo: "The Division of Chad"]

[Text] Now, things seem clearer... The phase of the civil war which pitted two different Chadian factions against one another has passed. Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North [FAN] are no longer just fighting the government coalition headed by Goukouni Oueddei. The latter enjoys the open and massive support of Colonel Qadhdhafi's army. After having sent troops supported by armored cars and the air force, the chief of the Libyan state personally traveled to Faya-Largeau on 4 November "to conduct an inspection." Controlled up to then by Hissein Habre's adherents, the BET (Bornou-Ennedi-Tibesti) capital had just fallen at the same time as other cities and, thanks to Libyan military intervention, into the hands of the GUNT (Traditional National Union Government).

From that moment, the direct, if not arrogant, intervention of Colonel Qadhdhafi in the internal affairs of Chad no longer had to be demonstrated. Such intervention takes place in broad daylight, as shown by irrefutable documents which have fallen into the hands of Hissein Habre's partisans, not to mention the Libyan soldiers taken prisoner on different Chadian battlefields, particularly in Ndjamen (see the following report from our special correspondent). These are all evidence permitting the measurement of Libya's role in the deterioration of the political situation in Chad.

In the face of such manifest proof, the leaders of the GUNT have finally admitted what they had been persistently denying up to then. The French minister of cooperation, Robert Galley, himself at last yielded to the evidence. In a statement made on 7 November before the French National Assembly, where he presented his ministry's budget, he acknowledged in moderate but realistic terms, "the appearance of certain Libyan units in the battle of Djamen." He wondered about "the OAU's response to the serious problem posed by the presence of foreign troops on the soil of an African country."

In reality, the French minister has no illusions on this score. He knows that the Pan-African organization has no practical means to halt the Libyan undertaking. He also knows that the protests lodged on that occasion by some African leaders, such as President Leopold Sedar Senghor, will remain a dead letter. In particular, the extraordinary conference of the OAU's foreign ministers requested by Senegal to study "the serious situation in Chad" has little chance of being held. Even the

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immediate neighbors of Chad, however seriously concerned they may be and being increasingly aware of the danger represented by Libyan expansionism to their own survival, are not raising much of a fuss.

They all know that the bets are down in Chad. To the amusement of the spectators, France and Libya, after 2 years, have reached an agreement on an influence dividing line roughly running along the 14th parallel from Salal to Biltine, passing through Ati. By virtue of this secret agreement, Qadhdhafi has the green light to do as he pleases above this line. For its part, France has freedom of movement in the southern part of Chad. In other words, Qadhdhafi has the Arabists, France its blacks.

Properly speaking, this is not a matter of a new colonization of Chad but of a French-Libyan condominium. Or, if you prefer, of a double protectorate over a federation, the northern part of which will be under Libyan domination and the southern part under French influence. After having battled Qadhdhafi for a long time in Chad, France decided to make peace with him. Not that it suddenly succumbed to his charms, but rather to reality. The Libyan market, particularly in the arms sector, is such that Paris would not permit its loss. Especially in these times of crisis. That is why, making the best of a bad situation, Paris felt it necessary to reinforce its southern "base" by reactivating the economic network there (industries, commercial firms, banks), education and its diplomatic and consular representation. One significant point: Moundou, the principal city in the south, which is the location of the French consulate in Chad, is experiencing a peacefulness which makes one forget that the city is part of a country at war.

However, who is to say that Qadhdhafi will be content with only one part of Chad? And then, having been sold off cheaply and totally, will Chad be enough to stanch the expansionist ambitions of the Libyan leader? That is not certain. As recently as the month of October, he mentioned the "bad treatment" inflicted on the Touareg in Mali and Niger, a statement which tells at length of the threats which weigh heavily over all the countries bordering the Sahara, including Algeria. Is not the appetite sharpened by eating?

Details on Libyan Intervention

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 80 pp 21-25

[Article by special correspondent Christian Grain: "I have Seen the Libyans at N'Djamena"]

[Text] Ndjama, November 1980--Since the departure of the last French soldier on 17 May, fratricidal fighting has bloodied the capital for the second time in 2 years. Chadians, international observers and secret agents from all over are jostling one another in Kousseri, on the bank of the Cameroonian Chari River, which marks the border, to listen to the sounds of cannon and machine-gun fire, to attempt to learn more about what is going on.

The river is too wide, the curtain of forests too thick, the echoes too strong to permit an exact determination of what direction the shots are coming from or where they are landing. What are the positions of Hissein Habre's FAN and those of the coalition of parties assembled around Goukouni Oueddei of the GUNT.

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The intoxication is growing apace: not content with digesting the communiques of both sides and sorting out what is probable and what is not, some individuals pick up all the rumors and all the gossip. This entire beau monde--which the Cameroonian authorities tolerate and look upon with circumspection, fearing that their neutrality will be contested--reports everything and the opposite of everything, while taking their desires for reality, apparently without the slightest qualm. One is for Hissein or Goukouni, without really knowing why, without even being acquainted with the interested parties and, in particular, without ever going to see what is taking place on the other side.

Twelve-Year Old Boys Carry Kalashnikovs

True, it is not easy to cross the river and to travel to either of the camps. What is more, the risks are high because of the bitterness of the fighting and the intensive bombardments.

Now, in order to visit Goukouni Oueddei in Farcha, in the northwestern suburb of the capital where the coalition forces have fallen back, it is better to ignore the other camp which is considered the rebel camp.

When I asked officials of the FAP (Popular Armed Forces of Goukouni Oueddei) if I could travel to Farcha with them, they replied only that this was "not the time," that it was "very dangerous." Not only because of the fighting but perhaps above all because of the lack of discipline and animosity of the combatants: "You know, they are excited; they do not like newsmen; you report just about anything." "They obey no one; 12-year old boys are carrying Kalashnikovs, and each of them can fire at anyone not to his liking," a minister from the south added a bit later. He confessed to me that he himself was uneasy when he had to spend a few days in Farcha "to keep the government running."

Finally, reportedly there are "too many things which should not be seen" in Farcha and its surrounding area. Great numbers of Libyan soldiers and a few mercenaries, for example? Or is it possible that the outskirts of Farcha are an overarmed but somewhat threatened redoubt?

"In any event, President Goukouni is not there. You will get the word when he returns," these same FAP officials finally announced.

In order to visit Hissein Habre, matters are not much simpler, even if visits by journalists are ardently wanted there. One must wait until the darkest part of night, find a hardy boatman and paddle as quietly as possible for a good half hour on the confluent of the Logone and Chari Rivers, which are considerably swollen by the rainy season. Overwhelmed by humid heat which rises out of the inky-black waters, we begin to hope that the moon does not come up too soon and reveal the boat gliding gently along. For the FAP combatants fire on anything attempting to cross the river. There has been a ban for months to cross over to what they call, the side of the "rebellion." This ban applies even to inhabitants who wish to return home after doing their shopping for supplies in the Kousseri market. It is not unusual in the early morning to discover bodies floating down the river or among the reeds.

Suddenly, bursts of 12.7 mm machine-gun fire and 14.5 cm twin-tube rocket launchers shatter the night, covering the sound of the oars. Tracer bullets cross the river and land we know not where or, at times, on the Cameroonian bank where they claim

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victims. The FAP are firing blindly, haphazardly. Then bursts come from the Gore Peninsula, between the Logone and Charis Rivers, where the men of Acyl Ahmat (GUNT minister of foreign affairs) are making incursions. Under this crossfire, we pray to God that those doing the firing will not launch flares. But no! Their attention is distracted by a violent bombardment and barrage fire from Farcha.

Greeted by FAN authorities who quartered me in a European villa guarded by sentinels so that it would not be looted and who asked me not to disturb anything, I was able in the following days to observe that all the houses of foreigners, who since the onset of the fighting were to be found in what was then the FAN region, had remained intact. Airconditioners, hi-fi systems, armchairs drapes, china, bags of coffee, packages of tea, boxes of sugar, makeup cases... everything is in place in these houses whose occupants have left the doors open so that they will not be forced.

What is more, in the capital, which is totally controlled by Hissein Habre's men, except for a narrow portion of the administrative district, which runs from the president's office to Farcha along the river, and in spite of the intensive and blind bombardments, we feel much more secure than in February 1979, at the time of the first battle of Ndjamen, when all factions shared the city, ready to kill one another.

For the First Time, Ndjamen Is Clear

FAN order reigns in Ndjamen (which still has 100,000 inhabitants) without oppression but without concession for looters. And the combatants generally do not travel about with their weapons except when they are moving to the front.

Moreover, nothing is lacking. At least, nothing essential. The markets are well stocked with meat and vegetables. An administration committee from the capital, made up basically of former administrators and civil servants, such as former mayor Mahamat Djiber, maintain the continuity of the various civil services: free medical treatment, price control, repair of streets and gutters... For the first time in years, refuse is being picked up and Ndjamen is clean. Except for the European and administrative district, which is void of inhabitants, having been completely sacked by the FAN combatants who occupied it at the beginning, then having been destroyed by the bitter fighting which enabled the FAN to seize control of it.

I toured their positions several times; and I was able to take photos unmolested in the European and administrative district, at the post office, near the French embassy which is still being occupied by Goukouni Oueddei's men. I was also able to take shots in the gendarmerie, of which only three buildings of the former nomadic guard are being held by the FAP, which is resupplied at night with difficulty by their comrades who still control the Central Bank, near the airport.

The FAN also hold the civilian airport and control access to the runway which has become a no man's land. However, they have evacuated the buildings of the airways terminal after having occupied them for some time: for the moment a useless position and too good a target for the murderous 120 mm shells.

Goukouni: "I Have Recruited Mercenaries"

As a matter of fact, Hissein Habre's general staff prefers to encircle Farcha rather than advance straight forward and confront the coalition's considerable firepower. And, it is indisputable, the FAN are encircling this suburb which is backed up against

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the Chari River. They hold the access road, occupy the Farcha and Massaguet crossroad, opening the door to north and east.

There, too, I was able to take photos without excessive risks. Similarly, I moved about, but on foot, on the road which leads from this crossroad toward the suburb where "law and order" are in effect and which Goukouni left to set up his residence in Milesi, on the bank of the river, 10 km from Ndjamen. On the other hand, the ministers of the south, who visit the capital from time to time, stay in the old guest villa, on the bank of the river. It, too, is midway between the French embassy and the former French military base--which the FAN occupied for a few hours in mid October but were not able to hold.

As for Camp Dubut, roughly equidistant from the former base and the Farcha veterinary laboratories, one-third of it is occupied by the FAN; the rest is occupied by Goukouni's men and the Libyans. The fact is that Libyan--and purely Libyan--units are engaged in the battle of Ndjamen.

Upon his return from the Lome conference on 20 October, Goukouni himself admitted, during a talk with a neighboring chief of state, that the airplanes bombing Ndjamen are Libyan and that he had recruited mercenaries. There are perhaps several dozen European adventurers; however, above all, there are between 500 and 700 Libyan soldiers in the outskirts of the capital--those close to Goukouni, clearly shaken, admit it. What is more, these troops have not gone undetected. Everyone knows that they send their reinforcements down the river and their wounded up the river, because the FAN have cut the Douguia road--this town is located 60 km north of Ndjamen where the GUNT was formed on 10 November 1979. There are also bodies left on the field, northwest of Farcha. And prisoners whom I was able to photograph and question, whose papers I was able to examine.

When Robert Galley Becomes "Robert Galeux"

Why have some persons sought for so long to deny this Libyan participation? As was done as recently as 16 October before the French National Assembly by Robert Galley, minister of cooperation.* For the FAN, who baptized him the "usurer of rue Monsieur," he has become "Robert Galeux" [Rotten Robert]. And according to their mimeographed publication, AL WATAN, "The French people are in the process of losing a historical friendship through the fault of Giscard and his strawmen." "In 1978, there were no French soldiers in Chad; there were only bogus events in Central Africa; there are no Libyan soldiers in Ndjamen today," I was told by a laughing former Chadian minister taking refuge in Cameroon. For his part, questioned on Togolese television about statements made by the minister of cooperation, Goukouni Oueddei replied derisively, "You know, Robert Galley is capable of saying almost anything..."

These remarks were immediately published in his newspaper, INFO-TCHAD.

One now gets the feeling more and more that something has to happen in Ndjamen. More than ever, Goukouni was at least right on one point when he reiterated since 21 March that "a victor and a vanquished" are needed.

*It was not until 7 November that Galley admitted, "Some units which seem to belong to the Libyan Islamic Legion have appeared in the Ndjamen combat zone."

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But who will be the victor? Hissein Habre's positions are spread out and solid in Ndjamea and in a 20-km surrounding perimeter, except for the area north of Farcha. However, ammunition is not abundant in his camp, as in the other, far from it. The "facilities" obtained in several countries where everything is bought cannot compare with what Libya pours out every day. If the FAN were as well equipped, many of their combatants would not have to go to the front with old MAS 36s and would not respond to the coalition's intensive fire by putting their Kalashnikovs or FALs in the single shot position. Of course, the MAS 36 is a very good rifle, and the FAN are excellent marksmen. Of course, Hissein Habre and his men have established stores of equipment by "recovering" them from the enemy since 12 February 1979--to this end, the columns of Acyl Ahmat, Col Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue (GUNT vice president) and the Libyan army, all generously supplied with assorted equipment, have been a windfall, to the extent that they have been intercepted.

Only One Vanquished: The Chadian People

Of course, FAN combatants are by all evidence the most disciplined and the most motivated. However, opposite them, there are also some excellent marksmen. In particular, there are AML 90s (light armored cars) of French design which are manufactured under licence in Brazil, a fleet of vehicles equipped with 106 mm recoilless cannons, large numbers of 120 mm mortars, rocket launchers, the famous "Stalin organs." And, in addition to the 500-700 Libyan soldiers engaged in Ndjamea, there are about 1,500 others operating in the north and northeast, beyond the Aouzou belt. Not to mention Colonel Kamougue's soldiers of whom 1,500-2,000 were brought up from the south to Farcha in DC-4s. As for the vanquished, in the final analysis it is the Chadian people who, for months and months, have unceasingly counted and recounted their dead.

Kamougue on Chadian Situation

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 80 p 24

[Interview with Col Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, vice president of the GUNT and leader of the south by Quentin Otabella and Francois Soudan in Paris on 6 November. Kamougue: "Habre Must be Swept aside"]

[Text] Col Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, 42, vice president of the GUNT and almost uncontested leader of the south, is one of Chad's three strong men. Allied with the troops of Goukouni and Acyl Ahmat in the fighting which pits them against Hissein Habre, this military man who was trained in France and who refuses to go beyond the rank of colonel ("being a general in Chad brings misfortune"), was in Paris during the first week in November. On the 6th, he explained his point of view to us. He was not always gentle with his own allies...

--Hissein Habre: "Hissein is the gangrene of Chad. He is a good soldier and is well acquainted with guerrilla warfare; however, he has to be swept aside. We will never hold discussions with him."

--Goukouni Oueddei: "If I had intervened with my men, Goukouni would have been crushed by Habre. It is thanks to me that he is still on the scene. As for other things, we have our differences with respect to basic problems; however, we will settle these later."

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Acyl Ahmat: "Acyl would never have reached Ndjamenia if my troops had not helped him. His FAC [Joint Action Front] is made up of guerrillas, not soldiers. We have agreed to provide them with cadres because they are against Habre and because I want to show that I am not anti-Moslem."

Libya: "Qadhafi has helped us a little. But I am not forgetting that he is still occupying the Aouzou belt: that is a violation of our sovereignty. I also know that he is sending his men to Chad: that is dangerous, but explainable."

--Egypt: "I have just returned from Cairo. We explained our position to the Egyptians--who, it is said, support Hissein Habre. They understood. We asked them for military aid. It will be welcome."

--France: "I wonder if there is a Chadian policy in France."

--Secession: "Why is there always talk about the secession of the south when it is the north in fact that has done the seceding."

--Money: "Habre's henchmen tell heaven knows what stories about my lifestyle, about the money I have. That is too much of a cheap shot for me to respond to. I will merely say that it was my friend the French minister of cooperation, Robert Galley, who paid for my hotel room when I was in Paris."

--The Presidency: "Any man of importance should be ready to assume the highest positions of his own country. Therefore, I am preparing myself for this. The reading of General de Gaulle's Memoirs, which is my bedside book at this time, are helping me in this endeavor."

Libyan Bombers

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 80 p 41

[Report by Jean-Louis Buchet]

[Text] The Libyan airplanes which bombed Ndjamenia in the month of October came from Nigeria. They took off from the airport of Maiduguri, the capital of Bornou state, in the north. Qadhafi had negotiated for the use of this airport directly with the state government, without the knowledge of the Lagos federal authorities.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ECONOMIC CRISIS AFFECTING CEAO

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 p 32

[Article by Francoise Hubscher, special correspondent in Niamey: "Tested by the Crisis"]

[Text] The atmosphere in which the Sixth Conference of the Heads of States of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) took place on 27 and 28 October in Niamey was simple and warm. It is true that the ovations of the Nigerian crowd, which came in large numbers to welcome Presidents Leopold Sedar Senghor (Senegal), Moussa Traore (Mali) and Ould Haidalla (Mauritania) and Joseph Conombo, the prime minister of Upper Volta and Simeon Ake, Ivory Coast foreign affairs minister, may have led one to believe for a brief moment that, 6 years after its creation, the CEAO had become one of the uncontested and popular institutions of regional life.

Controversies

This would mean ignoring the severe tensions which had become apparent 2 days previously, at the conference of the organization's ministers, held to draft decisions to be adopted by the chiefs of state. The economic crisis which is affecting the majority of the six members of the community, Senegal in particular, is a stern test of the will for regional solidarity.

Two questions were the object of lively discussions. The first dealt with the Community Development Fund (FCD). This fund is supported through compensation payments made by the member states whose industrial enterprises benefit, within the area, of a preferential customs system, thus depriving the national finances of revenue. Two-thirds of this fund is distributed among all the states in proportion to their original imports from the CEAO. The remaining third finances, on a priority basis, development projects in the most deprived members of the community.

In practical terms, the main exporting countries and, therefore, the biggest contributors, are the Ivory Coast and Senegal. However, blaming both financial difficulties and imperfect customs statistical data on which the FCD computations are based, the Ivory Coast and Senegal were not disposed to pay their share for 1981: one-third of the fund amounts. What makes this even more worrisome is that over the past few years payment arrears had accumulated, currently exceeding 5 billion CFA francs.

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Therefore, the contribution of one-third of the 1981 FCD was postponed for 1982. In return, however, the states have been asked to catch up with their back payments within very specific deadlines and before October 1981. Will they do it? The essentially importing countries are already prepared to impose customs duties should the promises remain unkept.... The second item of the discussion was the financing of the seven major community projects, some of which, particularly that of higher textile, mining, geology, and fishing schools were deemed excessively ambitious.

Some feared that the negotiations conducted by the secretariat general of the CEAO and the loans it had already obtained from international fund lenders may prejudice bilateral assistance. It is not always easy to reconcile national with regional interests. In the final account, these fears were laid to rest and the action of the secretariat general which, furthermore, was able to submit a budget remarkable in terms of austerity, was approved. Unquestionably, this led to the extension of the mandate of Moussa Ngom, secretary general, for another four years.

Caution

The year 1981 will show if the extensive discussions at the ministers' conference in Niamey were only a manifestation of the vitality of the CEAO or the prelude to more severe difficulties. Unquestionably, the appeal made by Nigerian chairman Seyni Kounche, who asked the members of the community not to adopt "passive or laxist" attitudes and not to attempt to save the form "when the substance is threatened" is not an unnecessary call to caution.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ENGINEERING, HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS REPORTED

What 'Engineering' Means

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 p 83

[Article by P.A.M.: "Engineering--Out or In"]

[Text] Ingenierie [literally, project development]. This is a recent term. It was not without a great deal of discussion that experts in the technical vocabulary of the French language came to the conclusion that this was the best term to use in rendering the meaning of the English word "engineering."

As part of the arcane work of the people who are determined that there shall be no prevalence of English terms and not too much "franglais" in the technical vocabulary, it happens that British specialists who are as familiar with the language of Moliere as that of Shakespeare are being consulted. One of them proposed that "engineering" be translated as industrial engineering. "Since you already have military engineering, civil engineering, rural engineering, etc.," he said, in justifying his proposal.

Perhaps this British citizen was found to be too much given to cultivating--French engineering! It is true, moreover, that the word "genie" [engineering] is not absent from the word "in-genie-rie." But it is especially true that if we go back over the centuries we perceive that the English word "engineering" is derived from an old French word, which is none other than ingenierie.

French Engineering in Africa

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 pp 83, 85

[Article by Jean-Paul Geai: "French Engineering: the African Target"]

[Text] The euphoria of late 1973 has come to an end. The fabulous markets of the Middle East or the developing countries raised some hopes for French engineering, but they also raised many mirages. Taking into account the contracts already signed and the projects permanently abandoned, the wheel of the investment program is turning more slowly, and the competition is increasingly lively. The crisis is certainly worldwide, but for French engineering it is acute.

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After regular growth until 1977, French engineering has been building since a noticeable recession, even more rapid in exportation than in the domestic market.

With an overall turnover of 3,307,000,000 French francs (165,350,000,000 CFA francs), French industrial engineering was showing a 9-percent decline below the year before (3,636,000,000 French francs). In exports the decline was even more marked, going from 2,300,000,000 francs (115,000,000,000 CFA francs) in 1977 to 1,900,000,000 in 1977 [as published], for a 14-percent decrease. Since then the situation has scarcely corrected itself, except where computer science is concerned.

However, French engineering, which is still of recent implantation--it was only around 1950 that a French firm was capable of building a refinery--has made very significant progress. With over 50,000 salaried workers, 30,000 of whom are engineers and executives, distributed among over 700 corporations, it realized in 1977 an overall turnover (including sale of equipment) of over 15,000,000,000 French francs (750,000,000,000 CFA francs), almost a third of it in exports. In activity volume, computer consulting (teleprocessing, mini computers) ranks first in Europe and second in the world, after the United States.

Long considered the spearhead of France's commercial expansion, engineering also had many chain reaction effects on the other sectors. Stimulated by the example of the large American corporations (Bechtel, Foster-Wheeler or Lummus), the French threw themselves into chemical and nuclear engineering. When the Technip firm (2,400,000,000 French francs in turnover in 1979) announced last June the completion of construction of a steam crusher with an annual capacity of 280,000 tons in Umm Said (Qatar), two other large French engineering firms, Heurtey and SOFRESID [expansion unknown], effected a rapprochement on the same date, in order to take the lead in the industrial intelligence market.

Simply a coincidence of dates? In fact, the Heurtey-SOFRESID combination (over 1,500,000,000 French francs in turnover) was merely responding to a recent report from the Industry Ministry that recommended a reorganization of French engineering, especially where it is publicly capitalized, in order to increase its competitiveness.

Today French engineering is in a position to contribute not only high-quality equipment and efficient technology, but also a kind of after-sales service, including the training of technicians. However, despite their excellent gray matter, it is only rarely that French engineering companies attain international dimension. They are still suffering from too often exploiting foreign permits, from being inadequately integrated into powerful groups, from still being too new at the art of practising the art of "target countries."

The middle-sized firms are being literally smothered by the competition from the leaders (Serete, Technip, Krebs, SODETEG [Technical Studies and General Enterprises Company], Heurtey-SOFRESID, Seri, etc.), whose first ten years are realizing 70 percent of the turnover in the export profession.

In addition, after their observed progress between 1970 and 1976, the key markets under the control of large groups (oil installations, steel equipment, cement works) are being more and more cut up into distinct contracts in which the customer reserves for his own nationals that which they know how to do and asks the foreigner for only the most complicated share, and for aid in training personnel. The competition, until then limited to several large countries (United States, FRG, Japan, Great

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Britain, Italy), is continually expanding with new arrivals (Brazil, India, Pakistan, South Korea, etc.).

Of course high technology remains the domain of the Western corporations, but the new ones have a considerable advantage: abundant and cheap manpower, whereas the manpower available to French engineering is costly.

French engineering today is realizing 30 percent of its turnover in the Middle East, 22 percent in French-speaking Africa and 22 percent in Mediterranean Africa, and emphasizing its effort to spread out into non-French-speaking Africa. It is true that, historically, France remains in a good position to participate in the building of large infrastructures for African countries.

Hydroelectric Common Market

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 pp 85, 87, 89, 91-92

[Article by Abdelaziz Barouhi]

[Text] Is it a dream a Utopia? The Belgian economist, L. Gillon, does not think so; he said, at the conclusion of a report that bears his name, "The possibility of realizing a common market for electric energy is an exceptional opportunity for West (and central) Africa, and is an opportunity not to be missed, because it is based on very favorable technical data."

The Gillon report is based on an obvious observation: developing countries that are not endowed with hydrocarbons resources devote enormous sums to purchasing their oil. Hence "a veritable hemorrhage of currency that takes away almost every potential for productive investment, which is indispensable to their progress and their emergence from under-development."

Therefore it is imperative for them--with greater urgency than for the industrialized countries--to find other energy resources, because without available energy there is no economic growth and even less development.

But the principal energy resources of West Africa and Central Africa (other than hydroelectric energy) are threatened with exhaustion or waste. This is the case with wood used indiscriminately as an energy source in the large urban centers. In the old days, even by the railroads, whose locomotives had wood-burning boilers! This is also the case with oil; even though the resources of that substance are far from negligible*, it would not be reasonable to count on them as middle- and long-term energy resources for producing electricity in western and central Africa.

So it is necessary to conserve oil for limited use in the parts of the African territory that could not be reached by other energy vectors, which is the case with road transportation and air transportation or petrochemical synthesis and fertilizers.

There is much solar energy, "the most promising." The Gillon report, however, emphasizes that it is still very expensive and requires a strong mobilization of capital and is only justified where other forms of energy cannot easily be established. Consequently it is "not very realistic" to think of an industrialization of Africa based on solar energy.

*Oil production in African countries south of the Sahara (1978, in millions of tons): Angola, 9.50; Congo, 1.90; Gabon, 11.00; Nigeria, 95.00; Zaire, 1.25.

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And so there remains electric energy. This is the principal asset of West and Central Africa in the field of energy. The hydroelectric potential of the whole of Africa is 33 percent of the worldwide potential. Central Africa alone has 20 percent. A single site, Inga in Zaire, unique in all the world, represents in itself a potential of 30 GW [gigawatts] (or 30,000,000 kilowatts) and could produce 200 TWh [expansion unknown] (200,000,000,000 kilowatt hours), which equals the present consumption of France and five times Belgium's consumption.

The chief advantage of a hydroelectric power plant is that it is supplied with a raw material--water from a river or a lake--that costs virtually nothing. Nevertheless, hydroelectric equipment requires investments much higher than those required to build a fossil fuel power plant (that is, one operating on oil, gas or coal).

By way of comparison, the production cost of a kilowatt hour is 0.02 French francs at the Inga 2 hydroelectric plant in Zaire; five times higher than Gabon and 12 times higher than the Selingue station in Mali. In France, the production cost of a kilowatt hour in a nuclear power plant is estimated at 0.12 French francs, or more expensive than in Gabon and Zaire, but less expensive than in Mali.

Sub-Saharan Africa already has enormous equipment assets in dams and hydroelectric power plants (see tables). The systems for distribution of electricity are still to be interconnected. There are several arguments in favor of such interconnection:

1. The flow of the tropical rivers varies enormously from season to season. But since the low-water periods vary from region to region, there is special interest in integrating the hydroelectric power plants into a single entity.
2. An interconnection of distribution systems may also make it possible to build an "on-stream" installation instead of and in place of an installation with a reservoir dam, or at least to limit the reservoir to whatever is economically profitable.

In view of the present length of the big electrical system lines in the countries of West Africa (see table), however, a prime difficulty stands in the way of an immediate interconnection: the distances between the electrical systems of the concerned states are great and the transporting power is still weak, but that power will be more than doubled by 1990.

On the other hand, the fact that Africa is cut up politically means that we have 20 states involved in this project: four states south of the equator (Zaire, Zambia, Angola and Zimbabwe); north of the equator, the 13 coastal states and three non-coastal neighboring countries directly concerned. It is obviously contra-indicated to provide for a line that crosses a country without supplying it with energy or receiving energy from it.

In fact, interconnections between neighboring countries already exist or are in the process of being developed:

Between Ghana, Togo and Benin (the Akasombo-Lome-Cotonou line);

between Zaire and Zambia (the Shituru-Kitwe line);

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between Zambia and Zimbabwe;

between Mozambique and South Africa (the Cabora Bassa-Apollo line, 1,420 km in length);

in the interior of Zaire, between Bas-Zaire and Shaba (1,770 km).

North of the equator, interconnections are envisaged between:

Ghana and the Ivory Coast*;

Ghana and Upper Volta;

Ghana and Nigeria.

Interconnecting a Zaire-Zambia-Zimbabwe line is thus within the realm of possibility, since the network exists or is in the process of being completed in some sections.

Angola can be connected to that network by a direct line with the Inga power plant in Zaire (which would seem to be the easiest to accomplish if there were no political obstacle), or by tying into the Zairian Inga-Shaba line.

The most ambitious interconnection recommended by the Gillon report is the Center-North line, which would connect nine countries, going from Zaire to the Ivory Coast by way of the Congo-Brazza, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana. That connection has not yet been studied in detail, but it would result in the building of 2,750 km of system, whose sections would be as follows:

Zaire (Inga)-Congo Brazza-Gabon (M'Bei): 700 km.

Congo (M'Bei)-Cameroon (Sanaga): 450 km.

Cameroon (Sanaga)-Nigeria (Sapele): 500 km.

Nigeria (Sapele)-Ghana (Akunsombo): 650 km.

Ghana (Akunsombo)-Ivory Coast (Vridi): 450 km.

This is a total of 2,750 km.

The existing power on this axis is 500 MW [megawatts] and it would reach 11,550 MW* before 1990, considering the development projects of the Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

Extending this network farther north on an Ivory Coast-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea-Guinea Bissau-Gambia-Senegal line would, according to the Gillon report, be less easy to accomplish from an economic point of view: it would necessitate building 2,000 km of electric lines for a population of no more than 15,000,000 inhabitants.

On the other hand the report considers that the very high tension link going from Zaire to the Ivory Coast and connecting nine countries /is justified technically/ [*in italics*] and that the economic conditions would be /extremely favorable/ [*in italics*]

*Study conducted by the Courtoy Bureau, Brussels.

*1 MW = 1,000,000,000 watts.

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italics], thanks to the integration of the partner countries' resources and an optimal allocation of investments.

In that perspective, the suggestion is made to the planners in the countries concerned that they "provide for such an interconnection before decreeing the development plan for the national networks, for their integration into this project of interconnections obviously depends on the sources and the loads they will connect, and the points of exchange with all the national networks."

To study the technical and economic "feasibility" of a connection between them, the French-speaking and English-speaking countries of this region of Africa should set up a technical commission that could establish the plan for accomplishing the connection in five stages, starting from Zaire and going back toward the northern part of the region to reach Senegal in the last stage. However, this is a political decision that must sanction the project of a common market for hydroelectric energy in Western and central Africa, which can be realized /under the best possible financial conditions/ [in italics].

The political importance of such an energy common market is obvious. First, the economics of the modern world increasingly favors large entities and for this reason, the Gillon report asserts, the realization of an electrical energy common market is "an opportunity not to be missed...for the states of West Africa it would be an opportunity to understand each other and to share an energy patrimony whose long-term development is inevitable and which could be greatly accelerated by their agreement in the matter."

The economic advantage for the countries of the region is no less obvious. It would enable them to have permanently at their disposal a hydroelectric energy sufficient for them to surmount together the difficulties of supplying energy, for which they do not possess the same weapons as the industrialized countries that are developing nuclear networks. And the nuclear power of the developing African countries is water!

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LARGE ELECTRIC POWER LINES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Electric Power (in MW)						
Country	Population (in millions)	Present	Estimated 1990	Potential	Connection Center	Line Length (in km)
Zimbabwe	6.3	700	2,000	4,300	Kariba	100
Zambia	4.7	1,000	2,000	3,000	Kafwe	500
Zaire Shaba	24.2	560	560	1,000	Kolwezi	1,770
Lower Zaire		1,520	2,700	30,000	Inga	200
Congo-Brazza	1.3	32	100	1,000	Sounda	500
Gabon	0.6	205	450	1,000	M'Bei	450
Cameroon	6.3	300	800	1,000	Sananga	500
Nigeria	66.0	960	4,000	5,000	Sapele	650
Ghana	9.6	925	1,600	2,000	Akusunbo	450
Ivory Coast	4.8	525	1,000	1,500	Vridi	800
Liberia	1.7	300	600	1,000	Monrovia	350
Sierra Leone	2.7	86	300	500	Freetown	250
Guinea	4.3	125	500	1,000	Konkoure	600
Senegal	4.3	184	400	700	Dakar	
	136.8	7,422	17,010	53,000		7,120

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HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

1. Northwest

Country	River	Location	Progress	Ready	Installed Power (MW)	Average Annual Production (GWh*)
SENEGAL	Senegal	Manantali	E		100-300	
	Senegal	Galougo	E		300	
	Gambia	Various	E		100	
MALI	Niger	Sotuba	R	1966	6	
	Sankarani	Selingue	C	1980	44	230
	Niger	Tossaye	E		17	
	Senegal	Manantali	E		100-300	800
UPPER VOLTA	Komtenga	Pama	E		60	300
GUINEA-BISSAU	Corebal					
GUINEA	Samou	Grandes chutes	E			
	Bafung	Koukoutamba	R	1977	100	
	Konkoure	Souapiti	E		700	
	Konkoure	Amaria	E			
SIERRA LEONE	Seli	Bumbana I	C	1980	46	
	Seli	Bumbana II	P	1985-1990	100	
LIBERIA	St. Paul	Mont Coffee	R		69	
	Cavalla		E			

R = Completed
 C = Under construction
 P = In planning stage
 E = Under study

*GWh = gigawatt hours.

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HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

2. West Central

Country	River	Location	Progress	Ready	Installed Power (MW)	Average Annual Production (GWh)
IVORY COAST	Bia	Ayame I,II	R	1959-1965	50	220
	Bandama	Kossou	R	1972	174	500
	Bandama	Taabo	C	1979	210	1,000
	Sassandra	Buyo	C	1981	165	900
	Sassandra	Soubre	P		250	1,500
	Comoe	Attakro	P	1985	90	410
	Comoe	Malamalasso	P	1987	150	820
GHANA	Volta	Akosombo	R	1965	912	4,000
	Volta	Kpong	C	1980	160	940
	Volta	Bui	E		180-400	
	Oti		E			
NIGER	Niger	Kandadji	E			1,800
	Mekrou	Dyodonga	P	1982	84	500
NIGERIA	Niger	Kainji A	R	1968-1976	520	
	Niger	Kainji B	C	1978-1979	240	
	Kaduna	Shiroro	C	1983	600	
	Niger	Jebba	C	1982-1983	500	
	Niger	Lokoja	E	1983-1988	2,000	
	Cross	Ikom	E		400	
	Benue	Malakurdi	E		600	
	Gongola	C	1982	30		
CAMEROON	Sananga	Edea	R	1953-1970	250	1,240
	Sananga	Song-Loulou	C	1980-1985	400	2,800
	Benoue	Lagdo	C	1978-1980	83	
	Sananga	Nachtigal	P		200	800
	Nyong	Njock	P		270	

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HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

3. Central and Southern

Country	River	Location	Progress	Ready	Installed Power (MW)	Average Annual Production (GWh)
GABON	M'Bel	Kinguele	R	1973-1978	60	400
	Ogoue	Pouraba I	R	1975	20	100
	Ogoue	Pouraba II	E		250	1,400
	M'Bei	Tchimbela I	C		64	280
	M'Bei	Kinguele II	P		30	240
	M'Bei	Kinguele III	P		60	400
CONGO-BRAZZA	Djoue	Djoue	R	1953	15	62
	Bouenza	Bouenza	C	1978-1982	74	480
	M'Pama	M'Pama	C		48	
	Djoue	Djoue II			15	
	Kouilu	Sounda	E		280-830	
ZAIRE	Lualaba	Nzilo I	R	1954	108	533
	Lualaba	Nzilo II	R	1956	258	1,410
	Inkisi	Zongo	R	1957	40	
	Zaire	Inga I	R	1973	350	2,400
	Zaire	Inga II	R-C	1978	1,400	8,800
	Zaire	Inga III	P		1,200	
	Zaire	Inga IV	E		26,000	240,000
ANGOLA	Cuenza				368	2,600
	Cunene					
ZAMBIA	Kafwe	Kafwe	R	1972	600	3,500
	Zambese	Kariba II	C		600	3,500
ZIMBABWE	Zambese	Kariba I	R	1959	705	5,250
MOZAMBIQUE	Zambese	Cabora Bassa	R-C	1975-1982	1200-3600	

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

INTER-AFRICAN PHOSPHATE COOPERATION--The Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria are shareholders in the Senegalese Chemical Plant whose construction is to begin in 1981? [sic] This inter-African cooperation will be seriously considered for the transformation of phosphates (of which Senegal is the eighth largest producer in the world) into phosphoric acid and nitrogenous fertilizer. Estimated cost: 60 billion CFA francs. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 p 33] 8693

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

FEARS AFTER REAGAN VICTORY--In two recent editions we commented on the problems presented to Angola by Ronald Reagan's victory in the U.S. presidential elections. The JORNAL DE ANGOLA devotes to this question a long commentary by its Paris correspondent. The latter believes that Reagan's victory represents "a relief and a simplification" for Pretoria in its attitude toward the eventual independence of Namibia, given the fact that the U.S. president-elect pronounced himself "explicitly" against the boycotting advocated by certain countries against South Africa. "There is no reason to doubt Mr Reagan's animosity toward Angola," the newspaper reports, stressing a declaration by Reagan cited by the magazine AFRICA REPORT of New York: "To be frank, I would provide arms to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)." The paper goes on to draw a parallel with the "discreet attitude" adopted by the United States vis-a-vis Angola and the role of certain companies--among them Gulf Oil Company, which exploits the Cabinda wells--that advocated U.S. recognition of Angola, something that was never achieved. Finally, Richard Allen's presence in the Reagan team, and the mention of his ties with "Portuguese colonialism," are not exactly reassuring for the Luanda authorities. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 28 Nov 80 p 3179]

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COMORO ISLANDS

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION IN COMORO ISLANDS REVIEWED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 pp 2976-77

[Text] Federal Assembly Votes Motion of Support for President Abdallah

An ordinary session of the Comoro Federal Assembly, which opened on 28 October 1980 chiefly to study the 1981 draft budget, voted on 29 October a resolution strongly condemning the subversive attempts to challenge once more the regime established by the Comoro people under the Constitution of 1 October 1978. This resolution, which was adopted by 22 votes in favor and 6 abstentions while 7 deputies were not present, says:

"The Federal Assembly:

--Categorically rejects any attempt of subversion no matter where it takes place and what its nature and purpose may be.

--Strongly condemns any attempt to gain power by military force.

--Formally expresses its lasting allegiance to the principles of liberty and democracy.

--Asks Ahmed Abdallah, in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution and on the basis of his installation as president of the republic, to continue performing his functions.

--Insists on telling the president of the republic that his fundamental role is to see to it, in every way, that the Constitution is respected according to Articles 15 and 24."

The Vanilla Issue

Following the vote on this resolution, Prime Minister Salim Ben Ali presented a report on his government's general policy on budget matters. So, he pointed out that the Comoro budget for 1981, due to be discussed by the assembly, has been fixed at 3.138 billion francs CFA, slightly higher (9 percent) than the 1980 estimates.

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In the part of his address devoted to economic matters, the prime minister spoke about the vanilla market situation which has been affected by the downward price trends and he restated the position of his government: "No matter what financial difficulties we may have to face, now or in the future, the government will not agree to drop the price of this commodity which is basic to our economy. We shall wait as long as it is necessary, we shall build up stocks or destroy them if need be. We think that our Malagasy brothers will follow our example."

The prime minister also noted that the country's balance of payments had been seriously shattered by the sharp increases in the price of oil and manufactured goods and he pointed out that the exports of ilang-ilang, for which the Comoros are one of the main producers in the world, had not increased enough and that no contract had been signed for the vanilla.

President Abdallah Presents His Economic Program

President Ahmed Abdallah returned to Moroni on 16 October after a 10-day private visit to France where he received in audience [French] Minister of Cooperation Robert Galley and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn with whom he discussed French-Comorian cooperation and bilateral relations.

On 22 October, and to mark the second anniversary of his election, President Ahmed Abdallah made an important radio broadcast in which he reviewed the priorities of his economic policy: agriculture, reforestation, expansion of the infrastructures for ports and roads among others, and the many projects involving the sinking of wells, water reservoirs, energy, health and so on. In a brief assessment of the economic situation, the Comorian head of state said:

"The objectives of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning are centered on setting up the development plan. Several steps have been taken to this end:

--Creation of institutions to work out the plan; thus the National Planning Commission has been set up while other commissions (sectorial, equilibrium and financing) will be created in the near future.

--The task of the economic planning project, signed between the government and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], will be to create planning structures and actually help them to work out the plan.

--The general census of population and housing, now in progress, will provide the demographic and socioeconomic data which is absolutely necessary to achieve these objectives.

"Simultaneously, the ministry has given its attention to preparing and pursuing a number of key projects due to be eventually incorporated into the development plan. Some other projects are at the launching stage: this is the case for a cottage industry type of fishing project, for the coconut palm project, the poultry farming and small-scale livestock project among others."

President Abdallah also mentioned the project to create a development bank which has drawn the interest of several backers: the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank."

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On the matter of equipment, and in addition to the road works already completed or in progress, the head of state recalled that the Kuwaiti Development Fund was actively working to draw up the construction project of the port of Mutsamudu which will be the main port of the archipelago; invitations to tenders will be issued as soon as the studies are completed. The European Development Fund (EDF) is going to finance the ports of Moroni and Moheli while France intends to considerably improve the port of Mayotte.

France has also financed a study to improve the international airstrip of Hahaya in Grand Comoro as well as the repair work done to it. The operations of Sofreavia Service at Hahaya Airport were also financed with French cooperation. Therefore, by the beginning of 1981, the technical and radio installations at the Hahaya Airport, the runway lights, power station, the meteorological station, unfinished in 1975, will be renovated and completed. In 1981, Hahaya will be a financially independent public establishment capable of dealing with an important increase of air traffic.

It must be also pointed out that Abu Dhabi has financed the expansion and repair work carried out at the Ouani airstrip in Anjouan and that funds from the federal budget will be used to improve the equipment of the Fomboni Airport in Moheli.

The EDF and the ABEDA (Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa) are paying half of the cost of improving telephone communications between the islands; this important project is underway. The long-distance telephone service (telephone exchange) will also be improved; France will pay a substantial part of this cost.

For its part, the Federal Republic of Germany is financing the electrification of the regions of Fomboni and Djoiezi in Moheli. The African Development Bank is studying a project to build a hydroelectric power station in Anjouan and in Moheli. In Grand Comoro, France was willing to finance a 2,700 kilowatt/hour plant for the Moroni region but in order to promote the development of that island, the Comorian authorities have asked France to make it a 10,000 kilowatt/hour plant to satisfy the needs of a large number of villages.

With regard to water supply, the projects financed by the EDF are almost finished in Moroni with work scheduled to start soon in Moheli.

But, according to President Abdallah, the main effort during these 2 years was made in transforming the highly populated and very poor region of Nioumakele. This project includes roads, which are now almost completed, water supply, reforestation and development of truck farming. China is financing part of these projects, particularly the water supply works.

In the sphere of agriculture, the EDF is helping to finance the "corn" program and last year the government distributed 300,000 young plants of clove trees. The IDA [International Development Association] has financed a campaign to exterminate rats and to reutilize coconut palm plantations. Next year, Grand Comoro and Anjouan will each have a food canning plant.

With regard to reforestation, an emergency program has been established particularly for Grand Comoro and Anjouan. A first section covering 200 hectares has been completed and work is going to start on a second section.

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As for fishing, the ADF (African Development Fund) granted recently a large loan to develop fishing of the cottage industry type and this loan will be used mainly to complete and equip refrigeration plants. Six small patrol boats, at least two of which will be supplied by France, are going to be used both for sea rescue operations and to patrol the fishing areas because, as mentioned by the head of state, several foreign vessels are fishing without license in Comorian waters. A draft bill aimed at bringing this situation to an end, will be shortly submitted to the Federal Assembly. Foreign companies wishing to obtain a fishing license will have to pay a fee in conformity with the international practice.

Chamber of Commerce President Totally Disagrees With Mr Kemal

In our issue of 17 October, we mentioned the recent manifesto published in Paris where Said Ali Kemal announced the creation of a movement of opposition to President Abdallah and in our issue of 31 October we reported that after Mr Kemal issued his manifesto there had been little reaction in the Comoros. We also publish above the motion of support for Abdallah voted by the Comoro Federal Assembly.

In a letter dated 31 October and sent to the editorial board of our newspaper, Said Mohamed Djohar, president of the Comoro Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Moroni, tells us that he totally disagrees with Mr Kemal.

In the view of Mr Djohar, the proclamation issued by the former ambassador of the Comoros in Paris can only "be harmful to the topmost interests of the country with his false attacks against the regime of Ahmed Abdallah who was democratically elected by an almost unanimous vote...Mr Kemal's attitude," writes the president of the Chamber of Commerce, "is misleading the representatives of states, the organizations and investors and he is not concerned by the harm which he is causing to our economy by stopping favorable initiatives and appreciable aid which our country badly needs."

In any case, Mr Djohar concludes, Kemal's resignation and appeal "did not awake any interest among the mass of the Comorian people."

Pierre Verin, head of the French cooperation mission in the Comoros, left Moroni for Paris on 30 October. Pierre Vecchierini, who is replacing him, arrived on 1 November to take over his post.

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CONGO

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED--The Congo and Argentina signed a general cooperation agreement on rural economy, commercial exchanges, and national education in Brazzaville on 31 October. The communique published at the end of the 3-day visit of an Argentinian delegation to the Congo announced that the delegations from both countries exchanged information on economic, cultural and social development. Both parties noted that conditions and potentials as yet unexplored by the two countries exist for the establishment and strengthening of cooperation. The Congo and Argentina later showed a firm determination to direct every effort towards setting up a new world economic order, according to the communique. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2971] 8693

FISHING BOATS ORDERED IN BRAZIL--Congolese minister of Industry and Tourism, Jean Itadi, visited the major Brazilian port of Santos (in Sao Paulo state) and the naval workyards of Itajai on 31 October. The Congo has ordered four fishing boats and fishing equipment from the Ebrasa company in Itajai. Brazzaville may order additional fishing boats. The minister also expressed interest to Brazilian officials in the construction of fishing harbors in his country. Having arrived in Brazil on 29 October, Itadi held talks in Brasilia with Brazilian officials, especially Ernane Galveas, Finance Minister. He left Brazil for Paris on 1 November. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2971] 8693

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BRIEFS

SPANISH COOPERATION TREATY SIGNED--The vice president and the commissioner of External Affairs in Equatorial Guinea, Florencio Maye, went to Spain on 24 October. He was received in Madrid by King Juan Carlos. A friendship and cooperation treaty had been signed the day before between Equatorial Guinea and Spain by Maye and Jose-Pedro Perez-Llorca, Spanish minister of Foreign Affairs. According to the Spanish minister of Foreign Affairs, this treaty establishes the bases for cooperation between the two countries. During this official visit, talks between the two parties centered primarily on questions of agriculture, fishing and public works. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2969] 8693

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GABON

ECONOMIC ORIENTATION FOCUSES ON SMALL ENTERPRISES

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 14 Nov 80 pp 3011-3013

[Article by Francois Gaulme]

[Excerpts] Gabon is a Janus: on the one hand, it has the ruddy complexion of a country which has corrected its financial situation, to the satisfaction of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and which has the highest GDP in Africa, after Libya; on the other hand, it has the archaic face of a largely under-exploited territory, in which a rural populace that is diminishing is engaged in subsistence agriculture in the isolation of the forest.

Since 1979, the political authorities of Libreville have understood that they cannot continue on the same path. The financial crisis experienced by the country since 1977 has driven away investors. The Third Five-Year Plan, which was too unrealistic, became unworkable. This difficult period was ideal for reflection.

The appearance of unemployment in the private sector, which was poorly contained by swelling the ranks of the already sizable public employment sector, the anarchical development of a capital which is attracting too many unqualified rural dwellers, the excessive increase in the cost of living during the affluent years, 1974-1976, all brought awareness of the reality of social problems in a Gabon which is, however, underpopulated and which does not have 1 million inhabitants.

The second extraordinary Congress of the single party, the PDG (Gabonese Democratic Party), whose secretary general-founder is President Bongo, has stigmatized corruption and has decided that the imperatives of development will henceforth be to struggle against the "harmful effects" of "savage capitalism" and to "establish a new strategy" based on exploitation of "renewable resources" (as opposed to oil), to continue to build the basic infrastructures and to reaffirm "the priority character of agriculture."

In conformity with President Bongo's wishes, the CNPF (National Council of French Employers), in collaboration with the French Ministry of Cooperation and the French Secretariat of State for Small and Medium-size Industries, has decided to organize "Gabonese Days" designed to encourage the development of industrial cooperation between the two countries.

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These "Gabonese Days" will be held from 25 November to 1 December 1980. On 27, 28 and 29 November, the Gabonese delegations will travel to Lyon, Nantes and Bordeaux where they will be received by the employer unions and chambers of commerce and industry.

There will be a twofold purpose to these "Gabonese Days": on the one hand to present the partners who will permit French industrialists to contribute to Gabon's new strategy for development, account taken of the economic possibilities offered by this country; on the other hand to propose to possible French investors 30 ideas for projects in the sectors of mechanics, chemistry, timber, fishing, truck farming, pharmacy, refrigeration and eventually tourism. Gabon still offers very interesting possibilities in several sectors: those sectors which are being called upon to develop on already solid bases are timber and fishing. The Trans-Gabonese Railway, which is supposed to reach Booue at the end of 1982, will permit new exploitation of the forest region furthest from the sea, which is reserved for industrial companies having large resources. The Libreville authorities also want to have the first on-site processing of timber, which is not now the case. Even during a period of forestry crisis as today, Gabon continues to be an important producer of tropical timber, with about 1 million m³ of logs produced per year.

The mines should also be developed, thanks to the possibilities of ore evacuation offered by the Trans-Gabonese Railway. Apart from the traditional products of Gabon (manganese, uranium), the worth of other resources is now known: barite, talc, lead. Belinga's iron cannot be extracted until completion of the last trunk of the railway, therefore, over the long term; however, mining explorations are continuing. Geological coverage of national territory, in fact, has taken place in only an uneven manner. Financially interesting discoveries are not excluded by any means.

Another entirely new activity, which could be promising in the future, is industrial fishing. The Gabonese coastal waters are filled with fish. In particular, there are many varieties of tuna in those waters. Political authorities would like to establish a full-blown, integrated industrial fishing operation, especially at Port-Gentil. This operation would range from the catching of the fish to their on-site processing. Auxiliary industries could be added to this new activity. Up to now, Gabonese hand-labor fishing has been limited to the estuaries, lagoons and lakes. This, too, could be developed, since fresh fish, or dried fish in particular, is the traditional accompaniment for the plantain banana and mainoc which are the staples fo Gabonese diet.

By complementing the official programs for sugar production and the revival of cacao, coffee and the oil palm, agricultural and agricultural-industrial projects are already being planned, as is the large-scale development of manioc growing for export (cattle feed). However, although this tuber grows very easily in Gabon, the relatively high cost of the factors of industrial production will doubtless make it difficult to have access to the international market where there is already strong competition.

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The Small Enterprises

One of the principal objectives being pursued by the "Gabonese Days," the establishment of small enterprises, does not yet appear clearly on the list of these projects. What is involved, however, is a new economic policy for Gabon, which for over a year has been the subject of renewed contacts between ministerial departments in Paris and Libreville.

President Bongo and his government justifiably feel that it is necessary to put the local economy back into balance through the establishment of small and medium-size industries, just as it would be worthwhile to develop secondary urban centers to bring relief to a capital which has continued to grow since independence, causing the fear of a dangerous imbalance. In a way, this is a resumption, in another form, of the policy which had been espoused by the Catholic or Protestant missions under colonization: encourage craft industries and self-sufficiency in each region of the country.

In the program of the interim plan, 2.9 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs are earmarked by the state for the promotion of Gabonese small and medium-size enterprises. The principal part of this financial activity is to take place in 1981 and 1982 (1 billion each year).

This is a means of encouraging the formation of a class of real Gabonese businessmen. Up to now, official economic policy rested on parastate companies, in a system at times described as "state capitalism" which is quite common on the African continent. Economic and financial responsibilities are closely linked to political activities. The liberalization of the economy by favoring the enterprises of nationals (and no longer foreign enterprises) who have made up their minds to take personal risks to succeed in business would permit a fight against the lethargy and waste which too often characterize the management of parastate companies. A first step in this direction was taken with the establishment of National Council of Gabonese Employers.

For the moment, this class of businessmen is limited; however, the "middle class" which has developed in Gabon since independence should understand that the days of its prosperity are numbered if it fails to do anything to assure, by personal effort, replacement of a pension system in disguise which will not be eternal. Rather than slackening the economic ties which link them with their region of origin, the members of this "middle class," by following the example of some individuals, could play a decisive role in the balanced development of their country by taking initiatives on their native soil, initiatives which their financial means make possible. Programs truly adapted to local needs would permit the engagement of necessary dialog, which does not yet exist, with those who have remained rural.

Of course, diversification of the Gabonese economy will run into structural problems: the high cost of factors linked with the country's dependence on imports, which is reinforced by domestic inflation caused by the oil boom; the harshness of life in the forest; the weakness of the population and, therefore, the high cost of transportation, tightness of the domestic market;

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inadequate training of mid-level managers and technicians. Nevertheless, Libreville retains the key elements of the current prosperity, which make if a financial market; of the liberal character of the economic system and political stability; improvement in the rural condition is doubtless possible, this, too, with combined and realistic efforts.

In the final analysis, Gabon is aware that it must now get busy and utilize its human resources in the best way possible, if it wants to be something other than a maritime facade being eroded by the sea sprays. "We must cultivate our garden," Candide said.

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GHANA

BRIEFS

NEW ITALIAN FISHING TRAWLER--The Italian shipyard at Viareggio, Tuscany, Societa Esercizio Cantieri (SEC), launched another trawler for the State Fishing Corporation of Ghana. The new vessel, named "Firraw," is the sixth of its kind constructed by the SEC for the Ghanian national fishing company of an order totaling 44 billion lire, which also includes two tuna boats. Let us remember that Ghana had appealed to foreign naval shipyards to supply fishing boats (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEES, 25 January, p 200) and that it also ordered several motors to equip its traditional vessels, which, we might add, have been the subject of illicit trafficking and which were resold at triple their purchase price in neighboring countries. (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 16 May, p 1154). The country which attaches great importance to the development of its fishing sector, both maritime and lake fishing (the latter particularly in the artificial lake formed by the Akosombo Dam), has itself also begun the construction of boats and has witnessed the establishment of its first private enterprise, the Boat Building Company, Ltd. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 14 Nov 80 p 3035] 8143

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IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES SUCCESSOR, DEMOCRATIZATION

KD081433 Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 3 Dec 80 pp 32-33

[Interview with Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny at Yamoussoukro by Sennen
Andriamirado: "Houphouet Judges His Democracy"; no date given]

[Excerpts] JEUNE AFRIQUE: Mr President, the 1980 parliamentary elections have brought about a fundamental change in the political class. Most of the outgoing deputies have been "ousted" by the voters. Nonetheless the low turnout at the polls raises doubts...

Felix Houphouet-Boigny: There were failures and mistakes but the progress was enormous compared with previous elections: Ivory Coast is undergoing its apprenticeship in free elections. It is not easy.

As for the lessons to be learned, there has been great progress. This time the candidates know what they represent.

It is important for a man to understand what he represents in a society.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: There has been a great deal of discussion about who will succeed you....

Felix Houphouet-Boigny: Article 11 of the constitution dealt with the question of a temporary head of state should there be a vacuum at the top. This is a bad thing in our young states because as soon as you choose one man he is opposed by all the others.

As far as the person chosen is concerned either he or his entourage make mistakes by saying: just wait until we are in power.

That gives rise to jealousy. We must now restore the climate of confidence which this affair destroyed. We must restore the team spirit which enabled me to lead the Ivory Coast to independence. The man who will succeed me in the future will emerge from this team.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Where would you place the present democratization in the Ivory Coast in relation to the liberal, socialist and communist models among others?

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Felix Houphouet-Boigny: We would place ourselves apart from those models. In economic matters we are liberals. However, on the political plane we want to go further than others have by trusting human nature. That has not been done elsewhere.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Did you suddenly decide to carry out this democratization in 1980?

Felix Houphouet-Boigny: I have been thinking about it for at least 3 years. If you want to understand the whole process you have to go back to 1944. We will discuss this another time.

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IVORY COAST

RADICAL CHANGE IN REPRESENTATION EXAMINED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Nov 80 p 29

[Article by special correspondent Siradiou Diallo: "Nothing Will Be As Before"]

[Text] After 2 weeks of an active electoral campaign the hour of truth has come. The 649 Ivoirians who had run for the 147 seats of the fifth legislature are doing their accounting. Some candidates, true, just a few, are openly happy to have been elected in the first balloting, on 9 November. "We had some expectations to this effect," one of them grumbled smilingly. It is true that the electoral successes of some of the candidates such as former ministers Henri Konan Bedie and Jean Konan Banny, respectively in Daoukro and Yamoussoukro, was not surprising, for they had no opposition to run against in their electoral districts.

American Style

However, not all candidates for deputies had the same luck. Half of them were dropped with the first balloting. Over 200 remain in the competition in some 100 districts. For them the duel will be even harder than in the first round. The stakes are rising. Everything is taking place as though the protagonists had been unwilling to use all their trump cards in the first clash. Gathering all their strength, their intention is to mount their attack on 23 November, the date of the second round.

Meanwhile, everyone is sharpening his weapons. Some are touching up their posters, others are studying new promotion formulas. All of them are increasing their staff meetings for the formulation of new battle plans. Ignoring the discreet warnings of the authorities, the campaign "American style," with T-shirts with the pictures of the candidates, multicolored balloons, giant posters and other gadgets quite familiar to Western democracies, will blossom in the days to come. What is certain is that the collapse of coffee and cocoa prices, the two main export products of the Ivory Coast, has not prevented in the least the candidates from plunging into wild spending for the sake of making themselves known.

It is true that the planters, 35 of them, were by far not the most important socioprofessional group of candidates. The outgoing assembly was dominated, as under the Third French Republic, by teachers, followed by administrative workers and secondary medical personnel. University-trained cadres were in the minority.

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Immediately following the second round of balloting for the legislative assembly it is quite likely that the socioprofessional composition of the deputies may become entirely different. In any case, for the first time, the number of candidates with higher education employed in the public sector exceeded that of the teachers: 110 as against 80. The candidates also included 77 higher school professors, 56 engineers, 42 company directors, 22 physicians, 17 pharmacists and chemists, 28 technicians, 17 journalists, 11 lawyers, and 6 architects. A number of other professions were represented in the competition: merchants (33), white collar workers (80), accountants (10), secondary medical personnel (15), foresters (8), military and police (8), trade union workers (4), midwives (3), not forgetting 1 cinematographer, 1 pilot, 1 janitor, 1 storekeeper, etc.

Younger

Of the 120 deputies of the outgoing assembly 11 were women. This time there were 18 women candidates. The general view, however, is that, compared with the previous legislature, the number of women will be far smaller. Furthermore, it is expected that the median age of the new assembly will greatly lowered, for a number of older people are not seeking reelection. This, in particular, applies to the oldest member of the outgoing assembly Soumahoro Moustapha, 82.

For all these reasons which stem as much from the electoral system, based on the free choice of the citizens, as on demographic and sociological considerations, it could be stated that political life in Ivory Coast will be different.

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MALAWI

MINERAL RESOURCES IN COUNTRY DISCUSSED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2975

[Article: "Malawi's Mineral Resources"]

[Text] Malawi's principal mineral deposits are located in the Basement Complex and Chilwa Alkaline Province, in the south. The rocks of the Basement Complex take up approximately 85 percent of the country and contain almost two-thirds of the mineral deposits. Yet the rocks of Chilwa Alkaline Province offer the greatest economic potential even though they only take up less than 1.5 percent of the land.

The Basement Complex is made up of sizable metamorphic deposits: marble, cyanite, graphite and iron. Mica, uranium, galena, gold, molybdenite, zircon and cordundum are also found. Quartz veins are generally small in size. Lastly the deposits of asbestos, chromite, talc, meerscham, copper and nickel are almost insignificant from an economic point of view.

Coal is present in the south, in the Karro system; but the largest veins are located in the far north with the Livingstonia and Nkana veins. Uranium has been discovered in the north of the country.

Chilwa Alkaline Province offers, at Kangankunda, traces of monazite and strontianite; at Tundulu, rocks rich in apatite; and at Chilwa Island, "pyrochloresovite," as well as deposits of fluorite and barite. Finally, nepheline can be noted in this region.

In the south, we find sizable deposits of limestone and clay as well as titanium minerals. Bauxite is present in the Mulanje massif.

The major known veins were indexed as follows:

- Apatite: 1.25 million tons of Nathace Hill (average grade: 15 percent), including 900,000 tons at 22 percent.
- Bauxite: 28,760,000 tons in all (grade: 43.9 percent Al_2O_3).
- Clay: in large but undetermined quantity.
- Coal: 24 million tons of varied quality at Livingstonia; 14 million tons at Nkama.

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--Cyanite: 1 million tons (grade: 15 percent).

--Limestone: 100 million tons at Changlumi, 250,000 tons at Chikoalivwezi and 500,000 tons in Bwanje Valley.

--Monazite: 78,000 tons at 4.5 percent and 216,000 tons at 6 percent.

--Strontianite: 78,000 tons at 12.8 percent and 216,000 tons at 19.8 percent (in the only two places prospected).

--Niobium: 100,000 tons at .3 percent.

--Uranium: at Ilomba Hill (grade: .05 percent).

Furthermore, Malawi's mine inventory includes the following materials: barite, chromite, copper (1,600 tons at 3.5 percent), corundum, fluorite (2,000 tons at 25 percent), graphite, mica, nepheline, syenite, sulfide, titanium (ilmenite and rutile) (780,000 tons at varied grades) and vermiculite (80,000 tons).

Finally traces of various materials were discovered: asbestos, beryl, diatomite, galena, gypsum, iron, manganese, molybdenite, nickel, platinum, semiprecious stones, talc, tantalite, zinc and zircon.

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MALI

BRIEFS

ILO MANPOWER ASSISTANCE--On 23 October, Mali and the ILO signed an agreement for the grant of \$71,000 (about 300 million Malian francs) which is the first block of credit earmarked for financing execution of the first test phase for implementation of a special public works program with large amounts of manpower. This program deals particularly with the execution of reforestation projects in certain Sahelian cities, notably Kayes and Segou. The objectives of this program which was set up jointly by the ILO and Malian Government are designed to assist economic recovery by creating short term jobs (seasonal jobs in the rural areas) and long term jobs (exploitation and maintenance of the projects). The objectives also envisage improvement in the incomes of the rural populace and, therefore, is aimed at the rural exodus. In a different connection, let us also note that an ILO-PECTA [Employment and Technical Competency Program for Africa] mission began its work in mid-October with a view to making available the ways and means to permit the definition for the first time of a national employment policy. In 1978, the Malian Government had asked the ILO-PECTA to set up such a mission. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 14 Nov 80 p 3027] 8143

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NIGERIA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA--During the first 8 months of this year, Yugoslavia significantly developed its sales to Nigeria, thus guaranteeing a positive balance for itself. Its sales more than doubled in comparison with the same period of the year before (+130 percent), rising to the amount of 96 million dollars. However, its imports fell by 9 percent from one period to the other and, during the 8 months of 1980, only rose to 61 million dollars. Yugoslavia's sales to Nigeria have primarily involved ships, fertilizers, refrigerators and pharmaceutical and food products. As far as its purchases are concerned, these have consisted primarily of oil and cocoa beans. In addition Yugoslavia has shown an interest in a long-term growth of its cooperation with the federation in the naval construction, chemical and petrochemical industries, construction and agriculture sectors. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Oct 80 p 2679] 9064

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SENEGAL

USE OF PEAT DEPOSITS AS ENERGY SOURCE DISCUSSED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2961

[Text] The existence of considerable peat deposits in Senegal has been confirmed, according to the 27 October issue of the Dakar daily LE SOLEIL. Preliminary studies have in fact determined that the entire Niayes area as well as the Louga and Fleuve regions contain large deposits.

A second stage of studies which has just begun should permit a more precise estimate of available reserves and of the quality and density of the ore. Uses for the ore will be determined at the end of this second stage. For Senegal, whose oil bill has gone from 5 to 50 billion CFA, that is, some 40 percent of exports, the discovery of peat deposits in the Niayes zone and the Fleuve region means very good prospects. Apart from the Fleuve and Louga regions and the Niayes zone, which contain quite a few exploitable deposits, the geological situation in the Sine Saloum and Casamance is such that peat deposits are likely.

In Deny Biram Ndao in the Niayes, the second phase of exploration of the deposits has just begun. Preliminary studies there ended on an optimistic note. The samples analyzed showed positive results for the quality of the peat as well as for conditions for development. The peat is not damp, as is the case most of the time, and furthermore, when it is not on the surface, it is located at a shallow depth of 40-60 centimeters.

The second phase is expected to allow detailed study to determine the heat-producing potential of the deposits and their density and to estimate available reserves. A minimum of 1.5 million tons will be necessary to make industrial development worthwhile. In Senegal, in the Niayes zone alone more than 60 hectares have already been located, a similar number towards Ndiawdon and some 30 hectares near Kebemer.

If this second phase confirms the conclusions of the first, the use for these deposits will then have to be decided upon. A first use for the deposit at Rao seems sure. A brickyard is planned near the deposit. The brickyard will most likely run on peat. Since peat can substitute for charcoal, the use of peat will limit the spread of the desert, which resulted from the cutting down of trees. Furthermore, in terms of energy costs peat is an inexpensive source of energy. It can be used directly to heat homes and to burn in furnaces, the processing industry, and breweries and even as fertilizer. In another connection, we note that in Burundi peat is quite important as an energy source. Furnaces, brickyards, cement factories and a 160 MW electric power plant all operate there on peat.

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SENEGAL

BRIEFS

SENGHOR DISCUSSES ECONOMIC SITUATION--Questioned in Niamey at the end of October on the economic situation in his country, President Leopold-Sedar Senghor stated: Like nearly all the countries in the world, we are running into some problems. I must tell you that in 20 years of independence, we have had 10 years of drought. In 1977, and then in 1979, our commercial deficit each time was some 50 billion. In order to make up this deficit, this year we have had to ask France and certain international organizations and institutions for about a hundred billion. But at the same time as we are borrowing we are inaugurating an austerity program. We have, therefore, set up an Economic Reform Program and aimed at a revitalization of our industry. I believe that in 5 or 6 years our situation will be far better than what we are experiencing at the moment. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2961] 8693

REORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES--During the 23 October Interministerial Council meeting, the Senegal minister of Industrial Development and Crafts gave two talks on energy conservation policy and on the reorganization of supplies. Cheikh Amidou Kane noted progress made in Senegal in that area. Thanks to the creation of the National Energy Fund by the last finance law, structures have been set up for the energy conservation campaign. In addition, the meetings of the National Energy Committee created by decree on 21 October (see MTM, 31 October, p 2671) will permit the coordination of the most immediately necessary actions and the formulation of coherent plans to develop a medium-term energy conservation policy should bear fruit beginning in 1981. The minister of Industrial Development and Crafts is hopeful about bending the curve of consumption development in Senegal. If this is not enough, other measures will be adopted. Parallel to this campaign, the minister is reorganizing supplies and reserving oil for those situations in which it is absolutely necessary by substituting other sources, particularly national resources as much as possible. MARCHES TROPICAUX recently noted (31 October, p 2671) the problems Senegal was likely to encounter in oil supplies (of which 60 percent comes from Iraq) because of the Iran-Iraq conflict. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2961] 8693

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TANZANIA

BRIEFS

CAPITAL WITHDRAWALS--Because of world inflation the Tanzanian Government announced new ceilings on the amount of money which can be taken out of the country by officials and private citizens abroad on official business beginning 1 November. From now on 5000 Tanzanian shillings (2500 French francs), rather than 2000 as before, may be taken out of the country, not counting per diems, which have also been raised. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2973] 8693

PETROLEUM SUPPLY PROBLEMS--In Abu-Dhabi on 2 November Tanzanian Information Minister Issac Sepetu announced that Tanzania had been seriously hurt by the interruption in deliveries of Iraqi crude oil due to the Iraq-Iran conflict. Iraq supplied 60 percent of crude exports, with the United Arabs Emirates supplying the other 40 percent. "The country has no more reserves," declared the minister, "and our present supply will run out in 30 days." This is why Sepetu traveled to Abu-Dhabi and Saudi Arabia to get additional oil deliveries from these countries which could make up for the shortage caused by the interruption of Iraqi production. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2974] 8693

LONG-TERM IRRIGATION PROGRAM--A. Tsakiris, agronomist for the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, recently announced during a conference in Arusha that the government had adopted a long term irrigation program for Tanzania. According to the Fourth Five-Year Plan, which is to begin in the middle of 1981, irrigated plots will expand to 10,000 hectares a year. Irrigation programs for villages will have priority. Six "irrigation zone units" will be created. They will be set up first in Mbeya and Morogoro and will each cover three or four areas in Tanzania. The last to be set up will be at Mwanza, Kilimanjaro and Ruvuma. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2974] 8693

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