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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 704

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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

| | |
|--|---|
| More Than Money Seen As Necessary To Solve Sahel Problems (JEUNE AFRIQUE, 26 Nov 80)..... | 1 |
| Details of Senegalese-Cambian Cooperation (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 21 Nov 80)..... | 3 |

ANGOLA

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Briefs Support for Savimbi | 5 |
|-------------------------------|---|

BURUNDI

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Briefs National Sugar Office | 6 |
|---------------------------------|---|

CAMEROON

| | |
|--|----|
| Fourth, Fifth Development Plans Discussed (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, various dates)..... | 7 |
| Realization of Fourth Plan The Fifth Plan | |
| Briefs Aid for Natural Gas | 14 |

CHAD

| | |
|---|----|
| Deteriorating Situation in South (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 21 Nov 80)..... | 15 |
|---|----|

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| | | |
|---|--|----|
| Briefs | | |
| WFP Emergency Aid | | 16 |
| EQUATORIAL GUINEA | | |
| Details of Expanding Cooperation With France Set Forth (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 21 Nov 80)..... | | 17 |
| GABON | | |
| Briefs | | |
| French Protection | | 19 |
| GUINEA-BISSAU | | |
| Coups Reportedly Aimed at Destroying PAIGC Unity (Editorial, Simon Malley; AFRIQUE-ASIE, 8 Dec 80)..... | | 20 |
| IVORY COAST | | |
| Heavy Competition in National Elections (Sennen Andrimirado; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 16 Nov 80)..... | | 22 |
| Briefs | | |
| Election Results Disputed | | 25 |
| Municipal Elections Anger Manufacturers | | 25 |
| MALI | | |
| Briefs | | |
| Dissidents' Leadership | | 26 |
| SENEGAL | | |
| Briefs | | |
| Electronic Training Center | | 27 |
| SIERRA LEONE | | |
| Briefs | | |
| BADEA Agricultural Loan | | 28 |
| SOUTH AFRICA | | |
| Details of Railway Expansion Plans Given (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 5 Dec 80)..... | | 29 |

-b-

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

MORE THAN MONEY SEEN AS NECESSARY TO SOLVE SAHEL PROBLEMS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 26 Nov 80 p 45

[Article by S.Bs.: "At the Meeting of the Sahel Club Held in Kuwait, the Experts Pull the Alarm: Money Alone Is Not Enough"]

[Text] Contrary to what one would think, it is not so much about money that is discussed in Kuwait on 16 and 17 November. On these 2 days the capital of the emirate hosts the fourth conference of the Sahel Club which gathers the CILSS (Inter-State Committee To Fight the Drought in the Sahel: Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Gambia, Cape Verde, Upper Volta, Senegal), the main Western and Arab donor countries, and the African and international development agencies. The Mali president Moussa Traore made a special trip to give the opening address.

Awareness

Of course, even before the discussions, the representatives of the Sahel countries and the Club leaders did not hide the fact that they hoped to see a "gesture" from their rich interlocutors. But that was not the essential thing. For if none of the countries of the region has truly "taken off" for the moment it was not because of money shortage: from 1975 to 1979 the 8 CILSS countries received nearly \$7 billion worth of firm commitment for financing purposes on the part of the bailers, of which some 4 billion have actually been transferred over by the end of 1979, in the most part in the form of outright grants. Per capita, that is by far the most important amount of aid in Africa and one of the most important in the Third World since each Sahelian receives in theory \$38 per year from abroad.

Then why do we have stagnation, food deficits, and increasingly frequent calls for help coming from the political leaders? It was the actual causes of the stagnation that the Sahelian and international experts undertook to explain to the Rural Development ministers present in Kuwait. They have told them in effect, even if through allusions, that most of the impediments to development are of a political nature and that the clearing of these obstacles can be made only through governmental choices. Much

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mentioned, for instance, is the development strategy drawn up at the Ottawa meeting in 1977 which it is incumbent to improve upon in response to the evolution of the situation in the last 4 years. According to the Club leaders, the "politicians" must be forced to envision longterm actions instead of quarantining themselves as they do at present in the short term.

From now to the year 2000 the food demands of the Sahel will almost triple and especially will change in nature. But whereas the experts suggest profound structural reforms in order to prevent the degradation of the situation the states have the tendency to consider the CILSS as an agency for fund-raising meant to take care of the most hard pressed issues. In drawing the balance of the aid which the conference participants have made, they have noticed that at the present time the financing has been directed to the tune of 25 percent towards the infrastructures, as against 4 percent towards the rain cultures and 1 percent only towards reforestation. "If this continues," one of the participants comments, "one of these days people will see highways crisscrossing deserted lands." That is why many of them have stressed the necessity of changing the present order of priorities.

Which Decisions?

The Sahel Club has thus contributed to better define the responsibilities of the states without for that matter ceasing to encourage the rich countries to be even more generous. A certain slowdown in the Western aid which constitutes 78 percent of the total aid has in fact been noticed. The Arabs provide another 18 percent but three-fourth of their grants go to Mauritania.

The ministers have left Kuwait with voluminous studies of their regions in their suitcases. Will these studies help them to take some painful decisions? Or will they paraphrase Louis XV and say: "After me... the desert"? In the meantime, the desert is gaining rapidly.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

DETAILS OF SENEGALESE-GAMBIAN COOPERATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 p 3089

[Article: "The Point of Cooperation Between Senegal and Gambia"]

[Text] At the beginning of November, the Senegalese-Gambian interstate ministerial committee has held its 15th session in Banjul, the Gambian capital. The two delegations expressed their satisfaction at the diversification and strengthening of their bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed their desire to develop it further.

With respect to the postal service and the telecommunications, the ministerial committee noted with pleasure the positive turn taken by the projected agreement on the direct exchange of postal money-orders, and the recommendations aimed at improving telephone communications between the two countries. Both parties agreed to have the bilateral cooperation agreements concerning civil aviation and meteorology signed within a reasonable period of time.

As for planning, both parties have committed themselves to coordinate and harmonize their plans to the largest possible extent.

With respect to communications, the two parties have noted the favorable development of the Dakar-Banjul-Bissau road construction project, the technical study of which was started last June.

With respect to borders, the committee noted that the demarcation of the border in the Kantora area will start in the near future, and it gave instructions concerning the delimitation of the Baria border. As far as fishing cooperation is concerned, it has asked its executive secretary to take as soon as possible all the measures required to finalize the draft agreement. The two delegations have also examined the matter of cultural cooperation and have noted with pleasure that the cultural programs which had been agreed on by the two parties had been completed on schedule by the departments involved.

Concerning primary and secondary education, the committee congratulated itself on the progress of the Senegalese school extension projects and

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on the construction of the Banjul secondary school. Concerning higher education, it was decided to facilitate the admission of Gambian students at the Dakar University.

The committee has also noted with pleasure the progress of the cooperation in the fields of information and radio-broadcasting.

As far as health is concerned, the committee has agreed to harmonize its efforts against serious endemic diseases and social ills such as the lack of control on sales of drugs, alcoholism, "Xessal" and excessive smoking.

In the field of tourism, the committee has advised its executive secretary to take the necessary steps to prepare a bilingual Senegalese-Gambian guide as soon as possible.

Finally, the committee has adopted the budget prepared by its permanent secretariat for the fiscal year 1980-1981; it has also decided to hold an extraordinary session in 1981 to deal with administrative and financial matters.

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BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR SAVIMBI--European diplomats foresee important support for Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA, following Ronald Reagan's installation in the White House. They add that the Soviet Union would not fail to react in Zaire by supporting destabilization operations. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 10 Dec 80 p 5i]

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BRIEFS

NATIONAL SUGAR OFFICE--A presidential decree, dated 16 September 1980 created a National Sugar Office (ONASU) in Burundi; it is a public institution of an agricultural, industrial and commercial nature endowed with legal status and organic and financial autonomy. The Office's mission is defined in Art 2 of the above-mentioned decree, which states that "the purpose of the Office is to create and administer sugar cane plantations. For that purpose it may participate in creating sugar companies; it will carry out all the development work, including putting in place the economic and social infrastructures necessitated by the existence of a concentration of persons attracted by the Office's activities. It will take all appropriate measures to improve promotion of the industrial production of sugar." [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Oct 80 p 2687] 8946

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CAMEROON

FOURTH, FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLANS DISCUSSED

Realization of Fourth Plan

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Oct 80 pp 2680-2681

[Text] The report on the first 3 years of the Fourth Cameroonian Plan, which was prepared by the Economy and Planning Ministry and published at the end of the first half of 1980, is concerned with the period of July 1976 to June 1979. One is struck by its tone of truthfulness: roughly, realization of the Fourth Plan has been falling behind since the very beginning, and there is no hope of catching up.

Dwindling Agriculture

Cameroon's principal export products (chiefly cocoa and coffee) are declining because the plantations are aging and renovation is taking place too slowly. Moreover, the operations upon which the country depends to diversify its production and limit certain imports are costing the taxpayer dearly and are not yielding the hoped-for results. Wheat (SODEBLE [Wheat Development Company] in Ngaoundere) yielded a mere 104 tons in 1978-1979 out of several thousand hectares planted, compared to 800 tons the year before. Cameroonian rice costs twice as much as imported rice, and is poorly marketed. Three costly studies in succession on the subject of the rice fields in the Mbandjock region have produced no results.

Nevertheless there are some successes in oil palms and hevea. But there is no lack of difficulties: village plantations of oil palm trees are unsuccessful because they are not being maintained. The rotation rate among SOCAPALM [expansion unknown] workers is high (although this is not mentioned in the report); they are dissatisfied with their living conditions and the possibilities for promotion in the company--which, by the way, is seeking to remedy these problems, even though they are not strictly company problems. Cotton is becoming more and more an industrial and intensive crop and less and less a peasant crop. Production increased from 49,000 tons in 1975-1976 to 59,000 tons in 1978-1979.

In the animal industries, a delay in the construction of modern slaughterhouses at Douala and Yaounde is observed (the firm responsible for building them went bankrupt). Some limited progress may be seen in livestock raising: diseases have been eliminated (rinderpest) or reduced (bovine contagious pleuro-pneumonia and tset-se).

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Artificial ponds have been built (43 of the 300 provided for) in the north. But many prospects are still in the planning stage: milk, pharmaceutical products, poultry farming at Yaounde. On the other hand, the Mbandjock Fattening Mission is in place.

Industrial fishing is making no progress; it is satisfying only 70 percent of the domestic demand, in contrast to 85 percent at the beginning of the Third Plan.

The forest exploitation capacity has been increased, thanks chiefly to the Deng-Deng forest clump, but reforestation operations are inadequate: 1,300 hectares per year.

In the integrated development projects, such as the Ombessa operation (in the Bafia region) or the SODENKAM [Nkam Development Company] (Yabassi-Bafang), the number of farmers affected is diminishing or increasing only very slowly: "The enthusiasm aroused in rural young people by the Yabassi-Bafang operation seems to be dimming little by little." These projects continue to be expensive for the community, and produce disappointing results. On the other hand, the CDC (Cameroon Development Corporation) has a different, more clearly capitalistic style, and it is to double its acreage in ten years, to reach 60,000 hectares of diverse plantations.

Support for rural mechanization is not yet out of the experimental stage, for lack of financing.

The result of this slow progress is that agricultural production has declined as part of the PIB [gross domestic product] (32 percent, or 300,700,000,000 CFA francs in 1977-1978, as against 34 percent, or 223,400,000,000 in 1975-1976, this increase in absolute value being due to the fact that prices held up well for sometimes lesser quantities).

Cameroon is experiencing the same difficulty as many developing countries in knowing what to do to really advance agriculture, because workers on the land are urged to become familiar with new crops, with new techniques, and their traditions do not lead them in those directions. On the other hand, the governmental organisms are too cumbersome and have a spirit that is much more bureaucratic than business-like. In the face of such slow progress industry, especially service and administration, are making much better progress.

Wise Industrial Progress and the Oil Boom

In 3 years 50 percent of the investments provided for for industries, mines and energy have been realized, or 181,000,000,000 CFA francs. The level is pretty good for industries and mines (60 percent); less good for the PME's [small and medium-sized businesses] and handcrafts, which are not very greedy (53 percent); and even less good for energy (44.5 percent).

What industries are emerging? The lumber industry with three firms, Ecam-placages, SINTRABOIS [expansion unknown] and SOFIBEL [expansion unknown]; the shoe and leather industries with the Cameroon Tanning and Leatherware Company in Ngaoundere; building materials with the completion of CERICAM [expansion unknown] (ceramics, etc.) at Bonaberi, and the CIMENCAM [Cameroon Cement Plant] extensions at Bonaberi and Figuil. It is noteworthy that cement consumption tripled between 1971 and 1978, and that the obstacle in the way of importing foreign cement is its high cost in CFA francs. Another significant increase in progress is ALUCAM's [Cameroon Aluminum].

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In textiles, a newcomer in the CICAM [expansion unknown] is SOLICAM [expansion unknown] (household linens), at a cost of 2,700,000,000. In chemistry, a huge development, CELLUCAM [Cameroon Cellulose] for paper pulp, and the extension of SOCAVER [expansion unknown] (glass factory). After an interruption of several years, the SOCAME [expansion unknown] fertilizer plant is resuming production in 1980.

Several projects that would have given Cameroon a certain autonomy never saw the light of day: in particular, the electrified steel mill and cast-iron foundry at Douala. But it is likely that in this field the future improvements at Kribi (a port, an iron mine, gas) will overturn the data.

In energy there is the building of the Song-Loulou Dam on the Sanaga, which is in progress, and the slower though less important building of the Lagdo Dam on the Benoue (by technicians from the People's Republic of China). Little has been done toward transporting energy. However, 70 urban centers are now being supplied by SONEC [National Electricity Company].

The electricity fairy is nearly eclipsed by black gold: oil production was 295,942 tons in 1977-1978 and 960,549 tons in 1978-1979; it could go to 2,800,000 tons in 1980-1981. The first 3 years of the Fourth Plan saw the startup of work on the Cape Limboh refinery (beyond Victoria), which will begin operating in February 1981.

Mining is still in the exploration and survey stage (except for oil prospecting, which is swallowing up significant sums).

A Heavy Tertiary to Move, but it is Moving

The actions undertaken to diversify Cameroon's partners, to make it less dependent on the EEC, have not yet produced results. In this area they count on the role of the National Foreign Trade Center, which was created in February 1978. Exchange is still very much in deficit: 191,000,000,000 CFA francs in goods exports in 1977-1978 (over 51,600,000,000 in services), as against 272,800,000,000 in imports.

Results for domestic exchange are also very timid, at least as regards actions undertaken by the state. The Grain Office, created especially for the north, controls just 1 percent of production in that area and is therefore not powerful enough to prevent speculation and stock ruptures. As for MIDEVIV [expansion unknown] (which supplies cities with food products), it has made progress in Yaounde, but in the area of means of transport and rapidity of intervention, it lacks the flexibility of its competitors.

In commercial equipment Yaounde and Douala are being endowed with new markets (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS for 11 July 1980). The most noteworthy novelties are: the acquisition of new units by Camshiplines; rejuvenation of Regifercam equipment; Cameroon Airlines' order for a Boeing 747 heavy transport aircraft (delivery in March 1981); a certain slowness in expanding the fleet of SOTUC [expansion unknown] cars, because of funding difficulties, but the total number of units is to increase from 89 to 210 units for Douala and Yaounde. Fortunately, at the same time announcement is made--but this is a sign of a delay--of repair work to be done on the streets of those two cities.

The hotel program went forward when the Douala Novotel went into service, but the tourist projects are experiencing "a long delay in execution."

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It is perhaps in the area of infrastructures that the most important changes took place in this period: enlarging the Douala port, Douala and Garoua international airports (the latter in progress), realignment of the Douala-Yaounde railroad and modernization of the Regifercam installations, new sections of the Transafrican Road at the Bamenda-Bafoussam-Foumban level and later at Tibati-Meidougou; repair and repaving roads in the north, new bridges, new telephone exchanges. But these last accomplishments cannot hide how much need there is for a heavy axis between Douala and Yaounde, how badly the telephone and telex function in the country's two principal cities--and this has gone on for years.

An Abandoned Social Sector

The Fourth Plan's realization rates are among the slowest in the social sector, where the needs can only increase. This is true for education: the report says "the situation continues to deteriorate...Pupil/teacher ratios have gone from 49 in 1971 to 52 in 1978," whereas the objective of the Third Plan was "to attain the optimum of 45 pupils per teacher and per class." This erosion is continuing at the end of the Fourth Plan, with the freezing of funds for private schools, a freeze that is forcing them to recruit more pupils per class in order to meet increased salary loads.

This is the realization rate for the Plan in three years, at different levels: nursery-school education, 38.6 percent of the investment provided for; primary, 12.4 percent; general secondary, 15.3 percent; technical secondary, 28 percent; higher education, 23.5 percent; teachers' colleges, 9.4 percent; rural handcraft and domestic science sections, 9 percent.

The realization rate is higher for civil service, the CUSS (University Center for Health Sciences) and the training of young farmers in the north.

Other realization rates: Youth and sport, 16 percent (chiefly stadiums); health, 27.4 percent. The report comments: this rate "makes us very pessimistic about realization, even at just 50 percent, of everything included in the Plan for this subsector." Prevention of contagious diseases was barely engaged in (1 percent realized). The delays are explained by the lack "of resources for financing these projects, and, on the other hand, bad management of the resources already available."

Social Affairs: 2.5 percent realization! "The investment situation /is turning out to be alarming/ [in italics] and there is no reason to believe that the projects will be started up in the near future," the report says.

As for urbanism, the state and the communities have conducted several renewal and improvement actions, the most spectacular of which is the Yaounde trade center; as well as actions to rehabilitate and "curette" overpopulated neighborhoods. New urban centers are receiving water and electricity. Industrial zones are being developed in Douala (Bonaberi and Bassa), Yaounde and elsewhere. The SIC (Cameroon Real Estate Company) is building housing (1,536), but /it is chiefly individuals who are investing/ [in boldface]; the gross fixed capital formation (FBCF) per household in the housing "represents 40 percent of the total FBCF in 1976-1977."

Information and culture: 8 percent realization. An enormous amount remains to be done in the field of radio broadcasting, television, museums, art institute, etc.

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On the other hand, the realization rate for administrative equipment is 47 percent, and undoubtedly higher, for just five ministerial departments answered that part of the inquiry.

With regard to research, it is nearly paralyzed, because "ONAREST [National Office of Scientific and Technical Research] has an organization that is not always functional, and its staff is not favorable to research activity; it lacks the means to support potential research programs."

The report expresses the hope that a general plan for computerizing the Cameroonian administration will be established.

What Growth is There in Cameroon?

In conclusion, the report studies the origin of the financing of the investments already realized, and then speculates about growth in Cameroon. It has been placed in financial difficulties by an unfavorable business cycle, marked by slow growth in the Western countries and a slowdown in demand there, by a decline in the demand in the oil-producing countries and by difficulties in the developing countries (drought in the Sahel, etc.). Nevertheless, Cameroon had a real growth rate of 8 percent in constant terms, which coincides with the estimates of the Plan (7.1 percent). In the PIB, which increased to 939,800,000,000 CFA francs, each sector is situated as follows: primary, 32 percent; secondary, 16 percent; tertiary, 37 percent; administration, 8 percent; miscellaneous, 7 percent.

Imports represent 22 percent of the overall supply, and their structure has evolved only slightly. Supply does not completely satisfy demand, hence the inflationistic tendencies. However, the state has done everything to minimize those tensions, although its effort has produced no results on the production level; after the first year, when credit was supported, it became more hemmed in, and a deceleration in the growth of the monetary mass was seen. At the same time, the state's expenditures stagnated in 1977-1978.

The report puts forward the following recommendations: it is desirable that expenditures to create and support agricultural training structures be limited, and that the management of these structures be improved. There should also be more consistency in the actions undertaken; along the same line, the lifespan of the existing infrastructures could be prolonged by maintaining them.

The report, therefore, has the merit of being frank and objective. It leaves room for skepticism on the effectiveness of the planning and the quality of the predictions. The state's role appears to be necessary and indispensable as concerns infrastructures for communication in particular, but although Cameroon is producing and being built, this is in large part due to the initiative of business firms and individuals.

The Fifth Plan

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 80 p 2968

[Text] The Cameroonian Government is known to be preparing the Fifth Development Plan for Cameroon. It has not yet undertaken to draw up the document, but those in charge of the preparation have just arrived at the preparatory phase of the procedure. A diagnostic report of the 1960-1980 period has been drawn up and has given

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rise to a report established by the planning office of the Economy and Planning Ministry. A series of meetings whose purpose was the release of prospects for development as far ahead as the year 2000 were held in the last few weeks and resulted in the writing of a synthesizing report.

The minister of Economy and Planning asked the French consulting engineers company, Norbert Berard, for a study, supported by a mathematical model, on the hypotheses for Cameroon's development over the next 20 years. Its results were submitted at the end of the first quarter of 1980, in the form of sheaves of computer listings which are not easily extrapolated by the uninitiated. The local authorities therefore asked the Norbert Berard office to send specialists to decipher these computer documents and translate them into economic language suitable for use in preparing a development plan. Several meetings on that subject have been held since early October.

At the present time the objectives of the Fifth Plan have not yet been released, it seems, nor, all the more reason, quantified. The next stage of the drawing-up process will consist of setting up preparatory documents for the use of the provincial authorities, who will have to make credible objectives appear within a geographic framework. Then, in Yaounde, the work of synthesizing will be undertaken, to transpose and regroup the documents into a sectoral framework. At that stage consistency of data will be sought, to end up with a permanent draft document.

The key ideas which in the words of the president of the Republic are to guide the preparation of the Fifth Plan are as follows:

Effective realization of food self-sufficiency.

Making dynamic once more the production structures in the sectors of agriculture, forests, livestock raising and fishing.

Intensification of exploration and exploitation of natural resources--mining and energy.

Reorienting the country's industrialization by means of a policy of revalorizing raw materials of local origin.

A number of favorable conditions will have to be produced to enable these objectives to be easily realized. They are, notably: improvement of the rural standard of living to slow down the rural exodus; better deployment of the transportation and distribution infrastructures and activities; judicious recycling into the local economy of the national savings and foreign contributions.

The following schedule has been set up for the various phases of the preparation:

Meeting of provincial commissions for the first half of January 1981.

Meeting of national commissions working within a sectoral framework, from 15 January to the end of February 1981.

Meeting of multidiscipline study groups in charge of the overall consistency of the draft plan, for March and April 1981.

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(The above indications arrived in our offices when the special part of this issue that is devoted to Cameroon had already been printed. We were therefore unable to give this information in the study itself.

On the other hand, we remind the reader that last week--MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 31 October, page 2680--we published a very complete article on the realization of the Fourth Plan.)

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CAMEROON

BRIEFS

AID FOR NATURAL GAS--A technical assistance contract for developing natural gas in Cameroon was signed on 29 October in Yaounde between the CFP/Total-Mobil partnership and the Cameroonian study company SEGAZCAM [expansion unknown], which was created last 9 July by agreement between the government and four oil companies (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 18 July, page 1802). The CFP/Total-Mobil partnership, which is providing technical assistance for SEGAZCAM, is to complete by 1982 at the latest the studies relative to construction of a gas liquefaction plant at Kribi (150 km south of the port of Douala, on the Atlantic). SEGAZCAM's partners-- CFP/Total, Elf Aquitaine, Mobil Exploration Equatorial Africa Inc., Pecten Cameroon LNG [liquefied natural gas] Ltd (Shell) and the Cameroonian National Hydrocarbons Company, are participating equally in financing the studies, which are evaluated at 7,000,000,000 CFA francs. We recall that significant deposits of natural gas have been found in Cameroon, north of Douala in the offshore oil production zone, as well as off Kribi. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Nov 1980 p 2968] 8946

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DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SOUTH

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 p 3104

[Article: "The Situation in the South Reported To Be Deteriorating"]

[Text] An AFP wire dated 12 November states that, according to refugees from Southern Chad who recently arrived in Yaounde, the people of Southern Chad lack food, civil servants have not been paid on time for months, and many cadres are leaving the country.

These refugees, cadres from the southern part of the country, report that the inhabitants are destitute, that famine is threatening because the cereal shortage this year is near 85,000 tons, and that the Chad Armed Forces of Col Abdelkader Kamoughe "ransom people in the villages and in the cities."

These refugees from the south mention that the region they come from is not in the combat zone, and that 90,000 tons of cotton have been harvested; but they wonder where the money has gone.

Finally, in its last issue to reach Yaounde, the newspaper LE BOUCLIER of Moundou writes that "financial and political officials are blithely spending money. Yet, a mini-budget of 5 billion CFA francs had been adopted to ensure the proper operation of the south, independently from Ndjamena, until peace is restored."

According to the newspaper, the cadres are fleeing to the neighboring countries: "The intellectuals are panicking, they are running away from Calvary."

Criticizing the head of the Chad Armed Forces without naming him, LE BOUCLIER is of the opinion that "in the south, the power is becoming more military and this point of view is unable to overcome certain social and political obstacles."

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WFP EMERGENCY AID--Food assistance amounting to 157,000 dollars has been sent by the World Food Program to the Central African Republic where it will be distributed to Chadian refugees, a FAO press release stated. This aid (330 tons of corn flour, 33 tons of powder milk and .22 tons of vegetal oil) will help feed 6,100 refugees during 6 months. [Text]
[Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 p 3104]
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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

DETAILS OF EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH FRANCE SET FORTH

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 pp 3102-3103

[Article: "Strengthening of Cooperation With France"]

[Text] On his official working visit to France (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS dated 14 November 1980, p 3039), President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo called "fruitful" the private conversation he had on 14 November with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysees Palace. He added that he was "very pleased with" the answers of the French Government concerning bilateral cooperation projects.

A joint communique, published on 15 November after a meeting between the two heads of state, mentioned the "great cordiality" of their conversations on bilateral cooperation and economic relations.

France has decided to provide financing for a hydroelectric power plant in Equatorial Guinea. In addition, it will help in the national reconstruction undertaken by Equatorial Guinea following the coup of August 1979 against dictator Macias Nguema.

According to the joint communique, the two heads of state also affirmed "their reliance on dialogue and negotiation to settle disputes and differences between states, and have recognized that it is important to establish a more just international economic order." Finally, they hope that the three-way European-Arab-African dialogue will progressively become a part of international reality.

During his visit, President Obiang repeatedly expressed the wish that France would play an active part in the development of Africa so as to bring the latter out of the state of "instability" which is plaguing it today.

An economic, technical and cultural cooperation agreement was signed on 29 November 1979 by the two countries; it provides Equatorial Guinea with subsidies from the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC), amounting to 11 million French francs. This aid is to promote the development of traditional fisheries, mining prospection and the repairing of the Malabo port.

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Several French expert missions will soon be sent to Equatorial Guinea. A projected cooperation in the field of oil production is also under study.

In this connection, one is reminded of the state of "economic collapse" in which this country found itself when Macias N'Guema was overthrown: cocoa production was 10 times less than in 1968, the year of the independence (4,000 tons against 40,000), and gaboon lumber production, too, had collapsed during the same period (50,000 tons against 300,000 tons).

The revival of these productions, the modernization of the economic infrastructure and the return of exiled cadres have been as many priorities for the Malabo authorities.

Answering questions concerning specific branches of the economy, upon leaving the Elysees Palace, the head of the Equatorial Guinean state mentioned the prospects for cooperation in the field of oil production, while underlining that the agreements signed with France still had to be applied. On 15 November, he was to meet in Paris with the president of Elf-Aquitaine and, the next day, to visit the Orleans laboratories of the Bureau of Geological and Mining Exploration (BRGM). During the past few months, this organization has undertaken an inventory of Equatorial Guinea's underground in order to identify the mineral resources of the country, to contribute to the training of local personnel and to provide French technical assistance in the field of mineral prospection.

During a press conference held on 17 October in Paris, the head of the Equatorial Guinea called "excellent" the results of his official four-day working visit to France.

"Before coming to Paris, we had some doubts because there had been some delay in the application of the cooperation agreements signed in November 1979," he underlined, "but our concern was soon dissipated."

After denying that, in its cooperation with Equatorial Guinea, France was taking the place of Spain with whom, he said, "we have language and cultural ties," President Obiang stated that his country would accept cooperation in the field of oil production from all other countries.

"We have signed prospection agreements with France and Spain, and we have received offers from the United States. As for the exploitation, we shall not sign any agreement until the Equatorial Guinean law on oil production has been prepared; this law is now under study in France and in Spain, and EEC experts are also working on it."

The head of the Equatorial Guinean state, who stayed one more day in France on private business, left Paris on 18 November for Cologne.

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GABON

BRIEFS

FRENCH PROTECTION--According to U.S. diplomatic reports, the stationing of four French Jaguar airplanes in Libreville is not only due to events in Chad. These supersonic attack planes, each equipped with two cannons, bombs and rockets were reportedly dispatched to Libreville at the personal request of President Bongo. Indeed, the Libreville dictator, whose regime maintains itself in power only thanks to the French military presence, fears a military coup d'etat or a serious popular revolt which could result in his downfall. Does Bongo actually believe that the Jaguar planes could protect him from his oppressed and over-exploited people's wrath? [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 8-21 Dec 80 p 47]

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GUINEA-BISSAU

COUP REPORTEDLY AIMED AT DESTROYING PAIGC UNITY

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 8 Dec 80 pp 18-19

[Editorial by Simon Malley: "Amilcar Cabral's Second Death?"]

[Excerpts] Who was actually supposed to be done away with in Bissau on 14 November? Luis Cabral, the president, or Amilcar Cabral, the founder of the PAIGC, assassinated in 1973? This is the question asked this week by the Mozambican magazine TEMPO about the serious events which shook Guinea-Bissau and whose repercussions reach well beyond the borders of this young republic numbering less than a million inhabitants.

How can one remain indifferent to the events in Bissau? Is it possible that the illegal and arbitrary overthrow of a government established by one of the best-structured political parties on the African continent can only be a "banal" episode in Africa, as the most simplistic Western commentators like to repeat? If the pronouncements attempting to "legitimize" Luis Cabral's overthrow by his prime minister with automatic weapons and tanks did not emanate from statesmen who, in the past, gave us repeated proof of their patriotism and their dogged struggle against colonialism and its puppets, they would be reminiscent of the aberrant proclamations of the imperialist and colonialist governments of Paris, London, Lisbon and Washington.

Regardless of the mistakes and the faults which could be imputed to Luis Cabral, the PAIGC was sufficiently mature and offered enough instances allowing for criticism and even dismissal not to have recourse to the brutal use of guns. Had he not been appointed in the same manner as his own prime minister, Joao Bernardo Vieira, "Commandant Nino"?

Don't both have the right and the obligation to accept the collegial decisions of the competent organs of the party, whose principal leaders they are? This is why the coup perpetrated against the chief of state of Guinea-Bissau is inadmissible and intolerable to African public opinion, especially that of the democratic and progressive forces of our continent. If doubts are appearing everywhere on the motivations, the schemes and the real reasons of the 14 November coup, this is because, first of all, the fundamental principles, the doctrine, the concepts and the views which presided over the creation of the PAIGC and also throughout its existence were coldly ignored, disregarded, violated. It is also because a number of troubling facts cropping up right now create serious suspicion involving the elements who seem to have played a decisive role in the organization and implementation of the coup d'etat.

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I have known the principal leaders of the PAIGC for a long time, and especially Amilcar Cabral, Aristides Pereira, "Commandant Nino," Luis Cabral and many others. I have admired some, appreciated the loyalty and discipline of others, as well as the courage, abnegation and the sacrifices of the frontline fighters. But I also have had occasion to meet--especially after independence--a number of elements whose ties with Western business circles, notably Portuguese, were notorious. Elements who were in regular contact with corrupt and shady intermediaries, who were spending week-ends in the Canary Islands as guests of an agent of Lebanese origin who owns a huge house where everything was at the disposal of his eminent visitors. Among those were certain influential members of the Cabral government whose implication in the organization, financing and carrying out of the 14 November putsch is well known and unambiguous. Who is not aware that one of the most influential members of the Council of the Revolution chaired by Joao Bernardo Vieira never arrived at a dinner in Bissau without being accompanied by a secretary carrying a case of champagne? Who does not know that a certain person maintained close ties with an important fascist industrialist in northern Portugal and that he played a nefarious role in many international financial organizations in order to discredit President Pereira's government and his "ambitious and impossible" programs? Who has not met that evil spirit of the new Council of the Revolution who received hundreds of thousands of dollars from two important U.S. oil companies in order to obstruct his country's plans for off-shore prospecting? Who is unaware of the false reports established by agents who have infiltrated Vieira's entourage thanks to the complicity of certain foreign powers, both European and African, reports which have been trumped up in the sole aim of provoking and exacerbating suspicion and mistrust between the chief of state and his prime minister?

More examples? More illustrations? They are legion. Personally, I do not believe that "Nino," one of the legendary heroes of the war of national liberation, is a corrupt leader or the agent of a given power. Equally, I do not think he could be in league with those who would hawk Guinea-Bissau's vital interests to any other country, near or far. His prestige within the PAIGC armed forces is too great to let him consciously sacrifice it on the altar of narrowly selfish interests or that of colonialist and imperialist powers.

But those who are attempting to sidetrack him from the trail blazed by the father of the nation, to destroy one of the most beautiful inheritances on the African continent, these hereditary enemies of African dignity, these very elements are constituting a force around Joao Bernardo Vieira--who could well become their next victim--which is doggedly trying to create a chasm between Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau by reviving old demons used by the Portuguese in order to destroy all prospects of solidarity, cohesion and unity between the two parts of one body.

Despite the seriousness of the events which have just taken place in Bissau, we refuse to believe that the true patriots and militants of the PAIGC, notably in Bissau, will allow that this crime be consummated. They should know that if the 14th of November figures as an important date in history, it will be only as a step, as a first phase of a vastly more sinister plan: the elimination of the PAIGC revolutionaries, including "Commandant Nino," to permit the installation, in Amilcar Cabral's capital, of a regime obeying the orders of the agents of international capitalism, both European and American.

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IVORY COAST

HEAVY COMPETITION IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 16 Nov 80 pp 4, 42

[Article by Sennen Andrimirado]

[Text] Dimbokro, right in the center, about 300 kilometers to the north of Abidjan. In this city, on the border between the forest and the savanna, the battle for the legislative elections (on 9 and 23 November 1980) will not have opposed the ins and outs. The contest for the single deputy's seat involved three retiring deputies and only one new pretender.

The second round was to have been decided between two retiring deputies: Kone Samba Ambroise (3,433 votes in the first round), a historical figure in the city, and his younger colleague Amon Leon (3,342 votes). The third retiring deputy, Pierre Chicaya, bit the dust as of 9 November with...88 votes. As for the outsider, Dr Kouame Kanga, he scarcely expected to be elected: "I wanted to play the part of a balance wheel," he told us, "to avoid the division of Dimbokro into two camps." This neurosurgeon proclaimed to whoever was willing to listen: "The intellectual is despicable. There are some framed in aluminum and others in wood." Aluminum shines but it warps. Here in Dimbokro the electorate has been warped toward the past.

Entrenched Leadership

Crushed by greenery, in the heart of the "ring of cacao and coffee," built on the banks of the Bandama, Tiassale takes its name from Tchassa, a secret rock, the protective genius of the city which is worshiped every year. A former slave market, Tiassale has the peculiarity of being cosmopolitan. Nine new people faced each other around a single vacancy.

In the first turn, the ethnic dispersion profited the candidate who seemed to be the most neutral: Daniele Boni, who had 500 votes more than the second. "I did not think that it would be so rough or so low," she confided to us. She was reproached for having a white mother and, furthermore, a white husband. Certain of her adversaries even spread the rumor that if she was elected Daniele Boni would leave "for her home in France."

But there is more yet. If she is not an "old timer," Daniele Boni has the disadvantage of being the daughter of the President of the Supreme Court and the niece

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of the secretary general of the party subsection at Tiassale. Aka Yao, her unluckiest opponent in the first round (236 votes), a school director, his body naked and a loin cloth over his kidneys, told us: "The Bonis want to keep the leadership in Tiassale. That is intolerable." The candidate's reply: "I am neither my father nor my uncle." The cases of Dimbokro and Tiassale, although absurd and exceptional, will not have deflected the new wind that is blowing over Ivory Coast (JEUNE AFRIQUE No 1037). Still a few days before the second vote, a minister--not a candidate--was telling us: "The change is irreversible. For 20 years, political life was sad, congealed. This time the young people have dared to jump into the arena and they are overturning a game which seemed to be won forever. The voters understood that and are supporting them." This analysis is shared by a person close to Philippe Yace, outgoing president of the National Assembly (for 20 years) and he adds: "Why do you want the electorate to change its orientation for the second round?"

The first round has already demonstrated that change was possible and that the fortresses were not impregnable. The image of a Philippe Yace, even reelected, has been tarnished by the fact that he had a competitor in his fief at Jacqueville.

"Direct Contact"

It begins to be known what change the new deputies can bring. A Henri Konan Bedie--who has become a young man again for having been eclipsed for three years--or an Emmanuel Dioulo, both of them elected as of the first round and who pass as the standard-bearers of the new wave, are workaholics. They begin to study their files or to write at 4 o'clock in the morning after having spent a good part of the night receiving the faithful. The newcomers in the political arena have further known, during the campaign, how to exploit the weakness of their elders and their opponents: they adopted the "direct contact" style. The journalist Jean Kambire, after the favorable votes of the first round, has, for example, the reputation of being a big talker and above all to have been the first to dare, more than 10 years ago, to publicly take on the most powerful members of the old Assembly.

Because they were marching off to battle, the newcomers methodically analyzed their electorate. As they were largely made up of cadres, they knew that cadres...did not vote. Then, they went into the prisons to convince those who were arrested but not yet sentenced and were therefore voters. They saw firemen and they saw the police. They plunged into the working districts of the cities or into the plantations. Between the two rounds of voting they patiently explained to the voters how to vote. A certain candidate would not get angry with a certain female voter who came to announce to him that she had voted for him as she triumphantly brought him as proof...the ballot in his name. Another took half an hour to demonstrate the procedure to a certain peasant who, after having understood what he should have done with his ballot, burst out with: "Give me the ballot, I'm going back again." Their elders had lost the habit. Hence this formula which is all the rage today in Treichville: "An 80 deputy is not a former deputy."

Voices of Little People

The new wave does not feel reassured on that account. It knows that the "1980-1985 deputy" will be under surveillance, because, according to a newly elected official,

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"the voter has become king." In Abobo, a quarter on the outskirts of Abidjan where piles of debris still serve as playgrounds or where a basin of water is still sold for 100 CFA [African Financial Community] francs, people choose to be on their guard: "the little ones have spoken, the big ones have voted." For the moment, the new candidates have understood that they will have to give a regular accounting. The hardest thing to do will be to do just that and not, in their turn, to treat their voters with easy familiarity.

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IVORY COAST

BRIEFS

ELECTION RESULTS DISPUTED--A real juridical headache for the magistrates. According to the Constitution, only the National Assembly (the old one is dissolved and the new one will not meet before the middle of January 1981) should take cognizance of it; so that, according to the electoral law promulgated in September, those disputes will go to the Supreme Court. Now juridical orthodoxy intends that the electoral law cannot be applied to contradict the Constitution. [Text] [JEUNE AFRIQUE No 1038 26 Nov 80 p 42] 12,116

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ANGER MANUFACTURERS--The competitors of Renault, who would have had a preference for certain candidates for the mayoralty of Abidjan, are proposing buses with more than 50 seats, equipped to reduce pollution. In order not to lose a market won many years ago, the French company would be ready to adapt its Savien buses for the same demands--compatible with the needs of a city of one million inhabitants which is undergoing a rapid industrial expansion. [Text] [JEUNE AFRIQUE 26 Nov 80 p 42] 12,116

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MALI

BRIEFS

DISSIDENTS' LEADERSHIP--Malian dissidents residing in Libya are looking for a leader. They have already contacted three former officials of the Sudanese Union, the party of deceased President Modibo Keita. Despite a number of solid arguments--including suitcases full of money--none of them has so far accepted the offer. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 10 Dec 80 p 51]

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SENEGAL

BRIEFS

ELECTRONIC TRAINING CENTER--An electronic training center is going to be created in Dakar. A Japanese technical study mission including seven people and headed by Mr Sumio Tarui, assistant manager of the Technical Cooperation department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, stayed in Dakar from the 11 until the 22 November. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 p 3089] 9294

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SIERRA LEONE

BRIEFS

BADEA AGRICULTURAL LOAN--The 8.5 million dollar loan to Sierra Leone authorized last 26 June by BADEA [Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa] (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS dated 1 August, p 1920) has been signed at the bank's headquarters in Khartoum on 4 November. This loan, which is intended for an integrated agricultural development project, brings to 17.1 million dollars the total financial commitments of the bank in Sierra Leone. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Nov 80 p 3100] 9294

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SOUTH AFRICA

DETAILS OF RAILWAY EXPANSION PLANS GIVEN

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Dec 80 p 3259

[Text] The volume of railway traffic for South Africa as a whole should not mislead in regard to the nature of the system itself, which is little different in its main features--including gage--from the other old systems on the continent. Also, the geography imposes difficult conditions which limit capacities. The main lines joining the ports and the major industrial or mining centers were thus, in 1975, at saturation limit. All possible measures were taken to cope with constantly increasing demand: doubling of lines, improvement of grades and curves, increased telecommunication and signaling facilities, block system and construction of new lines, including the Sishen-Saldanha Bay.

Details of the projects formulated in 1978, all aimed at increasing capacity on lines approaching saturation, are as follows: increase capacity of the Johannesburg-Durban line (goal: 100,000 tons/day in 1981-1982), increase of capacity of the Pretoria-Komatipoort line toward Mozambique to 40,000 tons/day beginning this year; the same for the Cape line on which it is hoped to increase the daily flow to 40-45,000 tons (in place of 30,000) solely by installing centralized flow control equipment. Also, the first phase of the Bapsfontein marshaling yards will soon be yielding full benefit. This new marshaling yard is an important element in South African Railways' (SAR) strategy for improving performance of the system.

This strategy ties in with simultaneous development of port facilities and air transport, which fall under the same authority. The deep water terminals at Capetown, Port Elizabeth and Durban are, or will be, the points of departure for cargo-trains (1,600 container transport cars have been operating since 1978). A train of this type (40 cars) was already in 1978 traveling daily between Durban and City Deep. At the end of that year, five similar trains were put into operation.

Also needed was to undertake a major electrification program, and this has been started. On the one hand, 2,300 km of line is to be electrified and 250 locomotives acquired by 1985. On the other hand, measures toward bigger trains (example: the coal shipments from Vryheid to Richards Bay) composed of up to 200 cars (as opposed to 84 currently), trains with grouped locomotives and also SAR has decided, wherever possible, to convert from 3,000 volts dc to 25 kv 50 hz ac. When completed, this program will reduce petroleum products consumption by about 15%. Financing necessary to complete it is estimated to be at least 600

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million rand for equipment work and 300 million for purchase of locomotives. The work schedule is as follows: Beaufort West-De Ar (completion planned for 1982); De Ar-Port Elizabeth and Springfontein-East London (1985).

Rolling stock will come from local railway industry, assembly in fact, whose capacity is sufficient for the demand. For example, the contract is 1977 with the European 50 Hz Group covering 100 locomotives provided for 40-50% local parts, and local assembly by Union Carriage.

In respect to new infrastructure, we should point out three projects, but without being able to say how far they have progressed:

1. The new line between Grootegeluk (coal mine recently opened for exploitation) and Vanderbijlpark (113 km), among other connections, because it is part of the Iscor mining corporation's program to link its production centers by rail. Work on this line could be completed in 3 years and cost was estimated in 1977 at 41 million rand.
2. The double-track line for urban use between the center of Johannesburg (2 km of the route underground) and Soweto township (14 million rand).
3. The short line from Vryheid to Richard's Bay (7 km; 2.4 million rand).

Plans announced as of 1979 included: doubling the Mabdpane-Pretoria line (33.5 million rand) to enable increased passenger volume to a peak of 20,000 (suburban service); establishment of a new marshaling yard at Pyramid (7.5 million rand); quadrupling of the Hercules-Pretoria North line (already doubled) (21.1 million rand); construction of a new station at Bel Ombre (47.9 million rand).

The investment budget programmed for 1980, as always one of the largest equipment budgets among industrialized countries with market economies, is 1.4 billion rand. This breaks down by major categories as follows (in million rand): engine equipment, 111 (2 diesel-electric shunting engines, 62 diesel-electric line engines; 106 electric line engines); hauled equipment, 156.5 (9330 carriages and 3,045 wagons; containers, 0.7 (1,200 units). Infrastructure: 86.2 million rand for construction of 167.2 km of new lines, a package of 186.5 million for renovation and line improvement work and equipment, and 26 million for electrification.

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