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# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 772

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## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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ANGOLA

LISBON SEEN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 809

[Text] Portugal intends to strengthen its relations with Angola. That is what can be implied from a recent 3-day visit to Luanda during the second week of March by the Portuguese minister of foreign affairs, Andre Goncalves Pereira. This visit is the first by a Portuguese foreign minister since Angola's independence in 1975.

Goncalves Pereira was coming from Brazil and during a press conference in Sao Paulo, on 4 March, he announced that his visit to Luanda would be followed by one from the Portuguese minister for finance and planning and later, probably in May, by a visit from President Antonio Ramalho Eanes of the Republic of Portugal heading an important delegation of businessmen.

During his stay, the Portuguese minister--who was met on arrival by his Angolan counterpart, Paulo Jorge--was received by the president of the Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and had talks with the minister for planning and foreign trade, Lopo do Nascimento, and with the minister of finance, Ismael Martins.

From a political viewpoint, this trip is an opportunity to recall Portugal's special position in relation to Southern Africa. It is a fact that Lisbon had "good if not close" relations with both Angola and South Africa where a situation of conflict exists, with countries of the Contact Group on Namibia and with African countries known as "frontline countries."

Although Portugal condemns apartheid, it feels grateful towards Pretoria because South Africa opened its doors to many Portuguese exiles after Angola and Mozambique became independent in 1975 (the Portuguese community in South Africa numbers around 600,000 people).

While not taking part in the process of Namibia's independence, Portugal wishes for the negotiations in progress to rapidly succeed and endorses UN Resolution 435 calling for a ceasefire and for elections conducted under international supervision.

In the economic sphere, Portugal is Angola's major supplier from the West, closely followed by France, then by Brazil. Between 8,000 and 10,000

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Portuguese are officially registered in Angola and most of them are working as overseas volunteers or on contract but the total number of Portuguese nationals in the country is estimated to be at least double that figure.

Independent Angola, observers point out, suffered a great loss with the departure of some 30,000 Portuguese cadres most of whom could not be replaced. Also, and according to Luanda, friction often arises as a result of the activities of the "retornados" [returnees] (the Portuguese equivalent of the "pieds noirs" [Algerian-born Frenchmen]) and of the support given by some Portuguese circles to opponents of the MPLA, Angola's ruling party.

One of the bilateral issues discussed in Luanda was the question of compensation for the confiscated assets of former Portuguese settlers. The Angolan authorities have always maintained that compensation for those who left at a moment's notice was out of the question. This is a typical problem in decolonization.

In addition to their cooperation in the linguistic and cultural sphere, the two countries cooperate in most of the sectors where Portuguese nationals are employed, especially in the energy sector where the main project involves the building of the second stage of the Cambambe Dam, 200 kms southeast of Luanda.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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PRIORITY TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT--The annual conference on rural development, which was held in Bangui from 15 February to 20 February, was opened by the Central African minister of agriculture and animal husbandry, Lt Col Alphonse Gombadi, who declared that the Central African Republic's economic potential could allow it to produce trade and budget surpluses "by giving priority to rural development." The minister stated that it will be a matter of "promoting all subsistence and market garden crops in order to better insure food self-sufficiency, the key to the economic recovery strategy." In the cash crops area, Central African authorities are proposing in the short and medium term to increase the volume of export products while maintaining supply of raw materials to local industries. Coffee production should be getting up to 20,000 tons very fast. In order to facilitate farming work a special emphasis will be put on the means making it possible to modernize agriculture in the years to come. In particular the improvement of agricultural techniques and the expansion of tilling using draft animals ought to make it possible to attain these objectives. Thanks to a policy of decentralizing the agricultural training agencies efforts will also be undertaken with a view to bringing the farmer closer to rural development institutions in order to have broad participation of country dwellers in the decisions which concern them. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 625] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

PUBLIC SECTOR WORK HOURS--Public Sector: Unbroken Workday: On 26 February President Kolingba signed an order instituting an "unbroken workday" for the public and parastatal enterprise sectors in the Central African Republic. The new work hours, which come into effect starting 1 March, are being established as follows: Monday to Friday from 0630 to 1330, and Saturday from 0700 to 1200. In addition, a presidential decree sets the opening hours for cafes and dance halls. This new regulation is meant to restrict as much as possible the presence of civil servants in bars during work hours. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 688] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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CHAD

BRIEFS

FRENCH CIVIL AID--In a response to a written question published in the 22 February Official Journal, Jean-Pierre Cot, French minister delegate for cooperation and development, stated that French civil aid to Chad "to date" amounted to Fr 59.4 million. The minister said that this aid will be "maintained and expanded in 1982 in accordance with requests of the Chadian Government." The minister went on to say that special French aid to Chad involved mostly the capital of Chad where "action on the part of the French Ministry of Cooperation and Development has made it possible to reestablish the conditions necessary for a return to normal activity" (restoration of water, electricity and telephone; fitting out ferries making it possible to cross the river; setting up emergency health aid). In addition, the French Government has kept up "aid in areas not much affected by the war, mainly in the south, where our overseas volunteers have continued their activity and where our consular presence, in Moundou, has been maintained without a break." The extent of the damage caused by the civil war is too great to be dealt with by "France's means alone." He mentioned that last November on the request of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of Chad the French Government organized an international conference in which the major sources of foreign aid, multilateral and bilateral, participated. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 688] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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CONGO

BRIEFS

FRENCH BRGM RESUMES OPERATIONS--The "newsletter" of France's BRGM (Bureau of Geological and Mining Exploration) recently reported that the BRGM's drawing up a mineral survey in the People's Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Congolese Ministry of Mines and Energy (on the basis of French financing) marked the resumption of the BRGM's activity in that country. The aforementioned undertaking consists of first collecting all the information gathered owing to studies and work carried out on Congolese territory by analyzing geological and mining documentation. Missions in the field will then make it possible to verify the collected data, to make a synthesis of all of it, and to delimit the areas most likely to have mineral ores present. Thus, the mineral survey makes it possible to answer the first question any mining exploration contractor (government authorities or private companies) asks himself: where is one to prospect for needed ore or ores with the best probability of success? And, in a defined region what mineral resources does one have the best chance of discovering and where are they located? Thus, the mineral survey contributes in a critical way to working out prospecting plans. In addition, the BRGM is making an initial reconnaissance into the Niari for sites for extraction of raw materials for a cement factory project. After that samplings will have to be carried out on the most promising sites in order to get to know the potential of available raw materials for meeting the needs of the future cement factory. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 690] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

FRENCH AID TO CFCO--On 19 February in Brazzaville France and Congo signed a bilateral agreement in the amount of 400 million CFA francs (8 million French francs) relating to the 7th segment of the Congo-Ocean Railroad (CFCO) track relaying project. France's Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) has already made 6 grants totalling 4 billion CFA francs (80 million French francs) which fall under the heading of its participation in that project. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

## BRIEFS

SPANISH RELATIONS--According to the Madrid daily EL PAIS, assets deposited by the Equatorial Guinean Central Bank in Spain were frozen on 12 February by a legal decision in reference to a Spanish company's suit. The newspaper said that the measure affects the accounts which the Equatorial Guinean Central Bank has at the Bank of Spain and the Banco Exterior. This whole business is occurring at a time when relations between Madrid and Malabo are going through a particularly delicate phase. According to AFP, the Malabo authorities are in actual fact accusing the former colonial power of imposing a "veritable economic diktat" on Malabo again. According to a Spanish source in Malabo cited by AGENA [expansion unknown], the relations between the two countries have never been so strained during the time since Col Teodoro Obiang Nguema came to power on 3 August 1979. The economic recovery plan presented by Madrid last November has been "frozen" by the Equatorial Guinean Supreme Military Council (Government). The latter opposes in particular the naming of high-level Spanish civil servants to the Ministries of Finance and Budget who would have "decisionmaking power" in the country's economic management. The presence of these high-level civil servants is the "condition" required by Spain for continuing its financial aid to its former colony. There are indications from Western sources in Malabo that Spain's aid has added up to \$25 million in less than 3 years. To justify such a requirement Spain stresses that since the fall of the dictator Macias Mguema "few things have really changed" to straighten out the country's economy. In addition, Spanish authorities complain about the Equatorial Guinean administration's "incompetence." In order to boost its economy and face up to the consequences of its disagreements with Spain, Equatorial Guinea intends to "give greater importance to" its relations with other states. Thus, France has financed "limited operations" (in particular the redevelopment of the port of Malabo) the cost of which reached Fr 18 million in 1981. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 625] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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GABON

BDG NOTES NATION'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 pp 626, 627

[Text] In recent correspondence Jean-Felix Mamalepot, director general of the Gabon Development Bank (BDG) gave us his opinion regarding economic prospects in Gabon at the start of 1982.

He noted that in spite of the country's remarkable financial recovery, resumption of economic activity at the end of 1981 "was starting up only very hesitantly since business activity was not yet really making itself felt. Since the state has remained to this day the largest if not the sole initiator of large development projects in all sectors and cautiousness will henceforth be its golden rule, it no longer intends to initiate projects in great haste but is giving increasing care to their selection, to their study, to their valuation, and to the determination of their real economic impact before starting them up. Since the "Building and Public Works" sector was the cause of the overheating of the years 1975-77, we no longer intend to favor it excessively but will attempt to emphasize profitable projects, particularly in agriculture and agribusiness, with a view to gradually preparing for the "post-oil" period. At least we are very much aware of this even though spectacular results on this score are not just around the corner. Nevertheless, we are putting a great deal of hope in operations such as: AGROGABON [Company for Agriculture and Livestock-raising Development in Gabon], in which the Gabon Development Bank is involved to the tune of more than 4 billion CFA francs out of an initial investment segment of 12 billion (6,000 hectares of palm trees to be planted); HEVEGAB: [Gabon Rubber Company] planting rubber trees in the Mitzié region, the financing arrangement not completely settled even though most of the lenders have made their interest in the project clear; and SIAEB [Boumango Agriculture and Livestock-raising Industrial Company], production of livestock fodder and chickens for eating in Boumango in the Franceville region: the Gabon Development Bank's involvement in that is 500 million CFA francs.

Furthermore, the 1982 budget which the parliament has just voted amounts to 453.5 billion CFA francs and balances out in receipts and expenditures. That budget devotes more than 12 billion CFA francs to agriculture.

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Unfortunately a decline in most of our export products must be noted. The decline in our oil reserves is continuing because of the deposits being depleted. Thus, the first 8 months of 1981 showed a decline of 17 percent compared with the same period in 1980. Crude oil production in volume terms was 6,036,167 tons for the first 8 months of 1980 and 4,969,763 tons for the first 8 months of 1981.

The fall in manganese production is the consequence of the recession and low figures for iron and steelmaking in the industrial countries which are consumers for that ore. The manganese mining results show a fall of 40.3 percent. Production was 1,108,207 tons at the end of September 1981 compared to 1,705,036 tons at the end of September 1980.

On the other hand, uranium metal production was increasing slightly, by 4.4 percent, as of the end of August 1981. Exports increased by the end of that same period by 7.4 percent compared to the same period in 1980.

It must be noted that COMUF [Franceville Uranium Mining Company) anticipates stopping operations of its uranium processing plant for two months at the beginning of 1982 in order to replace and renovate some of its equipment. The company wanted to establish an available stock of 270 tons of metal at the end of 1981.

While coffee and cocoa production still show disappointing results, sugarcane production is encouraging. Refined sugar production went from 6,865 tons in 1978 to 9,009 tons in 1979 and 13,034 tons in 1980. Since local consumption is around 7,500 tons, the rest, which is 5,500 tons since SOSUHO [Haut-Ogooue Sugar Company) has decided to maintain its production at 13,000 tons in 1981, will be exported.

Timber output, particularly okoume, continues to decline. The cumulative results by the end of August 1981 were 624,000 cubic meters as against 740,000 cubic meters the previous year.

Getting back to the monetary and financial area, Gabon's financial situation has continuously and unceasingly grown stronger after having reached an equilibrium following drastic recovery measures put in place by the government.

Gabon's foreign currency situation (foreign exchange reserves) has progressed recently as follows: (figures in millions of CFA francs) -12,461 in August 1979; -789 in August 1980; +37,345 in April 1981; +48,459 in June 1981; +51,316 in August 1981.

Gabon's net external assets managed by the Central Bank have advanced as follows: (figures in millions of CFA francs) 8,457 in August 1979; 18,360 in August 1980; 53,787 in April 1981; 70,161 in June 1981; 80,040 in August 1981.

After that analysis Mr Mamalepot concluded: "Thus, after the financial shock of 1977 Gabon is certainly still rebandaging its wounds, wounds which are healing up, and it has not reached cruising speed, but it is coming out of

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"that historical stage of its economy tested and glorious. While Gabon has made mistakes or blunders in the past, it is, nevertheless, to its credit that it has recognized them in time and imposed a brutal and strict discipline on itself and turned this difficult corner in a relatively short period of time. That is what explains its present cautiousness and the slow and measured resumption of business activity.

"In circumstances such as these the Gabon Development Bank's activity naturally finds itself slowed down. Though fiscal 1980 for the bank could be considered exceptional, with more than Fr 9 billion of credits granted owing to sizable and targeted assistance set up for AGROGABON, a noteworthy drop in the level of grants in 1981 must be expected.

"Since the Gabon Development Bank's activity is mainly oriented toward financing big investments in the medium and long-term (which distinguishes it from standard commercial banks), and paperwork relating to investments of that kind was not initiated by developers, amounts of assistance comparable to those of 1980 were not run up in 1981."

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GABON

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1981 PETROLEUM, URANIUM PRODUCTION--Extractive Operations: Estimate of 1981 Results: According to unofficial sources, Gabon's oil production only reached 7 million tons in 1981 compared to 8.5 million in 1980. Manganese production was said to be on the order of 1.5 million tons as against 2 million in 1980. Uranium production was said to be remaining steady at about 1,000 tons of uranium metal. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 689] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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GHANA

BRIEFS

RAWLINGS SECURITY PROBLEMS--Captain Rawlings is facing an increasingly serious economic situation while rumors of a plot continue to circulate in Accra, the AFP notes. According to the news agency, the president of the Provisional National Defense Council has actually been the target of several assassination attempts with the latest said to have taken place on 5 March, on the eve of celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the country's independence. It is said that the officers who organized the operation--they were reported to be eight--have already been executed. The news agency also mentions that Captain Rawlings only goes around in a combat car and under heavy escort even inside his own base camp, the Burma Camp. His feeling of being in a vulnerable position could also explain why he has delayed adopting the promised measures of economic recovery. On 13 March, speaking about the coup d'etat of 31 December and about Libya's aid to his country, Captain Rawlings said that the military took over not because they were avid for power but because they could not watch impassively the collapse of the country. The head of state did not conceal from his compatriots the fact that "difficult times" were in store for them but he assured them that the "days of slavery and exploitation were over forever." The head of state also said that Libyan aid to his country was limited to supplies of petrol and food for the army and did not include any arms delivery. Captain Rawlings also denied that Libya had sent troops and equipment to organize the coup. He also denied any kind of Soviet penetration in Ghana pointing out that the Soviet Red Cross had only sent to the country 8 tons of drugs. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 794] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 8796

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GUINEA

FRENCH ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL RELATIONS APPARENTLY IMPROVING

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1896, 12 Mar 82 p 734

[Text] After a 20-year chill punctuated by unsuccessful attempts at rapprochement, there is now reason to hope relations between France and Guinea may take a more favorable turn in the context of renewed cooperation. Guinea has already benefited from French loans in both the public and private sector in the years since 1976, when diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored.

Guinea is not yet benefiting from the FAC (Aid and Cooperation Fund), but the CCCE (Central Fund for Economic Cooperation) has gotten involved through long-term loans to help finance various Guinean development projects: enhancing hydro-electric energy production capacity, railroad modernization, restoration and expansion of the telecommunications network, mining investments. Other new financing accords will help Guinea increase its hard currency earnings: mines, industrial fishing, agriculture, etc....

In addition, COFACE [French Insurance Company for Foreign Trade] has guaranteed a number of private sector loans in all sectors of the Guinean economy: agriculture, energy, transport, telecommunications, energy, mines, tourist infrastructure, provision of consumer and equipment goods, etc....

In 1977 it signed an agreement with the BFCE (French Foreign Commerce Bank) enabling it to make purchases on credit. Up to now French banks have not had a great deal of direct involvement, outside the export financing operations and transactions guaranteed by COFACE. Nevertheless, Guinea has obtained lines of credit from the BFCE and the BUE (European Union Bank) for the refinancing of installment payments on various contracts, and, more recently, from the French Commercial Bank, the "Credit Lyonnais" and the "Societe Generale." In addition, a number of transactions relative to short-term operations are being handled through the intermediation of the BIAO [International Bank for West Africa].

Guinea has had serious problems meeting its debt repayment and commitments on loans made with French banks through private-sector credit guaranteed by COFACE. So an agreement with that institution was signed in December 1980 providing a debt moratorium and rescheduling.

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Industrial Presence

French industry has found many fields of activity in Guinea: study and renovation of the Conakry-Kankan railroad, highway projects and building construction, modernization of the telecommunications network (telephone exchanges, provision and laying of cables, a Telspace ground station, water supply and village hydraulic engineering, rehabilitation of the turbines at the Grandes Chutes dam, electrification in Conakry and urban centers in the interior, renovation of the fruit juice production facility in the agro-industrial sector, construction of the clinker-crushing unit, renovation of the structure and equipment of state-owned enterprises: the Sanoya textile complex, the Kankan brickworks, tobacco and matches, tire recapping, paint, furniture, etc....

Since 1960 the Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann firm has been operating an international consortium, Frialco, which mines the Fria bauxite deposit and produces alumina on the spot. The Guinean Government owns a 49 percent interest in the mining company: the other 51 percent is divided between Pechiney (18.25 percent) and Noranda (19.25 percent), British Aluminum (5.5 percent), Alusuisse (5.5 percent) and MGW (2.5 percent). During recent years Fria's alumina production has steadily increased: 500,000 tons in 1975, then 653,100 tons in 1979 and 708,000 tons in 1980. Production in 1981 has been estimated at around 700,000 tons.

The Guinean Government hold a 51 percent interest and is the majority partner in the Guinea Bauxite Company (CBG), which was created in 1971 to exploit the Boke-Sangaredi deposit. The American company Alcoa runs actual operations, and Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann is in partnership (5.1 percent) with American, Canadian, German and Italian firms, Bauxite production has grown from 3.8 million tons in 1975 to 8.3 million tons in 1979 and 9.3 million tons in 1980.

The Guinean Government is an equal partner with several foreign associates in MIFERGUI [Iron Mining Company of Guinea], which was created to exploit the iron ore deposit at Mount Nimba. The 50 percent interest held by foreign partners is shared between Liberia, Nigeria, Algeria, Libya and--though state-owned enterprises--Romania, Yugoslavia and Spain. Private sector interests (totaling 9.81 percent) include the French steel company Solmer-Usinor (3.37 percent), U.S. Steel and a Japanese company.

COGEMA [Nuclear Material General Company], an offshoot of the Atomic Energy Commission, carried out a uranium prospecting operation covering all of northern Guinea in 1980-1981. Another COGEMA affiliate, MINERSA, became involved from 1979-1981 in the Guinea Diamond Company, whose prospecting operations should continue.

No French companies are involved in oil exploration at present; the American company Union Texas, however, has subcontracted offshore seismic studies to the General Geophysical Company.

BRGM [Bureau of Geological and Mining Exploration] is involved in a program to locate and improve waterholes.

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A semi-public works company, the National Construction Company of Guinea (SONATRA-Guinea) has been established with a capital of \$8 million: French partners hold a total of 37 percent (Entreprise Jean Lefebvre, Grands Travaux de Marseille and Entreprise Colas); a German company has a 12 percent interest, and the Guinean Government is the majority shareholder with 51 percent. In 1980 another semi-public company was established in partnership with a French company, the Guinea Construction Company (SOGUICO).

#### Trade Relations and Cooperation

Franco-Guinea commercial relations are an asset to France's overall trade balance. Both French sales and purchases grew (by 24.2 and 36 percent; respectively) during the first 9 months of 1981.

Franco-Guinean trade is shown in the following table, in millions of French francs:

	1979	1980	1980 9 mos.	1981 9 mos.
French imports	220.4	182.8	127.5	173.5
French exports	412.5	412.8	288.4	358.1

Bauxite and alumina figure prominently in imports: Fr 198 million in 1979, 159.5 million in 1980, and 165.3 million for the first 9 months of 1981. French purchases of bananas from Guinea--very significant in the past--have fallen to an insignificant level: Fr 1 million in the first 9 months of 1981; some coffee was also purchased (Fr 4.3 million).

French sales are primarily in the area of food products (flour, dairy products, sugar, canned goods and beverages), equipment goods (engineering and electrical equipment, vehicles, railway equipment) and consumer goods (fertilizers, chemical products, tires, tools and machinery, cardboard, etc....)

Franco-Guinean cooperation in the field of culture, while it was never broken off, remains at a modest level. The French academic team in Conakry, responsible to the French Embassy, carries out French programs; the technical schools of the semi-public companies Friguia and Guinea Bauxite Company are specialized in bauxite extraction and processing. Several French development experts have been seconded to Guinean institutions, and some [French] professors are going to give courses at the University of Conakry each year or head seminars while on short-term missions. From 20 to 25 Guinean students on scholarships provided by the French Government travel to France each year for training or refresher courses.

With regard to technical cooperation, ORSTOM [Overseas Scientific and Technical Research Office] and the French research institutes have no involvement in Guinea apart from projects financed and coordinated by international bodies. Scientific and technical cooperation is crystallizing around a small number of operations: hydrogeological studies by the BRGM, the training of skilled workers in the fields of automotive mechanics and agricultural machinery by

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Renault's engineering subsidiary, cartographic surveys and preparation of the master plan for Conakry by the National Geographic Institute and, finally, the attendance in December 1981 of Guinean representatives to the Medico-Pharmaceutical Week sponsored by the Ministry of Health, the National Pharmaceutical Industry Association and some ten private laboratories.

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GUINEA

BRIEFS

IRON ORE DEPOSITS--Nimba Mountains: Plan for Cooperation With the EEC: On 26 February in Brussels the Guinean minister of mines, Ismael Toure, declared that Guinea has proposed to the European Economic Community that the latter participate in the Nimba-Simandou iron ore deposit mining project near Guinea's Liberian border. Mr Toure stated that the second portion of the Nimba Mountains deposit mining project is slated to make it possible to bring high-grade iron ore production from 15 to 20 million tons. The Nimba deposit is an extension of Liberia's deposit which is in the process of being exhausted. According to the experts, the Nimba project is meant to make it possible to use installations already existing in Liberia, especially the railway necessary for transporting the Guinean ore to the coast. The project's total cost is \$990 million. Ismael Toure's stay in Brussels was from 23 February to 2 March. [Text] [Paris MARCHES ET MEDITERRANEENS in French no 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 681] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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IVORY COAST

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PRESS FOR MORE FREEDOM

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 24 Feb 82 pp 18-19

[ Article by special correspondant Siradiou Diallo: "Discontent at the University" ]

[ Text ] Since the morning of 11 February the University of Abidjan looks like an entrenched camp whose occupants are all in hiding. Among the deserted buildings, overshadowed by the tall fronds of tropical trees, members of republican security companies wander about in battle dress, helmeted, and with hefty black truncheons hanging on their belts. All the higher education establishments and university residence halls in the Ivorian capital offer the same spectacle of desolation. The olive drab figures have taken the place of students everywhere. The former are preparing to camp on the premises for a long time, the latter, after packing their bags, went off with books and notebooks under their arms. The university bus drivers play checkers or take long naps in the shade of their carefully aligned vehicles in the huge parking lot opposite the campus.

On 10 February, after a four-hour debate, the political bureau of the PDCI (Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast) announced the closing of the university and the higher education establishments in Abidjan until further notice, the evacuation of all the university villages and residences in the capital, and suspension of higher education scholarships. The political bureau's communique also declared the strike called by SYNARES (African Union for Research and Higher Education) illegal, and announced that the syndicate is no longer recognized either by the party or the government. This amounts to saying that between the 15,000 students of the University of Abidjan and the authorities, there is a trial of strength. How did it come to this?

It all began on 5 February. That day, the national daily newspaper FRATERNITE-MATIN ran an article entitled "Leaks and Cheating on Examinations, a Plague Gnawing at the University," in which are given in detail all the techniques used by students for cheating during examinations. The author of the article, Ladji Sidibe, had merely written down the confidences of students about practices that are not, incidentally, special to the University of Abidjan, but are commonly encountered elsewhere, and conspicuously in France. Feeling

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that their honor was under attack, the Ivorian students decided to respond. After a stormy session on the campus, some 200 of them marched on FRATERNITE-MATIN. To have a discussion, they said, with the author of the offending article. Fearing that the discussion would degenerate into a fist-fight, the authorities ordered the demonstration dispersed with clubs. Two days later, a television broadcast that was to have been presented by a student was suppressed. And on 8 February, a lecture that was to be given by a professor of the faculty of letters was prohibited in its turn. Deciding that that was going too far, the students made up their minds to resort to strong measures.

Muscular commandos burst into the classrooms, forcing students and teachers to disperse. A dean of the faculty was roundly roughed up, and the rector of the university himself, surprised in his office, subjected to annoyance. Windows were splintered. Faced with the hourly mounting tension, the authorities reacted ruthlessly. After surrounding the campus, the CRS [Republican Security Companies] arrested hundreds of students and took them to the Adkouedo army camp, on the Bingerville road, in order, said an officer, "to reeducate them for as long as it takes." In pamphlets calling for general mobilization, the students announced an indefinite strike. SYNARES assisted them by deciding to adopt the same stance. What do the Ivorian officials feel about it? "After all that has been done for these students," they say, "why this ingratitude?"

And they go on to list in detail all the advantages they have been given and the things that have been done for their benefit: scholarships of 42,000 CFA francs (840 French francs) a month, while the SMIC [interoccupational minimum growth wage] is 35,000 CFA francs a month, 18 comfortable university residences spread all over Abidjan and the suburbs, student rooms at 3,000 CFA francs a month, restaurant vouchers at 75 CFA francs and free bus transportation. "What can they be complaining about," say the country's leaders, "unless it is that the head of state spoils them too much?" The students are denying these advantages, but are denouncing certain flaws. A glance over their pamphlets is enough to show that. Out of their nine demands, not a single one is of a material order. Their demands range from the right to information to freedom of expression, and include respect for the immunity of the university campus and suppression of extremist and dishonest selection "intended to turn them into out-of-work intellectuals." They are also calling for the dissolution of the MEECI (Movement of Students and Pupils of the Ivory Coast, a government-sponsored organization), and the publication by FRATERNITE-MATIN of a formal denial of what they call their so-called cheating on examinations. In point of fact, the student unrest in Abidjan is only one of the problems the country is experiencing after the accelerated development it has undergone during the last 20 years.. The student demands reflect the needs and aspirations of a social class that having acquired a standard of living unknown elsewhere in Africa, would now like to have the same thing in intellectual terms. Like the astute politician that he is, President Houphouet-Boigny started to meet these needs. As proof: the organized, channeled democratization within the single party at the end of 1980, at the legislative elections. FRATERNITE-MATIN and the media as a whole, including television, regularly reflect it. Not a week, not to claim a day, goes by that the opportunity is not given to an academic, a cadre, a student, or a union member, to criticize some political leader or other for his management

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or his conduct. A traveler returning to Abidjan after six months' absence cannot help being surprised by the heat of the debate now going on in the country.

A veritable cultural revolution, desired, organized, and controlled by the head of state himself is being witnessed. And it is precisely the control and the impediments that the intellectuals and the students are eager to see gone. But President Houphouet-Boigny, on his side, intends to act with caution, in stages, and providing safety rails. Will he succeed in calming people down and implementing his democracy little by little? That is the basic issue. The very future of the regime is at stake. Especially in these heated times, with offices, factories, and plantations buzzing with persistent rumors about the succession.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

GRAIN REQUIREMENTS--Mozambique requires food supplies amounting to close to 180,000 tons of grain following a drought which has affected large areas of the country. On 8 March, Minister of Home Trade Aranda da Silva called a meeting of representatives of the diplomatic corps and humanitarian international agencies to inform them about the general situation created by a particularly severe drought in the coastal regions of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Inhambane. The minister made it clear that aid to the stricken population will be required for the entire year of 1982 and until the next harvest is gathered in June-July 1983. He added that the international community will also have to provide assistance in the form of shipments of grain and of almost 18,000 tons of dry beans. The total number of people affected by the drought is estimated to be around 1.8 million. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 809] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 8796

WATER PROJECT LOAN--The African Development Bank has just granted a loan to Mozambique for the equivalent of 3,772,000,000 CFA francs to finance part of the Pequenos Limbombos Dam project. The project is intended to ensure a rational utilization of the meager water resources of the Umbeluzi River and pursues the double purpose of meeting the future increasing need of water supply for household and industrial consumption in the town of Maputo, and of irrigating close to 15,000 hectares of land to boost the citrus crop and several other food crops. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 809] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 8796

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NIGER

## BRIEFS

PRESIDENT VISITS DIFFA DEPARTMENT--On 26 February President Kountche got back to Niamey at the end of a 6-day visit in Diffa Department near the Chadian border. He was accompanied by several members of the Nigerien Government and travelled over 1,000 km on sometimes difficult tracks to visit the pastoral Beri-Beri, Toubou, Arab, Tuareg and Peul peoples in that region which is 1,500 km from the capital. With the administrative and traditional tribal authorities the chief of state covered in detail the problems posed by the proximity of the "zone of turbulence and insecurity" which Chad constitutes, on the one hand, and by the threat to the department's population groups and considerable livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and camels) harbored by the persistence of the drought. He also inspected the public welfare infrastructure set up during the last few years: community clinics and maternity hospitals, educational establishments, roads, electrical power supply, fuel depots, wells and boreholes. President Kountche visited the military posts tasked with protecting nomad shepherds against the forays of looters coming from Chad. In meeting with the chiefs of the Toubou, Arab, Tuareg and Peul tribes as well as with the Beri-Beri peoples who are in the majority in Diffa Department, the chief of state asked them to "strengthen national unity" and to "participate in the maintenance of security" at the side of the armed forces and the police. In all the administrative subdivisions, moreover, he supervised the establishment of stockpiles of grain (millet, sorghum, wheat) and fodder for livestock which will enable the population groups and the livestock to get through the "gap" period (April to June) which looks like it will be difficult. In fact, harvests and pasture areas have especially suffered from the drought in this department. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 684] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

EDF RICE FARMING GRANT--The development of modern rice farming in Niger (Namarde-Goungou Perimeter) is going to get a 6.8 million ECU [European Currency Unit] European grant (EDF) [European Development Fund]. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 618] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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SENEGAMBIA

BRIEFS

EXPANSION OF SAR INSTALLATIONS--Petroleum Products: Expansion Program of SAR [African Refining Company] Installations: Senegal's African Refining Company has started carrying out its expansion program by equipping itself with a 1400-meter underwater pipe for discharging crude oil from oil tankers. The pipe will be able to discharge 80,000 cubic-meter tankers and will yield savings of 1 billion CFA francs per year. SAR's objective is to bring its refining capacity from 900,000 to 1,200,000 tons. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 679] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

COTTON PRODUCTION--Cotton production forecasts were met this year with an estimated harvest of 33,000 tons of seed cotton. Of particular note is that yields reached a record level (1.2 tons/hectare), the highest recorded since the crop was introduced into Senegal in 1961. Thus, the objective of 1.1 tons/hectare in 1984 was exceeded, which objective was set by the contract schedule with the government binding on SODEFITEX (Textile Fibers Development Company). Similar production performances were achieved by SODEFITEX with respect to rice and corn. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 679] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

IMF STANDBY AGREEMENT--The IMF gives its support to the economic Stabilization Program: On 24 February the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced the conclusion of a standby agreement (or confirmation agreement) with Gambia authorizing that country to buy the equivalent of 16.9 million SDR (Special Drawing Rights) during the next 12 months to support the economic and financial program of the Gambian Government. It was pointed out that Gambia's IMF quota is 13.5 million SDR and its financial obligations with respect to the Fund currently amount to the equivalent of 14.9 million SDR. The government program to which the recent agreement contributes the IMF's support aims to stabilize the country's economic and financial situation during the upcoming 12 months. It provides for a redirection of investment toward productive sectors, agriculture in particular. At the same time strict measures will be put into force in price, currency and tax matters in order to curb demand for imported goods, to limit the balance of payments deficit to an acceptable level, and to reduce foreign payments arrears. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 680] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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TUNISIAN COOPERATION--It was learned in Dakar at the close of the third session of the joint Senegalese-Tunisian cooperation commission on 16 February that the Tunisian prime minister, Mohamed Mzali, will be making an official visit to Senegal at the beginning of April. The session was presided over by the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries, Messrs Niasse (Senegal) and Beji Caid es-Sebsi (Tunisia). The areas of industry and agriculture as well as fishing, tourism and transportation occupy an important place in bilateral relations. In the industry area, Senegalese and Tunisians will be meeting in March to work jointly in a cooperation program. In air transportation the national company Tunis Air will inaugurate its first flight to Dakar on 31 March only a few days before Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mazali's visit. The establishment of direct dial telephone connections between Dakar and Tunis is also anticipated. The two countries reaffirmed their desire to expand and strengthen their cooperation in all fields. That is why the joint commission has been raised in status to a high-level joint commission which will hold its first meeting next year in Tunis. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 614] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982.] 9631

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