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USIB-D#16.2/15
17 June 1959

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study of NIE 75-58
Conditions and Trends in French Tropical Africa
Published 17 June 1958

and

NIE 74-57
The Outlook for Ghana
Published 27 December 1957

The attached validity study of NIE 75-58 and NIE 74-57 was noted by the Intelligence Board on 16 June (USIB-M-44, item 10 c).



Executive Secretary

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Attachment

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Validity Study of NIE 75-58
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1. NIE 75-58 correctly evaluated the principal political trends in French Tropical Africa. The estimate has proved valid in its judgments that the drive toward eventual independence would continue and that de Gaulle's assumption of power could lead to a revision of the French constitution in a way which would probably accommodate African demands over at least the short term. The estimate, which was drafted prior to the events of 13 May in France, was then unable to foresee the profound effects of the new constitution on France's relations with its overseas territories.

2. At a more general level, the estimate that a collection of weak and divided states would emerge in the area is borne out by the divisions in French West Africa and by the very weak links created among the territories of French Equatorial Africa. However, the Ghana-Guinea Union and the determination of Senegal and Soudan to establish the Mali Federation indicate that the force of sentiment for African unity was underestimated.

3. NIE 74-57 has held up reasonably well with the following exceptions. First, increased opposition to Nkrumah and factionalism within the Convention People's Party have not materialized as was expected. Indeed Nkrumah has been particularly successful in reducing the scope of opposition activity. Secondly, Nkrumah's ambitions regarding Pan-Africanism have not, so far, been blunted by the opposition of other African states.

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