

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

14 February 1985

Sub-Saharan Africa: Economic Problems and Prospects

**Summary**

The outlook for Africa's economies is bleak. Although Africa's economic problems appear to have been precipitated by a number of external events, including drought and world recession, they also reflect longstanding structural problems. Further deterioration is likely because of the failure to resolve such basic weaknesses as inadequate infrastructure (human and physical), declining per capita food production, sociopolitical instability, and balance of payments problems. Most African governments will avoid, for reasons of self-preservation, unpopular policy reforms on the scale that is considered by most development authorities to be necessary for sustained growth.

25X1

6

*file 10/11*  
*(2)*  
*Sourced also*

25X1

Acute shortages of foreign exchange will be common in many countries because net capital inflow into the region will be reduced by over 50 percent beginning in 1985. Governments will have to cut imports vital to industries and reduce development spending in order to conserve foreign exchange for basic necessities and to meet debt service obligations. Even so, some countries will still be unable to cover their needs, and

This typescript memo was prepared for the 18 February 1985 Senior Interagency Group on International Economic Policy, chaired by Treasury. It was prepared by [redacted] of the Office of African and Latin American Analysis, with contributions by [redacted] and was coordinated with the Office of Global Issues, the Directorate of Operations, and the National Intelligence Officer, Africa. It includes information available as of 14 February 1985. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Regional Issues Branch, ALA on [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

State Dept. review completed

ALA M 85-10010

25X1

25X1

emergency loans and debt reschedulings will be an ongoing pattern. Furthermore, we believe that drastic reductions in imports will starve production and lead to infrastructural decay, causing deep and long-term injury to economies that are already in a precarious state. [redacted]

25X1

\* \* \*

The Economic Crisis--a Legacy of Failure

Sub-Saharan Africa's grim economic situation today is testimony to the failure of over two decades of development effort by African governments, donor countries, and international organizations.\* A low level of economic growth--averaging less than one percent per year 1982-1984--has combined with the world's highest rate of population increase--3.1 percent-- to create conditions of declining per capita incomes and deteriorating standards of living.

-- By 1983, Africa's GDP had shrunk to below the 1980 level, and it continued to fall in 1984. Per capita income, which in 1983 was estimated at 4 percent less than its 1970 amount, should continue to fall through 1995 even in a best case situation, according to projections by the World Bank.

-- Social indicators are equally discouraging. Child mortality in Africa, for example, is double the average for all developing countries, according to UN data. Twenty percent of Africa's population eats less than the minimum needed to sustain good health, according to the Food and Agricultural Organization, and this is the only region in the world in which per capita food production is falling and where nutrition has actually worsened over the past ten years. [redacted]

25X1

Sub-Saharan Africa's lack of success relative to other regions in adjusting to such external shocks as the runup in oil prices in the 1970s and the global recession in the 1980s results from poor performance on export expansion and restrictive trade policies, according to international economists. African countries are particularly vulnerable

-----  
\*This discussion includes countries south of the Sahara except South Africa. In the interest of cross-country comparability, all data cited come from World Bank sources unless otherwise indicated. For an examination of specific regions, see Annexes. [redacted]

25X1

to fluctuating prices for their commodities because they export mainly raw materials and, even during periods of higher export earnings such as the late 1970s, have maintained the world's lowest ratio of foreign exchange reserves to imports, according to IMF data. Oil and non-oil exporting African countries alike experienced a boom in foreign exchange earnings when prices for their commodities rose during 1973-1980, but, rather than building reserves against an eventual drop in prices, they chose to spend their windfalls on such ambitious projects as prestige airports and on expanding the size and role of governments. The continent is littered with projects that are incomplete or deteriorating for lack of sufficient funds for maintenance, and that, in our view, will never pay for themselves. Examples range from the containerized port of Onne in Nigeria, 65 percent complete and now abandoned, to the Kisumu gasohol plant in Kenya which, even if completed, will have output that is uneconomically low. [redacted]

25X1

When the terms of trade for oil importers began to deteriorate sharply in 1980, we believe that governments failed to reduce imports quickly enough, drew down on their foreign exchange reserves, and borrowed more from abroad. The beginning of the recession in industrialized countries resulted in a rapid drop in demand for African products and, according to export price statistics, an average price decline of 28 percent during 1981-82. By the end of 1983, reserves for the region as a whole covered only one month's worth of imports and Africa had the highest debt relative to GDP in the world. From 1979 to 1984, 28 Sub-Saharan African countries resorted to borrowing from the IMF, and in 1982, 25 percent of the Fund's total lending went to Africa. [redacted]

25X1

#### Endemic Problems and Weaknesses

Chronic physical, demographic, and ideological-political factors account for much of Africa's poor economic performance in the past, and in our judgment, will continue to act as obstacles to growth and development. For example, the myriad deficiencies--in food, physical plant, education and skills--and unrealistic government policies combine with the extremely small size of African national markets to limit the return on most investment. Development efforts in Africa, therefore, tend to move slowly and often fail. [redacted]

25X1

#### Dearth of Physical and Human Resources

Africa's poor infrastructure--both physical and human--is a fundamental impediment to economic growth. Transport, communications, and plant facilities are generally inadequate for modern economic activity. In some countries major development projects such as ports, railways, and plant sites are deteriorating because of poor maintenance complicated by geography, climate, shortage of skilled labor, and financial

constraints. The World Bank reports, for example, that minimal maintenance costs for African roads are three times as high a proportion of GNP as in other developing countries. [redacted]

25X1

Human development is an even more troublesome obstacle to growth because high rates of population increase combined with little or no economic growth guarantee that the magnitude of the problem constantly increases.

- The rapid rate of population increase strains the resources of African economies in merely providing the very basics of life: housing, food, water, and health care.
- Evidence suggests that the general health of the population is declining because of poor nutrition. Although improved since independence, life expectancy still averages less than 50 years, and infant mortality is the highest in the world, according to United Nations data.
- Africa trails the rest of the world in the rate of adult literacy; in at least 20 countries, fewer than half the adults are literate. Generally, the populations are not able to manage a modern, technology-based economy.
- Severe shortages exist of skilled managers and technical experts needed to run the governments and industries efficiently, according to business and academic sources. [redacted]

25X1

### Political Instability

Sociopolitical and ideological factors have persisted as major constraints to economic stabilization since the 1960s. Deep ethnic, regional, and religious cleavages divide the populations of most African countries, whose regimes are preoccupied with keeping their own dominant elites in power. Most regimes have avoided the implementation of long-range economic planning, therefore, in favor of satisfying the immediate needs of their supporters. [redacted]

25X1

In countries with economies run according to socialist principles (such as Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia), ideology tends to dictate economic policy. Even when policies prove counterproductive economically, reforms that conflict with ideology are unlikely to be implemented unless the ruling group feels politically secure. [redacted]

25X1

Opposition to African regimes can take a variety of forms ranging from systematic circumvention of government regulations to armed rebellion. Combating insurgents and other civil disorders saps state treasuries. In addition, warfare disrupts the production and flow of goods and creates sometimes huge refugee populations that often remain unproductive for years. According to academic studies, for example, during the 1970s the number of refugees who crossed national borders in Africa rose from 750,000 to 5 million and constituted half the total refugees in the world. [redacted]

25X1

Entrepreneurial instincts, when inhibited by government regulations, simply ignore many government controls. Informal economies are now thriving in places where the official modern sector is in disarray (Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Zaire, for example). People trade, smuggle, provide services, and devise their own systems of currency exchange -- all outside the formal sector. In our view, based on largely diplomatic reporting, government control over economic activity is on the wane in many parts of Africa, and the future base of revenue from customs and taxes is threatened. According to a recent academic study, for example, it is estimated that one-third of Sierra Leone's rice production is smuggled abroad and that if smuggling were halted, Sierra Leone would be self-sufficient in rice. [redacted]

25X1

#### Counter-productive Economic Policies

The extent of government intrusion into the formal sector of African economies is pervasive partly because it is used by leaders as a means of controlling their political competition. In our judgment, African leaders build and maintain their power bases by deciding who has access to foreign exchange, investment, resources, licenses, and contracts.

- The \$2 billion Inga Shaba dams project with its 1100 mile transmission line in Zaire was designed to strengthen the dependence of the copper-rich Shaba province on other parts of the country.
- Ivory Coast built six sugar processing plants for political reasons when sugar prices were high to provide the relatively poor north with employment; sugar prices collapsed shortly after work was begun.
- In Nigeria, revenues were allocated automatically to governors of the 19 states for their use with little accountability or control.

Public employment is commonly used to dispense patronage; African governments employ an average of 30 percent of the non-agricultural, formal labor force and over 50 percent in such countries as Tanzania,

formal labor force and over 50 percent in such countries as Tanzania, Zambia, Liberia, and Ghana. [redacted]

25X1

Production by state-owned industries is typically inefficient because they are managed poorly, and sometimes corruptly, and often have goals other than profitability. Academic [redacted] sources consistently show that they usually operate in deficit, receive huge government subsidies, and are deeply in debt. For example, World Bank studies show that, except for those that handle export sales, public enterprises are generally serious fiscal burdens, and management objectives are usually political rather than economic. Nevertheless, they have proven difficult to dismantle in part because they provide jobs for political allies and because there still is a widespread distrust of the free market and a deep sense, even among younger leaders, that colonialism and capitalism are somehow linked. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

State-owned enterprises in Africa contribute as much as 38 percent to GDP (in Ghana and Zambia), compared with the 10 percent average for developing countries as a whole. In Tanzania, government enterprises account for over 50 percent of manufacturing and commerce. [redacted]

25X1

Regimes stifle impulses toward a free market economy in a number of other ways. Controls on wages, prices, and the sale and marketing of goods abound. Restrictions are widely used to reduce or prohibit certain imports, while overvalued currencies in some countries help to provide cheap imported food for urban dwellers, whose political impact is greatest. Import restrictions are especially pervasive in such countries as Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania, according to US embassy reporting. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

At the urging of the World Bank, IMF, and other official lenders, a number of countries have agreed to begin to institute basic reforms in economic policy (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali and Zambia, for example). Policies that are being targeted are those that interfere in the operation of the free market, particularly agriculture, or that protect domestic industry from competition. In addition, governments are being advised to begin the privatization of state firms. While the long-term impact of such policy corrections is advantageous, the immediate effect is that the loss of jobs and rising prices, particularly for food, resulting from such measures would have a severe impact, especially on urban populations. [redacted]

25X1

Many African leaders publicly acknowledge that reforms are necessary but delay implementation because they regard such changes as politically

too risky or as ideologically undesirable. We believe, however, that they also are striving to preserve the living standard of the administrative class from which they draw their support and are determined to retain their power by rewarding this and other key groups with employment and favors. Although outsiders will undoubtedly continue to urge reform, we believe that the leaders of most African countries--no matter how convinced of the wisdom of the proposals--will be severely constrained from implementing them by fear of political reprisals. For those countries that do persevere in such reforms, which in most cases will be painful and unpopular, economic benefits will not emerge quickly. [REDACTED]

25X1

### Food Shortages

Africa's diminishing capacity to feed itself is perhaps the most alarming manifestation of the fusion of poverty and politics. The declining rate of per capita food production can be attributed to a number of factors, none of which is open to easy solutions. Drought, poor agricultural resources, warfare, and government policies all play a part.

- The region is subject to periodic droughts and cyclical food shortages. Each subsequent drought is likely to have worse effects because each food shortage forces farmers to expand cleared areas for planting and grazing, which adversely affects evaporation, rainfall, and erosion.
- The Food and Agricultural Organization has identified 21 countries that have chronic food shortages. Although the region generally has the potential to increase production significantly, there are 14 countries--containing half the population of Sub-Saharan Africa--that did not have enough productive land to support their populations as of 1975.
- The end of the drought will not solve the food production problem. Per capita grain production in the countries most affected by the present drought has been falling an average of 2 percent per year since 1970. According to an FAO analysis, per capita production in 1988 will be the same as in the drought year of 1984 even if 1988 has normal rainfall.
- Food production in areas subjected to warfare, guerrilla activity, or banditry tends to drop markedly. In such countries as Uganda, Angola, and Chad, farmers migrate to secure areas, and armies and bandits often steal or destroy the crops. Spoilage increases because marketing is difficult. [REDACTED]

25X1

While drought and warfare have an immediate impact, the counterproductive policies practiced by most African governments are principally responsible for the long-term decline in food production,

according to development experts. In order to avoid conditions that might lead to political unrest in the cities --as well as to maintain the living standard of officials--governments try to keep food prices low, according to academic sources. Overvalued currencies often make imported food cheaper than local produce. The low price of food encourages greater consumption while the low prices paid to farmers discourage domestic production. Falling rural income has been cited by academic experts as a major reason why Africa has the highest increase in the rate of urbanization in the world. The migration of young farmers to African cities is contributing to the decline in food production and at the same time increasing the demand for food. [redacted]

25X1

Farmers face other aggravations that stem from the government-run corporations that often handle marketing and distribution of foodstuffs, agricultural materials, farm equipment, and extension services. The performance of these organizations has been marked by widespread mismanagement, shortages of technical and administrative expertise, insufficient financing, and corruption, according to academic studies. [redacted]

25X1  
25X1

#### Chronic Balance of Payments Problems

African countries are chronically short of foreign exchange with which to purchase imports, service debts, and pay for capital projects. Their economies are highly dependent on imports for both the raw materials and capital equipment needed to supply industries as well as basic necessities, including an increasing amount of food. Depressed prices for tropical agricultural products and most African mineral resources have reduced Africa's earnings at a time when its food import needs and debt service obligations are growing. Food imports and debt service payments consumed over 40 percent of foreign exchange earnings in 1984, and oil importing countries spent about another 25 percent of their hard currency earnings on oil purchases, according to IMF and World Bank data. We believe that many countries will have recurrent balance of payments crises over the next several years because management of external accounts is generally poor and subject to political interference. [redacted]

25X1

Because most African countries depend on the export of only one or two commodities for foreign exchange earnings, they are particularly vulnerable when demand for their exports is low. World Bank data show, for example, that on average the three principal exports of individual countries account for almost 80 percent of total exports from the region and that the share has been rising since 1961. When earnings drop, governments must either cut imports, accumulate payment arrears, or use cash reserves, which are usually meager. The reduction in imports deprives domestic production of vitally needed materials, and jobs are



25X1

lost. Furthermore, we believe that if export earnings rise, political pressures would dictate that the flow of imports resume its previous volume. [redacted]

25X1

African countries have made very little progress either in restructuring industry to make use of local resources or in developing new exports. The contribution of manufacturing to GDP is declining in most countries, according to national accounts data. Trade surpluses occur in some countries, but they usually reflect contractions in imports, not significant expansion of exports. Consequently, trade surpluses often signal ill health in the African context. We believe that because African trade surpluses often are built by cutting imports of vital resources for the transport and manufacturing sectors, the short-term benefits of easing the foreign exchange shortage are soon replaced by further economic decay, as is occurring in such countries as Nigeria, Zaire, and Ghana [redacted]

25X1

25X1

#### Declining Investment

Faced with the need to reduce expenditures, many governments, according to national statistics, have chosen to cut spending for capital projects rather than in the more politically sensitive areas of defense and social services. As a result, Africa's productive capacity is being expanded more slowly than elsewhere in the developing world and the existing capacity of some countries is deteriorating, according to IMF data. Shortages of spare parts and reduced funds for maintenance will continue to damage the region's transport and productive facilities, actually reversing the development process in some countries. As a result, many countries may not be able to take advantage of future improvements in the world market by producing more. [redacted]

25X1

With few exceptions, most notably the oil producing countries of West and Central Africa, new foreign investment in African countries is declining and domestic investment has been discouraged by the poor rate of return that is common in the region. African economies are not building the foundation for future growth and their ability to compete in a rapidly changing world will be severely limited. [redacted]

25X1

#### Outlook

The outlook for Africa's economies is bleak for the remainder of the decade largely because of a number of longstanding structural problems and a set of predominantly negative economic and social trends that span the last 10 years. These chronic shortcomings have been made worse in recent years by a number of external events, including drought and world recession. [redacted]

25X1

Africa is becoming progressively poorer. We believe that further deterioration is likely because of the failure to resolve such basic weaknesses as inadequate human and physical resources, declining per capita food production, structural balance of payments problems, and sociopolitical instability. Most African governments will avoid unpopular policy reforms that are considered by development authorities to be necessary for sustained growth because such measures would threaten their survival. [REDACTED]

25X1

The stimulus for growth will not come from outside funding unless extraordinary programs are undertaken by official lenders. Official sources have compensated for the drop in commercial lending during 1980-82, and the gross amount of capital inflow into Africa probably will remain relatively steady for several years. Beginning in 1985, however, a heavy repayment schedule will reduce the net amount of funds available to the region from the 1980-82 average of \$11 billion to only \$5 billion. Some hard-pressed countries (Senegal and Liberia, for example,) already are using these funds, including development aid, to meet the ordinary expenses of running the government and for debt payments, rather than investing in capital projects that could contribute to future growth, according to US embassy reporting. [REDACTED]

25X1

Acute shortages of foreign exchange will be common during 1985-87, despite trade surpluses in many countries because of the reduced level of net capital inflow. We believe governments will have to cut imports vital to industries and reduce development spending in order to conserve foreign exchange for basic necessities and debt service obligations. Even so, some countries such as Liberia, Zaire, and Somalia, still will be unable to cover their needs, and emergency loans and debt reschedulings will continue to be required. Furthermore, we believe that these drastic reductions in imports will starve production and lead to further decay in physical plant and facilities, causing deep and long-term injury to economies already in a precarious state. [REDACTED]

25X1

In our view, the longer-term economic outlook also is dismal. The potential exists for a long-term fall in the average real prices of some of Africa's primary commodities because of technological advance. For example, the development of new production techniques allows for the use of cheaper raw materials or synthetics for rubber and a number of metals. Fiber optics could largely eliminate the use of copper wire in telecommunications which would have a severe impact on Africa's two largest copper producers, Zaire and Zambia. Africa's weakened condition also will limit its ability to capitalize on such potentially advantageous conditions as improved markets for its products. Deterioration of existing facilities will erode Africa's capacity to increase production

and move the greater volume through the transport system. Favorable world conditions probably would help Africa only minimally, in our judgment. Should the global environment turn negative, it would have a deep and long-lasting impact because of the region's lack of economic, political, and social resilience. Furthermore, we believe that as other regions move rapidly to acquire increasingly advanced technology, the gap between Africa, already the world's poorest region, and the rest of the world will continue to grow. [REDACTED]

25X1

#### Implications for the United States

Africa's deteriorating economic situation will create greater demand on the United States and its industrial country allies for food assistance, concessional loans, and aid programs. Because of the decline in commercial loans and private investment, we believe that the multilateral institutions will also play an ever larger role. The United States and other major supporters of these institutions will come under growing pressure for greater contributions. [REDACTED]

25X1

The United States, as the world's largest food producer, will attract most attention from Africa's leaders. Declining per capita food production in Africa provides a growing market for US agricultural products, but Africa's cash-short economies will ask that sales be on concessional terms. The demonstrated inability of many governments to plan for periods of severe shortage will also prompt requests for more emergency food aid. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

ANNEX I  
Outlook for West and Central Africa\*

Per capita GDP in West and Central Africa probably will continue to decline for the remainder of the decade. Drought and recovery from drought, foreign exchange shortages, and austerity or stabilization programs, in our judgment, will constrain economic growth for the next several years. While the overall outlook for the region is pessimistic, some countries, such as Congo, Cameroon, and Togo, through a combination of stronger exports, increased food production, and manageable debt service, are likely to sustain their relatively positive performances for the next few years; the decline also may have bottomed out for others, and they could begin a period of slow but steady growth over the next few years.

- Ghana, with black Africa's second largest economy, according to World Bank data, has received economic shock treatments that seem to have checked its long downward spiral. Five devaluations since April 1983, easing of price controls, budgetary discipline, and the government's efforts to rehabilitate the key economic sectors produced a second consecutive year of growth in 1984. Nevertheless, the economy remains depressed--real GDP is still below the 1973 peak--and further progress depends on the capacity of the Rawlings government, under considerable political pressure because of the dismal state of the economy, to survive.
- Three Central African oil producers, Congo, Cameroon, and Gabon, are likely to achieve modest growth over the next several years despite the weak oil market, but only if they can adhere to plans to limit imports, contain government spending, and avoid excessive external borrowing. The longer term outlook is unfavorable, however, because industry experts expect oil production, still the major source of foreign exchange for all three countries, to decline in the early 1990s. [REDACTED]

25X1

Foreign Exchange Problems. The region's foreign exchange shortage is not likely to ease measurably within the near term. Although the prices for some West and Central African commodities, such as coffee, cocoa, and

\*Benin, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zaire. [REDACTED]

25X1

palm kernels, strengthened somewhat during 1984, we judge that most countries will face a continuing drop in foreign exchange earnings from their peak in 1980 that lasts at least several years.

-- Even with improved prices for the Ivory Coast's principal exports, coffee and cocoa, we calculate that Abijan will lack sufficient foreign exchange to service external debt and to finance imports at levels that would permit 5 to 6 percent annual economic growth to resume. Ivory Coast, Africa's second largest debtor (after Nigeria) probably will have to reschedule about \$2 billion during 1985. The restrictions on vital imports are endangering the maintenance of the region's best infrastructure and may cause a fourth year of economic decline. [redacted]

25X1

-- Nigeria, black Africa's largest economy, must continue to import huge quantities of food since per capita food production in 1983 was 8 percent below the 1969-71 average. About 25 percent of foreign exchange earnings--already depressed because of lower oil revenues--will be spent for food and at least 45 percent must go for debt service. We believe that Nigeria will continue to resist a sizable devaluation as long as possible and that will preclude IMF assistance. [redacted]

25X1

Policy Reform. A number of West and Central African countries have agreed to various economic reforms designed to reduce the role of government and to encourage the operation of free market forces. Between 1979 and 1984, the IMF made loan arrangements that included requirements for some policy reforms with the Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zaire. Although these governments generally have avoided implementing the most far-reaching reforms, a few--like Ghana--are becoming so desperate that they are willing to submit to IMF requirements in order to obtain assistance.

-- The government of Zaire has been able to sustain reform in part because the standard of living is so low that the adverse short-term will be reduced by corruption at high levels and by President Mobutu's personal control of key economic elements. Zaire has rescheduled its debts every year but one since 1976, and, according to the IMF, will have to reschedule every year until at least the end of the decade.

-- Senegal has had four successive IMF stabilization programs, all largely ineffective in reversing economic decline in part because of the failure to comply with measures requiring reduced public spending. As West Africa's largest recipient of foreign aid, the government has been able to supplement its budget to support over 80 parastatals, in addition to providing subsidies for many basic

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

items. We believe that the 1985 IMF program, which is involving all major donors in consultation, is likely to be successful in encouraging some gradual changes. In our view, however, social pressures that could seriously threaten President Diouf's survival will prevent him from moving decisively toward reform in such sensitive areas as subsidies and public employment. [REDACTED]

25X1

Agriculture. Food will continue to be West Africa's principal concern for years. In our judgment, production shortfalls, food emergencies, and chronic shortages are likely to continue their pattern of the past.

- Average per capita food production during 1980-82 declined from the 1969-71 average everywhere but in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Ivory Coast. Only Ivory Coast, however, has sustained growth in per capita production. Ghana, on the other hand, is producing less than 75 percent of its 1969-71 level.
- Countries of the Sahel (Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina, Senegal, The Gambia, and Cape Verde), affected by periodic drought and without substantial resources, probably will remain dependent on massive food aid for years. Despite efforts by the World Bank and others to overhaul Sahelian agriculture and some government efforts to encourage food production in Senegal and Mali, little improvement is likely soon, in our judgment because of the extensive environmental problems. [REDACTED]

25X1

## ANNEX II

EAST AFRICA: TROUBLED ECONOMIES

The East African regional economy will expand, in our judgment, only sluggishly over the next few years, and real per capita incomes probably will continue to stagnate or fall.\* Economic growth will be limited by a combination of factors that apply, in varying measure, to each of the countries: the paucity of human, physical, and capital resources; the burden of corruption, political cronyism, and government efforts to control the economy; continuing foreign exchange shortages; the effects of drought; and disruptions imposed by scattered insurgencies. [REDACTED]

25X1

Economic Policies. Government policies over the next few years will significantly influence the economic environment--and, as a result, production and investment decisions. Although some countries are moving toward liberalization, we believe most governments will maintain strong control over economic activity. [REDACTED]

25X1

-- We see little evidence that the ideologically-driven Mengistu regime in Ethiopia will substantially alter its policies, even in the wake of the worldwide attention drawn to his mismanagement of Ethiopia's food production. [REDACTED]

25X1

-- Although the Tanzanian government has implemented some liberalization measures, such as devaluation and higher producer prices for food and export crops, we doubt that the wideranging structural reforms necessary to spur sustained economic recovery will be implemented--especially since President Nyerere, a committed socialist, is likely to maintain a strong voice in government even if he retires as planned in late 1985. [REDACTED]

25X1

-- Mogadishu's IMF-backed liberalization program has brightened Somalia's economic prospects, but the short term costs--which include hoarding and the depression of trade--could be steep. Moreover, the program limits President Siad's ability to dispense patronage, an important element of his power base. If the side effects prove too painful politically or if donors do not quickly respond with stepped up aid flows, we believe Siad will come under severe pressure to back away from the agreement. [REDACTED]

25X1

-- Economic policies in Kenya have been relatively liberal compared to the rest of East Africa. Nonetheless, pressure for more

-----  
\* Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

liberalization will be opposed by the government because of a strong resentment of foreign pressure, key policymakers' distrust of technocratic Western economic solutions, and a personal commercial stake by high level officials in the present system.

[redacted]

25X1

Foreign Exchange Shortages. We do not believe the region's foreign exchange crunch will ease much over the next few years. Foreign exchange reserves are nearly depleted in most countries; US Embassy reporting from Ethiopia, for example, indicates that holdings at the end of 1984 were at the lowest level in more than 30 years. Export earnings will be limited by high-cost, low-quality production, which makes the region's goods uncompetitive, and expected declines in coffee, tea, and cotton prices from current levels. Foreign aid flows will be increasingly affected by donor budget constraints.

[redacted]

25X1

-- Even if Somalia's IMF program is approved, the resulting inflow of funds will only help ease--not end--Mogadishu's critical cash shortages. The government still must reschedule quickly--growing debt service obligations to meet IMF targets, and, we believe, will be hard pressed to find alternative markets for its livestock in the face of a continuing Saudi ban on Somali cattle.\*

[redacted]

25X1

-- A solid foreign reserve level, current high world prices for coffee and tea, and a bright tourism picture should provide some insulation for Kenya but Nairobi still could encounter financial problems later this year as the bills for its commercial food purchases become due. Kenya soon will be looking for additional aid. Foreign exchange pressures could continue in 1986 if coffee output does not recover from the drought and stock drawdowns to meet the 1985 ICO quota leave insufficient supplies for next year's exports.

[redacted]

25X1

Drought. Drought in key countries will strain fragile agricultural and agriculturally-based industrial sectors and transportation networks at least through 1985. Moreover, financial pressures will intensify as probable export crop losses lower hard currency revenues, and government expenditures on relief efforts and food imports grow.

[redacted]

25X1

-- The recent harvest in Ethiopia, worst hit by drought, may be some 25 percent below normal, and food stocks are now exhausted. Famine, therefore, almost certainly will continue spreading to

-----  
\*As a result of Saudi Arabia's mid-1983 ban on Somali cattle imports, Mogadishu's export earnings have fallen by more than half, to only \$60 million. Little progress has been made toward lifting the embargo.

[redacted]

25X1



other parts of the country this year. Moreover, refugee movements have drained labor from agricultural areas and have made hundreds of thousands of people dependent upon the regime for food, clothing, and shelter. [REDACTED]

25X1

-- Even though Kenya's November/December short rains--which water about 20 percent of annual production--generally were on time and adequate, it is too early to conclude that the drought is over. To assure adequate food supplies and help rebuild national stocks, therefore, Nairobi will continue its food import program this year. [REDACTED]

25X1

Insurgencies. Internal conflict and border disputes will drain the economies of several East African countries. In Uganda, for example, a growing insurgency between the Obote regime and anti-government dissidents threatens to derail recent economic progress. Ethiopia continues to battle a longstanding and debilitating insurgency in the north, and both Ethiopia and Somalia maintain a substantial military presence along their joint border, in part to counter cross-border insurgent operations sponsored by each government. These conflicts will directly affect economic activity by causing high government spending on defense and refugees, damage to infrastructure, lost agricultural and industrial production, and disruptions to transport and distribution networks. Indirectly, the economies will suffer from reduced business confidence, capital flight, government preoccupation with military matters, and the pursuit of economic policies designed to buy political support. [REDACTED]

25X1

## Annex III

Economic Prospects for Southern Africa

Real economic growth for most of southern Africa's developing nations\* in 1985 is unlikely, in our judgment, to exceed the region's 2-percent average annual growth rate between 1978 and 1983. Economic performance probably will be limited by low world prices for the region's commodity exports, recession in South Africa, the continuing need for food imports, and insurgencies that have disrupted economic activity in Angola and Mozambique. [redacted]

25X1

Commodity Prices and Exports. Most of the developing economies of southern Africa depend on a narrow-base of commodity exports for the bulk of their foreign currency earnings. World prices of these commodities have fallen in real terms since 1980 and cut export earnings for Angola, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia. Most private economic forecasters foresee no significant recovery in the world price of oil, uranium, diamonds, copper or sugar during 1985. Among the southern African countries heavily dependent on one or two export commodities, only Botswana has escaped the impact of stagnant prices through increases in the volume of its exports, principally diamonds. [redacted]

25X1

Economic Relations with South Africa. Business initiatives by South African companies, and the attraction of job and marketing opportunities have created a network of economic ties between South Africa and most of its neighbors. As a result, the entire region has suffered from South Africa's severe economic recession, only a marginal growth in its demand for migrant labor and imported commodities, and reduced private South African investment in the region.

-- Zimbabwe--which has the broadest economic base of southern Africa's developing countries--is also the most sensitive to swings in South African consumer spending. Some 70 percent of its manufactured exports are sold in South Africa. We believe that South African economic growth will not exceed 2 or 3 percent in 1985, thus slowing Zimbabwe's economic recovery. [redacted]

25X1

Drought and Food Imports. Drought in southern Africa has made the entire region dependent on food imports. Even in years of average rainfall, only South Africa and Zimbabwe are normally net food exporters. South Africa has been the dominant grain producer, with Zimbabwe a distant second. Until 1983,

---

\*Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. [redacted]

25X1

Pretoria had large surpluses available for export, but drought has forced cancellation of grain sales to traditional customers such as Zambia. [redacted]

25X1

Preliminary data on rainfall for the critical months of December and January suggest that the 1984-85 growing season will be marred by a fourth consecutive year of drought in much of southern Africa. Significant grain imports will continue through 1985 for most of these developing countries, but by mid-1985 serious food shortages probably will be limited to those areas plagued by insurgency or extreme poverty. [redacted]

25X1

Internal Policies and Conflicts. Insurgencies in Mozambique and Angola have accelerated economic decline originally caused by inappropriate, socialist-oriented policies and an exodus of skilled Portuguese workers after independence from Portugal in 1975. The rebels have pushed farmers from productive lands and disrupted transportation.

-- For Mozambique, we estimate that the modern economy--including exports--has shrunk by nearly 50 percent since independence. Anti-government rebels have disrupted agricultural production, damaged the country's economic infrastructure, and forced Maputo to increase defense spending. We believe that unless the insurgency is brought under control, Mozambique's problems will only increase as the country continues its economic decline.

-- In Angola, the insurgency has interrupted all economic activity except for petroleum production--Angola's leading industry--which so far has been protected from insurgent attacks. The level of the insurgent attacks primarily will determine whether petroleum export earnings go to rebuild Angola's war-torn economy or to buy more military hardware and personnel support from the Soviet bloc and Cuba. [redacted]

25X1

Even in countries where internal conflicts have not reached the level of guerrilla warfare, sociopolitical realities may constrain seriously government options for enhancing economic performance.

-- To resume the rapid growth it enjoyed after independence in 1980 and improve strained relations with the IMF, Zimbabwe must resolve its foreign payments problems and reduce government expenditures. Harare's last standby agreement with the IMF collapsed when it could not meet the Fund's targets for limiting deficit spending. Imports of military equipment used to control unrest rooted in ethnic differences, however, have consumed increasing amounts of scarce foreign exchange, [redacted]

25X1

SUBJECT: SubSaharan Africa: Economic Prospects

Distribution:

Original- Ciro DeFalco, Director, Office of Developing Nations Finance, Treasury Department.

- 1 - Princeton Lyman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State
- 1 - Arthur E. Dewey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Assistance and Relief, Bureau for Refugee Programs, Department of State
- 1 - Antonio Gayoso, Director, Office of International Development, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Economic and Social Affairs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Richard W. Bogosian, Director, Office of East African Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Peter W. Lande, Director, Economic Policy Staff, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Pierre Shostal, Director, Office of Central African Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Robert Gelbard, Director, Office of Southern African Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Edward J. Perkins, Director, Office of West African Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Jeffrey S. Davidow, Director, Office of Regional Affairs, Department of State.
- 1 - Mark L. Edelman, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, Agency for International Development.
- 1 - Anthony S. Dalsimer, Office of Analysis for Africa, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.
- 1 - Lydia Giffler, Office of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State
- 1 - Janet Henninger, Office of Global Issues, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.
- 1 - Clayton Norris, Vice President, Africa and the Middle East Division, Export-Import Bank.
- 1 - Richard B. Levine, Deputy Director for International Economic Affairs, National Security Council.
- 1 - T. Kelley White, Interagency Food Aid Analysis Working Group, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - DDO/Africa

[Redacted]

25X1

- 1 - NIO for Africa
- 1 - NIC Action Group
- 1 - PDB Staff
- 1 - ILS
- 1 - C/DDI/PES
- 1 - D/ALA
- 1 - D/NESA
- 1 - D/OEA
- 1 - D/SOVA
- 1 - D/OCR
- 1 - D/OGI
- 1 - ALA/PS
- 1 - ALA Research Director
- ✓ 4 - OCPAS/IMD/CB
- 5 - ALA/AF
- 2 - AF/RI
- 4 - ALA/RI [Redacted]

25X1

ALA/AF/RI [Redacted] (14 February 1985)

25X1