

Trade of the Central African Republic with UK according to British Board of Trade returns, in £1,000 sterling:

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Imports to UK	377	318	585	444	387	575
Exports and re-exports from UK	370	287	321	281	204	95

*French High Representative:* Laurent Giovangrandi.

*British Ambassador and Consul-General:* (Vacant). *First Secretary:* (Vacant).

*Ambassador in USA:* Christophe Maidou.

*USA Ambassador:* (Vacant).

## CONGO

### République Populaire du Congo

**AREA AND POPULATION.** The area of the Congo Republic covers 342,000 sq. km; estimated population (1972), 1.25m. The capital is Brazzaville (250,000 inhabitants, 1972), and other towns include Pointe-Noire (estimated population, 1970), 150,003, Dolisie and Jacob.

**CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.** The Republic of the Congo became independent on 15 Aug. 1960, after having been one of the 4 territories of French Equatorial Africa (under the name of Middle Congo) and from 28 Nov. 1958 a member state of the French Community. In Jan. 1959 it formed an 'economic, technical and customs union' with the other 3 territories of the former government-general of French Equatorial Africa. The Republic was admitted to the UN on 20 Sept. 1960.

*President of the Republic:* Marien Ngouabi. *Vice-President and Minister of Finance:* Ange Edouard Pongui.

*Foreign Affairs:* Henri Lopes.

**FINANCE.** The ordinary budget in 1972 balanced at 21,800m. francs CFA. Investment budget (1972) 1,900m. francs CFA.

**DEFENCE.** The army consists of an infantry and a paracommando battalion of 2,000 men. In May 1971 the police force was incorporated in the army.

The air force has a strength of about 200, with 1 Antonov An-24 turbo-prop transport, 1 C-47 transport, 3 Broussard communications aircraft and 1 Alouette II light helicopter.

**FISHERIES.** A factory, which will be collectively owned by 15,000 families, for smoking fish is (1969) under construction at Mossaka on the Congo River.

**MINING.** Production of lead and zinc was 12,380 short tons in 1969; gold (1970), 82.8 kg. A petroleum deposit of 100m. tons was discovered in 1969. Production at the rate of 2m. tons a year is expected from 1972.

**TRADE.** Trade with UK (British Board of Trade returns, in £1,000 sterling):

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Imports to UK	3,124	2,961	1,609	1,782	2,638	1,698
Exports and re-exports from UK	937	1,187	1,456	2,433	2,392	1,074

**COMMUNICATIONS.** A railway (517 km) and a telegraph line connect Brazzaville with Pointe-Noire. The principal airports are at Maya Maya and Pointe-Noire. In addition there are 22 airfields. There are 3,768 km of first-class roads and 11,000 km of secondary roads. Pointe-Noire is a considerable port, handling, in 1967, 1,090 ships and 2.5m. metric tons of freight. Telephones (1972) numbered 10,042, of which 5,191 in Brazzaville.

*French High Representative:* Maurice Delauney.

*British Ambassador:* M. E. Allen, CMG, CVO (resides in Kinshasa).

Diplomatic relations with USA were broken off on 13 Aug. 1965.