

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 Nguabi.

Foreign Affairs: Charles-David Ganao.

Prime Minister: Henri Lopes.

National flag: Red, in the canton the national emblem of a crossed hoe and hammer, a green wreath and a gold star.

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 armoured regiment, an infantry and a paracommando battalion of 4,750 men. In May 1971 the police force was incorporated in the army.

The Air Force has about 150 personnel, with 4 Antonov An-24 turboprop transports, 2 C-47 transports, 2 Broussard communications aircraft and 1 Alouette II and 1 Alouette III light helicopters.

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 was expected from 1972.

TRADE. Trade with UK (British Department of Trade and Industry returns, in £1,000 sterling):

	1966	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Imports to UK	1,609	1,782	2,633	1,698	3,231	5,206
Exports and re-exports from UK	1,456	2,433	2,392	1,074	1,448	1,324

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 (1974) numbered 10,181, of which 6,119 in Brazzaville.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE CONGO IN GREAT BRITAIN

Ambassador: Auxence Ickonga (resides in Paris).

OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE CONGO

Ambassador: R. J. Stratton, CMG (resides in Kinshasa).

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