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ECONOMIC SURVEY OF AFRICA

27 April 1949

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ECONOMIC SURVEY OF AFRICA

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COLONEL KING: The very word "Africa" calls up images of big game, dense jungle, and white-robed men with their camels, or it recalls exotic experiences in Algiers, in Cairo, in Capetown, in Casablanca, or in Oran - but today, I want you to forget the romantic aspects of the so-called "Dark Continent" and concentrate on the economic features of this great land mass.

Geographically, Africa's position is central in relation to world political and economic forces. It is the least developed of the continents and yet nothing, in the present disturbed international situation, offers a more fertile field for progress than the development of her political organization and natural resources. In fact, there is more to do in Africa and more room in which to do it than anywhere else in the world.

Economic development on this continent has been relatively slow, because it is contingent to a large degree upon the creation of governmental enterprises and large scale organization. The Western European Powers having colonial territories in Africa have been largely absorbed in modern times with a series of ruinous wars interspersed with periods of reconstruction.

These European Powers as well as the United States of America are looking to Africa to provide certain strategic materials as well as some of the vital necessities of life.

This morning we will consider how Africa's size and shape, climate, natural resources, the kinds of people that live there and the political and social systems they have developed affect other parts of the world. We will also see why certain nations, including the United States, are interested in all phases of the recent development programs.

With a continent, as with a nation, certain elements of strength should be considered in an economic survey. Accordingly in this economic survey of Africa, these elements will be grouped under three general headings: geography, population, and production resources.

The location of Africa with respect to other nations, sources of supply, markets, and trade routes will be considered first.

Africa is attached to the enormous Eurasian land mass by the Isthmus of Suez and is separated from it by the Strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Geographically, the tip of the West Africa bulge is the point at which the main land mass of the Eastern Hemisphere is nearest to that of the Western Hemisphere.

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The Mediterranean Sea was the great highway of antiquity and its very name betrays its unifying role - the sea in the "middle of the land." Three of the world's great trade routes pass along the African coast; (1) the main artery of traffic from Europe to Asia via the Suez Canal; (2) the longer one by the Cape of Good Hope; and (3) the much used sea lane from Europe to the east coast of South America.

The total area of the continent is approximately 12,500,000 square miles, twice the size of all Europe and nearly four times the size of the United States. It extends 5000 miles from north to south, 4500 miles from east to west. The second largest of the continents, its northern extremity is on the latitude of Washington, D. C., and its southern extremity on that of Buenos Aires.

Its unusually straight coast line affords few good harbors. Almost all of its modern harbors have been created by extensive dredging and other costly works. This fact has naturally influenced the commercial development of Africa.

The proportion of land below 500 feet elevation is smaller in Africa than in any other continent and the larger part of the lowlands are desert and steppe, rather than the marshy lands so typical of the tropical lowlands in South America and Southeastern Asia.

The most notable feature of the African plateau is the uniformity of level land, between 1000 and 4000 feet elevation, over vast areas.

The mountain ranges running north and south, form the spine of the continent east of its center, extending from Ethiopia into the Union of South Africa. Here the high mountains and great mountain-locked lakes alter the climate and vegetation pattern that prevails elsewhere. Africa is divided into two unequal parts by the Sahara Desert and its eastern extensions into Egypt and Sudan. This wide belt of sand, steppe, and rock has been one of the world's most effective barriers to human intercourse. This desert zone is 1000 miles or more in width and extends over 3000 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, the only break being the valley of the Nile, nowhere more than a few miles across.

Africa has many great rivers, the Nile, the Congo, the Niger, and the Zambesi being the largest; however, none of these are navigable for any great distance by large ships. They are important for inland transportation, particularly in view of the limited development of roads and railways, but they do not serve as arteries to the sea, as do such streams as the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi.

To most people the word "Africa" is synonymous with heat. As a matter of fact, the climate of Africa runs the whole gamut from hot to cold, from dry to wet. It is interesting to note that Mt. Kilimanjaro

(19,317 feet elevation), only three degrees south of the Equator, has an ice and snow cap the year around. Africa is the most tropical of the continents since its latitudinal extent is traversed approximately midway by the Equator, so that the northern and southern extremities, in Tunisia and the Cape Province respectively, are between 2600 and 2400 miles from the equatorial line. Only a small proportion of the area of this continent experiences a cool, temperate climate.

With the exception of the middle or equatorial zone, the climates are duplicated so that going polewards a similar distribution is found in North and South Africa. While the Sahara is prolonged right up to the eastern shores of North Africa, its counterpart in the southern hemisphere is limited to the western half of South Africa.

The three characteristic vegetation zones--tropical rain forest, tropical grass land, and hot desert--are determined by the precipitation, which varies from a maximum of somewhat over 100 inches annually to a minimum of practically zero. High temperatures are common to all three zones, which are arranged symmetrically with respect to the Equator.

Generally speaking, the soils of this continent are relatively poor as compared to those found in the United States. Native agricultural methods cause considerable soil erosion and loss of fertility. In spite of their obvious significance as a fundamental factor in the development of the agricultural resources of Africa, the soils of the continent have so far received very little attention.

Africa's timber resources are considerable but difficult to exploit, since only in the rainy equatorial belt are there extensive forests of commercially useful hardwoods. The rank undergrowth, the soggy terrain, the inhospitable insects, reptiles, and germs, the absence of transportation facilities, and the lack of an adequate and trained labor supply all conspire to retard utilization of the lumber resources.

It is estimated that Central Africa has approximately one-half of the potential hydraulic power of the world. This potential source of power coupled with the coal deposits found in the southern part of the continent will be of utmost importance in the industrialization and development of African industry.

All the continents have certain definite deficiencies in raw materials and Africa is no exception to the rule. Her coal deposits are smaller than those of other continental areas and her petroleum resources are practically non-existent. Lead and zinc deposits are inadequate. However, with regard to other commodities Africa is at least equal or far superior to other continents in the degree of self-sufficiency. This continent leads the world in the production of diamonds, gold, phosphates, and uranium ores as well as being a large producer of copper and vital

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ferro-alloying minerals such as chromite, cobalt, manganese, and vanadium Africa has large potential reserves of bauxite.

This brings us now the topic of "population." Who lives in Africa? This continent offers a challenge and an opportunity to the anthropologist. Much has been done in recent years to examine and classify its peoples, and much more remains to be accomplished. Although there has never been a complete census, Africa's vastness supports only 142,000,000 people. Of this number scattered throughout the area are found approximately four million people of European stock and termed "white."

The population can broadly be classified according to their negroid or non-negroid characteristics. The southern border of the Sahara may be taken in a general way to mark the northern boundary of Negro Africa. The Sahara, middle and lower Nile region, and the Mediterranean fringe together form the domain of peoples who are closer to the inhabitants of the southern peninsulas of Europe than they are to the Negroes. These dominant peoples are racially akin to the Arabs and Jews and are called Hamites.

The great mass of natives of Africa are Negroes, whom we shall divide for purposes of description into two great groups; the French Sudanese, or West Africans, and the Bantu. Both these classifications break down into literally hundreds of smaller peoples and tribes, each with different cultural and physical characteristics.

The impact of Western civilization has created revolutionary changes in the social, political, and economic order of native African life. These changes have particularly affected the Negro population since the Hamitic peoples occupy a zone, which for the greater part, is poor grass-land or desert and economically unattractive. Moreover, these non-negroid groups, by their greater power of political organization and military defense, have been better able to resist the invasion of their rights and lands.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the struggle for land is the all-important factor in the relations of African natives and the immigrant peoples, particularly Europeans and Indians in East and South East Africa. Racial animosities continue to cloud the future, and only recently Durban Negroes set upon the Indians. Vicious attacks have continued occasionally during the past three months. In this fundamental conflict, the native is at a great disadvantage, in that he is unable to exert effective organized resistance to immigrants equipped with the resources of Western civilization. He does, however, have a most valuable asset which will weigh heavily in his favor; namely, the power of successful acclimatization in the African environment. It will be only a matter of time before he acquires the scientific equipment and mechanical skill vitally necessary for his own economic, social, and political development.

The methods of handing down the knowledge and ways of life grow up around a struggle with nature for the production of food, for the reproduction and perpetuation of family and tribal life, and for protection against enemies, disease, and unseen danger. Superstitions, heavy with age, belief in the power of magic and in unseen forces, do not constitute sound methods of education.

The African educational systems are too often concerned merely with formal schooling of native children, leaving the illiterate older people to go undisturbed along the path of least resistance. There is a definite need to include the whole population in educational development.

Educational work was begun and for many years carried forward almost entirely by missionary effort, in fact for the most part it is still under the management of religious bodies. The mission schools are now largely-financed by the colonial machinery for maintaining academic standards. The Governments have also provided a certain number of schools, mainly secondary and technical, and the villages themselves have taken the initiative in starting a great number of small or "bush" schools which subsequently qualify for government recognition and assistance. Mass education is necessary in order to speed economic and social development in the rural areas. The territories are so large, populations so scattered, and resources so undeveloped, that social and economic services are still rudimentary.

Africa's climate is not the kind in which great civilizations usually develop. Life in the Sahara, for example, revolves around a series of water holes or oases, with great uninhabited spaces between them. In the equatorial jungle area, larger than similar regions of any other continent, climatic conditions are even worse; the heat and humidity are almost unbearable to people accustomed to more moderate climates. The tropical jungle area is therefore considered one of the most unhealthy areas of the world and any system of rural education must aim at the improvement of health.

The health of the population of any region may usually be taken as a rough but remarkably accurate index of its general level of civilization. One of the best indices of public health and standards of sanitation and nutrition are found in the figures of infant mortality. These figures not only measure the health of infants but also the health of the parents and the ability for them to provide these surroundings, adequate food, and sanitation so conducive to the low infant death rate. As an example, the infant mortality rate in the United States during 1936 was 57 per thousand as compared to 172.8 for tropical Africa for the same period. Although much has been done to expand medical and health services, the health standards still remain low with only slight improvement during the last thirty years. More continuation of the slow rate of improvement will never serve to bring Africa abreast of the rest of the world, thus the promotion and protection of the health of the natives of the colonies must have a first priority in development plans.

Africa supports a relatively small population at a low subsistence level. As might be expected, this fact is closely linked with the physical condition of the people. Although there has been a substantial expansion of state health services since World War II, it is hoped that new discoveries in drugs and disease controls will be of great assistance in improving the over-all health of the population and make this large continent not only suitable for human settlement but also stock raising. In other words, the peoples of Africa suffer from a disease that we can call P.I.D. - POVERTY--IGNORANCE--DISEASE.

Now, let us analyze the population distribution of this land mass, where do the people live and what do they do for a living.

The economy of Africa is based largely on agriculture; thus the heaviest populated areas are those that are the most fertile, such as the coastal regions and the Nile valley. In this fertile valley area the population averages more than 500 per square mile, as compared to 5 per square mile in the nearby Sahara region. Only three of our States have an average population of more than 500 per square mile (Massachusetts Rhode Island, New Jersey). The majority of the Hamites, or native population, of the Barbary States probably came originally from the Arabian Peninsula and are nomads.

During the past two centuries, many immigrants and colonizers came to Africa. European people included French, Spanish, and Italian settlers in North Africa; Dutch and English in South Africa; smaller settlements of many European races scattered along the coasts and at interior points. In addition, South and East Africa have large numbers of Indians. The native inhabitants of the African continent still far outnumber the recent immigrants of all races.

The largest group of negroid people, the Bantu, consisting of approximately 40 million people, occupy the middle third of Africa as well as part of South Africa. They are agriculturists and rarely organize large communities. By European standards they are a backward people, although by no means can they be called a primitive people. They have shown that they can learn the technical skills of western civilization and they will play a greater part in world affairs in the future.

The West African Negroes, numbering several million, have prospects similar to those of the Bantus.

The only primitive peoples of Africa are the Bushmen and Hottentots of Southeast Africa and the Negrillos or Pignies of the equatorial rain forest. Pressure from stronger and more virile peoples have steadily diminished their numbers and restricted their former widely scattered communities.

The largest European settlements in this land are in the Union of South Africa and in French North Africa. Although this continent has several large cities, such as Cairo, Alexandria, Casablanca, and Algiers in the North, and Capetown, Johannesburg, and Durban in the South, most of Africa's people live in small communities or rural areas.

Africa proved to be a source of military manpower during World War II. British colonial ground forces totaled over 500,000 men. French colonial troops played an important role and these forces still remain a valuable part of the French Armed Forces.

The economic life of the native population today is far from an unchanging survival of the subsistence economy which existed prior to the arrival of the Europeans. They do lack the agricultural skills so effectively employed on other continents. The practice of agriculture is greatly influenced by the communal ownership of most of the arable land. The tribe or community holds title to all land, generally in the name of the chief; he allots to each family the land which they will cultivate.

Industrial development (mining and manufacturing) of Africa is less advanced than that of any other continent. Africa does have a wealth of mineral resources, many of them being on our critical materials list, yet only a small proportion of the population of this area are employed as wage earners in the mining and manufacturing fields. One result of the accelerated development in the industrial field is an increasing migration of rural people to the mining and manufacturing centers. This rapid development of the resources of Africa raises problems that are incidental to the drawing of isolated rural peoples into the currents of world production and trade. Fortunately, governments are increasingly alive to the situation, and public opinion is sensitive to the necessity of developing broad and effective policies of increasing the health and safeguarding the workers.

We now come to that group of elements in the economic survey under the general heading of "production resources." This group includes agriculture, mining and manufacturing, and services. Although it appears that there is some repetition, we will now deal with the actual production and consumption of those items contained in the group. The elements of production resources are a most significant group in that they have the advantage of being susceptible to measurement. Studies are being made at this very moment by the Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Commerce, and other Government agencies as well as the National Military Establishment to determine the production resources of this continent.

The first element that we will consider is "agriculture." The main consideration in this connection is the degree of self-sufficiency, since a nation that cannot feed itself is at a great disadvantage.

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In addition to basic native agriculture, European agriculture in Africa has developed to a state where Africa is self-sufficient in the production of food and is considered to be a net exporter of grain and other crops. The leading export crops are palm kernels (83% of world production), cacao (69%), palm oil (47%), peanuts (14%), wool (8%), and cotton (7%).

In North Africa, cereals, fruits, and olives have been produced for many centuries. In ancient times, this area was known as the granary of Rome, and to this day it is an exporter of grain. Wheat and barley are the principal crops, one-fourth of the arable land being planted to the latter.

South Africa is a producer of wheat, though to a lesser degree than either North Africa or Egypt. Corn is another crop important to the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia, where it is the staff of life for millions of natives. This cereal was exported from these areas to Bizonia in the Fall of 1948.

The United States imports cocoa, cotton, jute, sisal, tea, rubber, tobacco, pepper, cork and other commodities from Africa. Production figures for the different territories are reported yearly.

Production of cattle is limited in Africa. The existence of the tsetse fly in central and east Africa causes great difficulty in maintaining these herds. Goats, sheep, and poultry are maintained by the pastoral nomadic tribes found in the savannah region on the southern border of the Sahara.

Mining and manufacturing are the second important element when considering production resources. A country's position with reference to mineral resources is not only determined by its ability to produce basic minerals, but also by its consumption of those minerals. The ratio of a country's mineral production to its mineral consumption is taken as the index of its degree of self-sufficiency. Consumption of the minerals of a country gives a clear indication of its needs and position in world affairs.

Africa produces large quantities of many raw materials without consuming them and thus can be considered to be in an undeveloped industrial position.

Development in mining and manufacturing is progressing rapidly and it is doubtful if any other part of the world is changing as fast as certain parts of Africa. More and adequate transportation, machinery of all kinds, improved control of tropical diseases, and better health conditions are making possible modern centers for the collection and processing of raw materials and minerals. Improvement in the distribution of imports of manufactured goods and services from Europe and America will aid materially in this development.

Several strategic metallic and nonmetallic minerals are being produced in large quantities in Africa. The most important of these are manganese, chromite, pitchblende, diamonds, graphite, copper, columbite, antimony, and tantalite. The importance of these commodities may be illustrated by the following example: The United States consumes over one-fourth of the world's manganese production, yet produces only 0.5% of it.

Petroleum is found at only a few places in Africa, the chief source being Egypt. Coal is found in quantities in the Transvaal and Natal areas. It is estimated that coal reserves varying from 58 to 200 billion tons are located in this general area. These coal deposits may prove to be one of the country's most vital assets.

Potential water power may be regarded as one of Africa's greatest resources. At the present time, only one hundredth of this vast reservoir is being utilized. Considering the natural fuel deficiencies, the future industrial development of the continent may be determined by water power as an energy source. It is estimated that this source of power is approximately 190 million horse power, giving the continent the second largest water-power potential in the world.

In the treatment of the element of production resources called "Services," the discussion will be limited to the field of transportation and communications.

Africa has fewer miles of railroad than any other continent. In only two places do rails span the continent and both of these in its narrow southern part. Just prior to World War II, the standard gauge line across French North Africa from Casablanca to Tunis was completed. The ambitious Cape to Cairo scheme of Cecil Rhodes has never materialized and perhaps never will. A Trans-Saharan railway has been proposed periodically by the French as a link between North and West Africa, but for strategic rather than economic purposes.

Rolling stock as well as railroads are required in the development of Africa's industrial economy and are included in the development plans of all colonies.

Since almost every railway line in Africa is intended to serve merely as a feeder for a particular port, lines connecting different colonies are all but unheard of. This fact is evidence of the economic immaturity of this continent.

The highway pattern is similar. However, all weather highways are usually less costly and easier to construct than railroads. The future of Africa's commerce and travel may well lie more in her roads than in her rivers and railways. Both air and bus lines are operating regularly in most parts of Africa. The air lines will also assist materially in the development program.

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The important object will be to insure, insofar as the national rivalries of the colonial powers will permit, that the railway and highway network is laid with a view to the interests, not of each individual colony as at present, but of Africa as a whole. Otherwise there can be no rational development of the economic, social, and cultural life of the peoples of Africa.

E.C.A., in an attempt to secure strategic materials in Africa, has granted the British and French Governments sizable sums from counterpart funds for the development of those sources of materials, including the purchase of equipment and machinery to increase industrial development.

It is well to note that the total investment in Africa for the past seventy-five years has been only ten billion dollars as compared to business investments of fifteen billion dollars in one year in the United States.

Now we will analyze the political controls of this vast land.

Africa, unlike the two American continents, which consist of many politically independent states and territories, is made up of politically dependent territories similar to large parts of Asia. In fact, we cannot compare Africa to North America, or even Europe when discussing its political and economic organization, since Africa actually is a group of sub-continents, separated by the Sahara Desert, rather than a political or economic unit. One might say that there are "57 varieties" of political and economic divisions on this second largest continent on the earth.

Aside from Liberia, Ethiopia, and Egypt, all other African territories form part of European centered colonial empires. Even these independent states do not enjoy all those privileges which we commonly associate with autonomous countries. The most independent position among African territories is held by a fourth state, the Union of South Africa. Although technically a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, as a territory with Dominion status it has enjoyed complete sovereignty. The fact that the Union of South Africa, like the Dominion of Canada or Australia, determines its own domestic and external affairs and that the execution of these affairs is not subordinated to Great Britain is amply manifested by South Africa's independent declaration of war against the Axis Powers at the beginning of World War II.

The whole African continent, with the exception of the four political entities mentioned above, is directly controlled by five European powers: Great Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal, and Spain. The Italian colonies are in the hands of the United Nations, awaiting the decision as to their disposition.

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Within the African continent, four different types of dependent areas may be distinguished; namely, the colonies proper, the colonial protectorates, protectorates proper, and mandates.

British Africa, including the Union of South Africa, covers over one-fourth of the African continent, with a population of approximately 62,000,000 people.

It is impossible to draw a clear, logical distinction between a colony and protectorate in the British Empire system, for the status of the different parts of the Empire has been largely determined by historical accident and not regulated by any definite legal theory. The status and problems of the peoples of these different areas vary so greatly that it would be impossible to discuss them at this time.

Prior to 1929 British Colonial policy in Africa was that the colonies and protectorates should pay their own way, hence exploitation was necessary. In 1934 the colonies exported over seventy per cent of their commodities to the United Kingdom while receiving only 46.5% of their imports from the same source.

The British Empire system favored indirect rule through native tribal organizations in most areas, with the exception of Kenya and Uganda. The goal of British Administration is self-government for her colonies and protectorates.

A new self-governing state as large as the Union of South Africa has been planned. This proposed dominion would include the federation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The French territories comprise a larger area; however, they contain a much smaller population of approximately 38,000,000. The French quite logically made the coastal provinces of Algeria an integral part of metropolitan France, as if the intervening sea were but a very large river. The French have had no single consistent policy applying to all areas or for any great length of time to any area.

The French colonial system has been one of assimilation and not independence. Their approach to this problem has been mainly on a cultural basis. French Morocco and Tunisia are international protectorates. The colonial possessions of the French have not been dollar earners, however, most of the exports of the possessions are shipped to France.

The only possession of Belgium, the Belgian Congo, is a large tropical area consisting of 918,000 square miles carved out of the heart of the continent. Here where Africa is more nearly the tropical Africa we have always heard about, live 11,000,000 Bantu natives governed by 23,000 whites, the majority of the latter being Belgians.

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In the Congo the development of a permanent population in the industrial areas is a deliberate aim of policy. Belgium favors indirect rule for this colonial possession and has always operated the Congo as a business-like proposition. The Congo has been a dollar earner for Belgium and she is depending on this possession for assistance in securing a balance of trade.

Portugal was the first European power to acquire large possessions in Africa. It still controls one-eighteenth of the area of the continent and approximately the same percentage of population, having more than 7,000,000 people. Portugal has been the most backward of all the colonial powers. Following the example set by France, the policy of assimilation is enforced, not that of independence for the colonies.

Spanish colonies will not be treated at this time since they are the least extensive and important of all European-held territories.

The area over which the spirit of Pan-Africanism broods is that part of Africa south of the Sahara, which is truly Africa. Africa north of the desert is not the true Africa, since the Mediterranean is much less of a bar to intercourse between Europe and North Africa than is the desert a bar between North Africa and the tropical regions to the south. Almost all of the land masses and the overwhelming majority of the people of the earth are in the Northern Hemisphere. Consequently, Africa, south of the Sahara and even the Union of South Africa, despite the vast wealth of her resources and increasingly important strategic sea route between the East and West, is well away from the human stream flowing broadly around the top of the world.

Black Africa is not yet ready for self-government in the modern world. It is however, ready for preparation for self-government, and this means a constantly growing participation by Africans in their own administrative. Along with this education process must go a conservation of human resource of Africa through effective programs of social welfare, public health, and economic development.

But whatever may be the form or forms under which Africa is governed, the colonial powers must ever keep in mind that they hold their colonies in trust, not in servitude, and that their task is to prepare the peoples of Africa for eventual self-rule.

Prior to 1929, development of the British colonies, protectorates, or mandates was limited to their own resources with occasional assistance in the form of guaranteed loans. The Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1929 was the first legislative provision for financial assistance permitting them to pursue active programs for development. This act provided for a maximum expenditure of £1,000,000 from the British Treasury to assist in Colonial development. In that the United Kingdom had recognized the desirability of developing the potential resources of her

African colonies, the development program received greater impetus by the passage of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts of 1940 and 1945.

The Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940 provided a £ 55,000,000 fund for development over a ten-year period.

This sum was soon recognized as insufficient for the colonial requirements and so in 1945 a new Act was passed providing that the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund be increased to £ 120,000,000. In addition to sharing the centrally administered schemes, the Regional allotment of this fund for colonial territories in Africa amounted to £ 54,650,000, or 64 percent of the total territorial allocation. The period of assistance was also extended over a longer period, ending March 31, 1956. Only colonies that did not possess responsible governments were eligible for financial assistance. The Act of 1945 was looked upon with great favor by the colonies and they prepared their own broad ten-year development programs. Political strength has been developing through rising Nationalism.

Increasing exchange difficulties of the United Kingdom made it necessary to modify the economic planning policies. Faced with a dollar shortage, it was necessary to increase colonial production of raw materials for export, particularly those commodities that were dollar earners.

In that, private investment was not sufficient to develop the Colonial territories. The Overseas Resources Development Act was passed on 11 February 1948, providing for the establishment of two public corporations: The Colonial Development Corporation, with resources of £ 110,000,000, and the Overseas Food Corporation with £ 55,000,000, making a total of £ 165,000,000. These individual projects are in addition to those included in the ten-year plans. Primary and secondary industries will be fostered in the areas along with the development of natural resources, transportation and communications, and the health and social progress of the native population.

One of the projects under the supervision and development of the Overseas Food Corporation is the East African Groundnuts Scheme, currently referred to in the Economist and other British periodicals.

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer and National Economic Coordinator stressed the need for African economic development and said: "The whole future of the sterling group and its ability to survive depends in my view upon a quick and extensive development of our African resources."

The French Development plans have not advanced as rapidly as those of the British. The Monnet Modernization and Equipment Plan is basically a ten-year development plan, which includes the French Overseas Territories. This plan is based on the full utilization of local resources. Each territory is to be guided toward its optimum development in terms of its

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economic and human possibilities. The prime essential of the plan is based on giving the territories the necessary modern equipment. The great advantage of this program for the local populations is that they will not have to accumulate gradually, by their own patient production efforts, the investment and equipment required for development operations. The realization of the plan will require two five-year periods and the plan is based upon private investment taking at least one-third of the financial load. The French Colonial areas have not been dollar earners for metropolitan France, thus it is vital that the development plans be effective as soon as possible.

Unlike the development plans of the British and French, the Ten-Year Development Plan for the Belgian Congo was established in 1948 by the Congo Government itself, with the sanction of Belgium. This plan includes those features aimed at a balanced development in all phases of colonial life over the specified period. The plans of action for the Belgian Congo for production anticipate a considerable development in the whole economic system. Much of this effort is aimed at raising the standard of living of the natives; however, the development in production depends on the expansion of means of transport, harbor installations, and power production.

The Belgians have never thought in terms of native self-government as the ultimate aim for the population of the Belgian Congo, nor have they thought in terms of assimilation either. Since the Congo has always operated as a business proposition, the economic policy applied to it provides for non-discrimination and the open door. This area is a dollar earner and much progress has been made in all phases of development.

Since the days of their discovery, Portuguese territories in Africa have been exploited in the sole interest of Portugal. In general, modern Portuguese policy is directed towards full assimilation of the colonies, like that of France.

Economic penetration of Africa by Portuguese enterprise has been slight. Portugal has also been the most backward of the colonial powers having interests in Africa in the preparation of development plans. Although development plans for these territories are on paper, Albert Q. Maisel in his book "Africa: Facts and Forecasts," published in 1943 stated, "Any improvement in native conditions in these (Portuguese) regions must arise either from a change in sovereignty or a change in the government of Portugal itself."

It is questionable whether the new developments in Africa can rapidly make good the loss of old European positions in the Far East, however, these development programs will undoubtedly be more successful

if they are underwritten by the States of Western Europe in cooperation with each other. Since a large part of the African Continent is under the sovereignty of Western Europe, united development of African resources for European use will in turn raise the standards of one of the world's hitherto depressed areas.

The Economic Cooperation Administration sent working groups into the British, French, Belgian, and other areas to determine the problems bearing directly in the field of economic and social development of this area. The E.R.P. financial assistance will be of great value in stimulating the development programs.

The British Colonies and French Possessions in Africa proved extremely valuable to the United Kingdom and the United States as strategic bases during World War II. Because of the present uncertainty of retaining control of the Mediterranean or even of Western Europe, should a sudden attack come before Western Union capabilities are improved, these colonial African possessions would again become critical bases from which to initiate counter action.

In conclusion, the political and economic changes that are taking place in Africa, give it an importance to the modern world that rivals and eventually will surpass its high place in the history of ancient empires.

Western Europe especially is looking to its African possessions to provide more food and new sources of raw materials for their industries, as well as an outlet for its excess population.

Since Africa's position, geographically, is central in relation to political and economic forces, this land mass plays a very important part in world strategy.

The United States is working feverishly to obtain certain strategic materials required by industry to maintain our economic position. Africa can provide us with increasing amounts of these materials in the future.

So, Africa is destined not only to have its place in the sun, in the literal sense, but to play an ever increasing role in the world's economic and political affairs.

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