

# **AFRICA CONTEMPORARY RECORD**

**Annual Survey  
and Documents  
1971—1972**



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## CONGO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (BRAZZAVILLE)

that it was not being entirely successful: he accused them of bureaucracy and 'apolitism', and reminded them that they were supposed to be activating the masses rather than being solely concerned with their own comfort.

An exceptional development during 1971 was the establishment of a national university in Brazzaville, in co-operation with France, to take the place of the Foundation for Higher Education in Central Africa.

### THE GOVERNMENT (December 1971)

#### Political Bureau:

<i>President</i>	Major Marien Ngouabi
<i>In Charge of the Planning Commission</i>	Ambroise Noumazalaye
<i>In Charge of the Organization and Propaganda Commission</i>	Pierre Nze
<i>In charge of the Permanent Commission to the Army</i>	Ange Diawara
<i>In charge of Finance and Equipment</i>	Ange-Edouard Pongui

#### Council of State:

<i>President of the Republic in charge of Defence</i>	Major Marien Ngouabi
<i>Vice-President, Guardian of the Seals in charge of Justice</i>	Alois Moudileno-Massengo

#### Ministers:

<i>Finance and the Budget</i>	Ange-Edouard Pongui
<i>Industry, Mines and Tourism</i>	Justin Lckoundzou
<i>Public Works, Transport and Civil Aviation</i>	Louis-Sylvain Goma
<i>Professional, Technical and Further Education</i>	Tshister Tchikaya
<i>Health and Social Affairs</i>	Dieudonne Itoua
<i>Trade</i>	Dieudonne-Manou Mahungu
<i>Primary and Secondary Education</i>	Christophe Moukoucke
<i>Posts, Telegraphs and Telecommunications, Town Planning and Housing</i>	Victor Tamba-Tamba
<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	Henri Lopes
<i>Labour</i>	Alexandre Denguet
<i>Agriculture, Waters and Forests</i>	Alphonse Gangoue

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Relations with other African countries were good in 1971 except with Zaire. Ngouabi paid official visits to Mauritania and Guinea, and received an official visit from President Macias of Equatorial Guinea. The Congo adopted an attitude so hostile to the proposals on dialogue with South Africa<sup>8</sup> as to damage relations with some of the countries supporting it; but this did not seem to have affected relations with its UDEAC partners—Gabon and the CAR, who support dialogue, and Cameroon and Zaire who oppose it.

Relations with Zaire deteriorated again. The year had begun well with a meeting in Brazzaville between Ngouabi and Mobutu at which reconciliation had been reaffirmed. But Radio Kinshasa announced on 21 August that the *Chargé d'Affaires* of the CPR, Lieut. Eyabo, had been declared *persona non grata* and asked to close his mission on account of 'glaringly subversive interference'. The remaining embassy staff were asked to leave the country shortly after. Brazzaville claimed these moves were unjustified.

At a subsequent security trial in Kinshasa the Brazzaville embassy staff were alleged to have been involved in a 'relay of Communist sub-

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version' acting under cover of the Congolese League for Peace and Friendship between Peoples (LICOPA). Evidence by the accused alleged that Lieut. Eyabo was advising on the formation of a similar National Liberation Front in Kinshasa which was to receive assistance from Brazzaville which would also provide facilities for guerrilla training. Brazzaville Radio denied these charges, and said that the court appeared to be accepting allegations as established facts. As a further proof of good faith, the Brazzaville authorities arrested Ando Ibara, who was accused *in absentia* in Kinshasa and is resident in Brazzaville. Ibara was accused of threatening the security of the People's Republic and of spreading false rumours. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and ten years' banishment. Ngouabi then promised an independent investigation into allegations that Brazzaville was training guerrillas and called for a meeting of Central African Heads of State to settle the dispute. He refused, however, to accept the charge that there had been 'collusion' between Ibara and Eyabo.

A conference of Central African Heads of State was called but cancelled when it emerged that neither Ngouabi nor Mobutu meant to attend. The two countries' radio stations launched a series of conflicting accusations. No improvement had taken place by the end of the year.

On 30 October Radio Brazzaville reported that the country's Supreme Court had rejected the unilateral change in the name of the River Congo by Kinshasa to Zaire.

Relations with non-African countries showed an increasing trend towards co-operation with communist countries. China and the USSR both have important relations with the CPR, while those with North Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba have been consolidated.

In May the Congo received a delegation of Black Panthers led by Eldridge Cleaver.

The Congo showed increasing hostility towards Portugal, but relations did not really seem to have deteriorated to the point implied by rumours of invasion.

The Congo still has a large community of French expatriates and takes good care not to take any measures that could seriously harm French interests.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (665 CFA Francs = £1 sterling)

### AGRICULTURE

Although 60 per cent. of the population is engaged in agriculture, production in this sector is inadequate and has a lower growth rate than any other branch of the economy. Some progress has, however, been achieved in the last two years although production is still at a less than satisfactory level. Thus in 1970 production of palm oil increased to between 280 and 300 tons per month compared with 200 tons in 1969. A programme for extending the palm groves of Kounda and Etumbi is being implemented with financial aid from the European Development Fund (EDF). Cocoa production rose from 1,200 tons in 1969 to 1,400 tons in 1970 and quality has also improved. The Aid and Co-operation Fund (FAC) is financing a programme for increasing plantations by 15,000 ha. Coffee production, however, has remained level at 2,000 tons per year, and only half of this amount is of good enough quality to be marketed.

Groundnut production has also remained level at 3,500 to 4,000 tons