

November 10, 1965 Cable 157 from the US Embassy in Gabon to the Department of State

Citation:

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Summary:

During a visit to the Nounona uranium mines, Ambassador Bane learned that all processed ore went to France for metal extraction by the Atomic Energy Agency.

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INCO-URANIUM 17001957 ABON Authority UND 959000 GRAM Department of State

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45 Action CONTROL: 08283 AF RECD: NOV 10, 1965, 10:55 AM Info LIBREVILLE FROM: SS 3 SECSTATE WASHDC/157 mce-uRANIUMIT LEV ACTION: G SP SAH L NOVEMBER 10 EUR NSC EMBTEL 364, 8 JUNE 1965. INR CIA DURING MY VISIT NOUNANA NOVEMBER 2-3 AS GUEST DIRECTOR COMPAGNIE DES MINES D'URANIUM DE FRANCEVILLE (CMUF), XAVIER NSA DES LIGNERIS, HE INDICATED ENTIRE PRODUCTION PROCESSED ORE OR DOD URANATE GOES TO FRANCE FOR EXTRACTION METAL BY ATOMIC ENERGY SCI AGENCY. AEC INT GIVEN EXCLUSIVE NATURE FRENCH CONTROL URANIUM OPERATION, IF FRANCE WISHED DIVERT URANATE TO ISRAEL SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT POINTE NOIRE, I PRESUME IT COULD EASILY DO SO WITHOUT APPARENT NEED DISCLOSE GABONESE GOVT. HAVE NO REASON BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DES LIGNERIS MISLEADING ME.

IT WAS INTERESTING TO ME AS WELL THAT SUGGESTION AND INITIATIVE FOR MY VISIT CAME FROM FRENCH SIDE. IN FACT THEY INSISTED I VISIT MOUNANA. DIRECTOR AND STAFF MOST CORDIAL AND MADE EVERY EFFORT SHOW ME IN DETAIL NEW UNDERGROUND GALLERIES AND PROCESSING OPERATIONS.

GP-1. BANE

DPK/HW4