

*Central African Republic (June 16-18).*—In Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, I had an opportunity to discuss the excellent state of U.S.-CAR relations with President Bokassa, Acting Foreign Minister Lavodrama and other government officials. In two radio interviews, I was able—as in other African centers—to express USG friendship to the Central African people. I observed several A.I.D. project activities, met with U.S. missionaries and visited a diamond cutting factory, jointly owned by the CAR Government and an American diamond firm.

*Cameroon (June 18-21).*—My visit to the Federal Republic of Cameroon was extremely fruitful, both in revealing the basic warmth of relations between our two countries and in giving us a chance to exchange views on many subjects of common interest. Foreign Minister Nko'o accompanied me throughout my visit to Cameroon's three principal cities—Yaounde, Buea and Douala, and attended a luncheon of American businessmen in the latter city. Vice President Foncha, the Foreign Minister, and Prime Ministers Muna of West Cameroon and Tchoungui of East Cameroon were among my many hosts. I also had an opportunity to observe U.S. A.I.D. projects and the excellent work of Peace Corps volunteers and American missionaries in Cameroon.

*Gabon (June 21-23).*—In Gabon in addition to holding discussions with President Bongo and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development Planning, I saw firsthand some of the great economic progress being made. I visited Port Gentil, location of one of the world's largest plywood factories, inspected the Shell Oil fields at Gamba and spent a night at the site of the Franco-American manganese mine (COMILOG), 49% of whose stock is owned by the U.S. Steel Corporation. While in Libreville I also visited the church which was built by the first missionaries to Gabon, who arrived in 1842. The original church is still in regular use as are the original pews, which were sent to Gabon from Massachusetts. In addition to U.S. Steel, American oil companies are conducting explorations in Gabon, and the Bethlehem Steel Company owns 50% of the company (SOMIFER) which has been given the concession to exploit Gabon's immense iron ore reserves at Mekambo.

*Congo (K) (June 23-27 and June 30-July 3).*—When I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I found the country to be making encouraging progress in its efforts to rebuild its economy, to strengthen its internal security, and to move forward into a developmental phase. I was able to supplement my very useful conversations with President Mobutu and his principal ministers with visits to Lubumbashi, Kolwezi, Kisangani, Bukavu and Goma. The economic reform, which the Congolese Government undertook last year under the guidance of the International Monetary Fund, is putting goods onto the market and reviving agriculture, although efforts are hampered by the lack of a viable transportation infrastructure. Nevertheless, the outlook for a continued increase in Congolese exports is excellent. While the Congo still has many problems to overcome, I was most encouraged by the improvement in the business climate and the determination and dedication which the Congolese leaders have shown in meeting the problems squarely even when considerable sacrifice was involved. I was also shown during my visit to eastern Congo that, in spite of the succession of disturbances which have ravaged this region over the last few years, the Congolese people are energetically and effectively working to restore the economy of the area. I helped the Congolese celebrate their independence day in Bukavu, the scene of the defeat of the mercenaries which was aided by the American loan of three C-130's to transport Congolese troops to the area. I then travelled by road from there to Goma and on through the eastern Congo to Uganda, illustrating that security has been restored to this much ravaged area. I was greatly encouraged by the progress I saw and, if present trends continue, there is every reason to believe that the Congo can realize its great promise as one of the most advanced countries in tropical Africa.

*Rwanda (June 27-29).*—My visit to Rwanda, a country with which the United States has always enjoyed most amicable relations, was enlightening and valuable. I engaged in substantive discussions on various issues affecting Rwandan-American relations with a number of Rwandan leaders. I was impressed by the efforts made by these leaders in the economic and social fields. It is these efforts which have permitted the nation to make steady progress since independence in spite of substantial obstacles caused by her geographic position, size, and density of population.

*Burundi (June 29-30).*—My visit to Bujumbura came at a time when the relations between the United States and Burundi have taken a decided turn for the better. They are expected to become even more cordial with the arrival soon of a new American Ambassador in Bujumbura. In my talks with Burundi leaders,