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Sub-Fonds: Records of President Robert S. McNamara

Fonds: Records of the Office of the President

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Washington, D.C.

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*McNamara 1970*

*Contacts  
Equatorial Guinea (1971)*

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Contacts with member countries Equatorial Guinea - Correspondence 01

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- 1/22/69 Antonastio Ndonga, Foreign Minister  
Angel Massie, Interior Minister
1. 1/8/71 Mr. M'Ba, Charge d'Affaires, Equatorial Guinea Mission to the UN  
One other person



## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Memorandum for the Record  
DATE: January 8, 1971

FROM: Roger Chaufournier *RC*

SUBJECT: Equatorial Guinea: Visit of Mr. M'Ba with Mr. McNamara

Mr. M'Ba, Chargé d'Affaires of the Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, visited Mr. McNamara on January 8, 1971 at 4:10 p.m., to deliver two sealed envelopes in the name of the President of the Republic. The envelopes, which were subsequently opened, contained letters from the President to Mr. McNamara thanking him for the work of our recent mission, and gave his agreement to the proposed highway mission. Mr. Chaufournier attended the meeting and acted as translator.

*RC 1/29*

RChaufournier:sm

January 8, 1971

Mr. McNamara:

Mr. M'Ba, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, will come to the Bank this afternoon at 4:10 to deliver to you personally a message from President Macias.

Equatorial Guinea has been a member of the Bank since July 1, 1970, and in December 1970 it applied for IDA membership. The Government is eager to receive technical and financial assistance from the Bank.

After an exploratory mission by Messrs. Thalwitz and Marco in November 1970, President Macias wrote to you on December 3, 1970 stating his Government's sector preferences (copy of English translation of letter attached). As soon as we had arranged for a highway project identification mission to visit Equatorial Guinea in January 1971, Mr. Knapp acknowledged, in your absence, President Macias' letter to you and announced the mission (copy of Mr. Knapp's cable attached). A reply to President Macias is being prepared for your signature.

Bank operations in Equatorial Guinea will be difficult for several reasons: (1) the absence of an experienced administration; (2) internal political instability; and (3) strained relations with the former Colonial Power, Spain. During the recent exploratory mission, Mr. Thalwitz was told that the Government would not welcome visits by Bank staff-members of Spanish nationality to Equatorial Guinea. The proposed highway mission consists of Mr. Schaefer, a U.S. national, and Mr. Soto, a Colombian national.

President has seen

Roger Chauffournier

IBRD LANGUAGE SERVICES DIVISION	
CONTROL No. E-695/71	DATE: December 16, 1970
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: Spanish (Equatorial Guinea)	
DEPT. Western Africa	TRANSLATOR: GHS/cdf

Department

The President of the Republic of  
Equatorial Guinea

Santa Isabel, December 3, 1970

Mr. Robert S. McNamara  
President of the International  
Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. McNamara:

I am writing to you with reference to the welcome visit paid to my country, during the past week, by the Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

I feel sure that, in carrying out his exploratory mission, Mr. Wilfried P. Thalwitz was able not only to observe Equatorial Guinea's most pressing needs as regards economic development and technical assistance, but also to take due note of the favorable basic conditions of our economy, which I consider make us eligible to receive the indispensable assistance of the World Bank Group.

Even though my country does not, at present, possess all the data required for the planning of a development and investment program, I have been informed that the most urgent priorities were emphasized during the talks which Mr. Thalwitz had with the representatives of my Government, and I also trust that the brief visits paid by Mr. Thalwitz to the cities of Bata and Santa Isabel enabled him to note the opportunities for immediate assistance, particularly as regards highway maintenance, the opening of certain essential routes, and technical and financial assistance for our National Deposit and Development Bank that is now being set up.

Equatorial Guinea's needs in terms of development are many and pressing Mr. McNamara. My Government is fully determined to continue, as we have been doing, with the implementation of sound financial and monetary policies that merit the confidence of the national and international community. We intend to advance slowly but surely, enlisting the efforts of all Guineans. Nevertheless, our exertions fail to achieve the success we seek if we do not receive timely financial and technical aid from the International Organizations of which we are associate members.



It is for this reason that I would request you, by this letter, to have a Mission of technical experts visit us as soon as possible, in order to make specific arrangements for the financing of projects of greater priority.

At the same time, I have the honor to inform you that I have today sent a memorandum to the Secretary of the International Development Association, containing an application for membership from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. I hope that the necessary arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

I trust that the present letter will receive your earliest attention, and I should be grateful if you would kindly acknowledge receiving it, I remain,

Yours very truly,

/s/ Francisco Macias Nguema

SU EXCELENCIA  
DON FRANCISCO MACIAS NGUEMA  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE GUINEA  
EQUATORIAL

December 31, 1970

DATE

TRANSLATION - NOT TO BE TRANSMITTED

IN THE ABSENCE OF MR MC NAMARA

/I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 3 TO

MR MCHAMARA AND TO THANK YOU FOR THE WELCOME YOUR GOVERNMENT GAVE TO  
THE MISSION LED BY MR TRALWITZ STOP I WAS PLEASSED TO LEARN THAT EQUATORIAL  
GUINEA HAS DECIDED TO JOIN IDA SEMICOLON THE APPLICATION IS AT PRESENT  
BEING PROCESSED STOP I AM ALSO GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT THE BANK IS PREPARED  
TO SEND A FIRST TECHNICAL MISSION COMMA TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE HIGHWAY  
SECTOR IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA STOP THE MISSION WOULD CONSIST OF MR SCHAEFER  
AND MR SOTO AND IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN SANTA ISABEL JANUARY 18 STOP  
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CARELED REPLY WHETHER TIMING OF THIS MISSION IS  
CONVENIENT STOP I TRUST THAT THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A FRUITFUL  
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BANK GROUP AND YOUR COUNTRY CONCERNING WHICH  
MR MCHAMARA WILL WRITE YOU AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE BANK STOP RESPECTFULLY  
YOURS

SU EXCELENCIA  
DON FRANCISCO MACIAS NGUEMA  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE GUINEA  
EQUATORIAL

December 31, 1970

LT

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

EN AUSENCIA DEL PRESIDENTE MCNAMARA  
/ TENDRO EL HONOR DE ACUSAR RECIBO DE LA CARTA DEL TRES DE DICIEMBRE A  
MR MCNAMARA Y DE AGRADECER A SU EXCELENCIA LA ACOGIDA QUE EL GOBIERNO  
DISPENSO A LA MISION ESCABEZADA POR MR THALWITZ PUNTO ME SATISFACE  
SABER QUE GUINEA EQUATORIAL HA DECIDIDO SER MIEMBRO DE IDA PUNTO Y  
COMO LA SOLICITUD ESTA AHORA SIENDO TRAMITADA POR IDA PUNTO ES TAMBIEN  
UN PLACER PODERLE ANUNCIAR QUE EL BANCO PREPARA UNA PRIMERA MISION  
TECNICA PARA IDENTIFICAR LAS NECESIDADES EN EL SECTOR CARRETERAS EN  
GUINEA EQUATORIAL PUNTO LA MISION ESTARIA FORMADA POR LOS SEÑORES  
DONAZEREL Y UOTO Y PIENSAN LLEGAR A SANTA ISABEL EL 16 DE ENERO PUNTO  
AGRADESCERIA RESPUESTA CABLEGRAFICA CONFIRMANDO LA FECHA PROTECTADA  
PUNTO COMPIO EN QUE ESTO SERA EL COMIENZO DE UNA COOPERACION FRUCTIFERA  
ENTRE EL GRUPO DEL BANCO MUNDIAL Y GUINEA EQUATORIAL PUNTO Y COMO A ESTE  
RESPECTO MR MCNAMARA ESCRIBIRA PROXIMAMENTE A SU EXCELENCIA PUNTO  
MI CONSIDERACION MAS DISTINGUIDA

J. BURKE KNAPP  
VICE PRESIDENTE  
BANCO INTERNACIONAL DE  
RECONSTRUCCION Y BOMENTO

J. Burke Knapp  
Office of the President

Cl and cc: Messrs. North  
Check

WThalwitz /L. Marco/mn