

November 10, 1965

Cable 157 from the US Embassy in Gabon to the Department of State

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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 17015A Scan GABON

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SECRET NOVEMBER 10

EMBTel 364, 8 JUNE 1965.

1. DURING MY VISIT NOUNANA NOVEMBER 2-3 AS GUEST DIRECTOR COMPAGNIE DES MINES D'URANIUM DE FRANCEVILLE (CMUF), XAVIER DES LIGNERIS, HE INDICATED ENTIRE PRODUCTION PROCESSED ORE OR URANATE GOES TO FRANCE FOR EXTRACTION METAL BY ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.

2. 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.

3. 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
BT

DPK/HW4

SECRET

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