

## **November 10, 1965**

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

#### **Citation:**

"Cable 157 from the US Embassy in Gabon to the Department of State", November 10, 1965, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives Record Group 59, Department of State Records Subject-Numeric File, 1964-1966 Inco-Uranium. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #432 (June 25, 2013). <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/117191>

#### **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.

#### **Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

GRAM Department of State

45

SECRET

*Libreville 157*

Action  
AF  
Info  
SS  
G  
SP  
SAH  
L  
EUR  
NSC  
INR  
CIA  
NSA  
DOD  
SCI  
AEC  
INT

CONTROL: 08283  
RECD: NOV 10, 1965, 10:55 AM  
FROM: LIBREVILLE  
ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC 157

113

*INCO-URANIUM 17015A Scan GABON*

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

*RSR*

*1*

*Classified by RB/8*

SECRET