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INFORMATION MEMO

Construction of four secondary schools in the Congo (Brazzaville)

On March 9, 1965 the EEC Commission decided to finance through the new European Development Fund, the construction of four secondary schools in the Congo (Brazzaville), the EDF Committee having at its sixth meeting expressed a favourable opinion on this project.

The schools will be built in Boko, Kinkala, Sibiti and Mossendjo. Each will contain two wings with three classes, a wing with dining hall and kitchen, a dormitory for 80 boarders, and two living units for the teaching staff. The cost of the four schools is estimated at 200 million Frs. CFA or some 810.000 u.a. ⁽¹⁾.

This follows a previous project financed by the first EDF which provided a first instalment of eight secondary schools. The aim is to expand the secondary school system in view of the sharp increase in the number of pupils attending primary school, which since the end of the last war has grown by over 400%, from 28.000 to 152.000, 52% being at private schools. The percentage of children attending school, one of the highest in Africa, is 76% and the Congolese Government hopes it will soon be nearly 100%.

As a result, the number of pupils attending secondary school has also risen appreciably, from 3.400 in 1959 to 8.250 in 1964, some of whom have gone on to the Institute of Higher Education in Brazzaville, which has 750 pupils from the Congo, Gabon, Chad and the Central African Republic.

The twelve schools will not only provide additional facilities for secondary education, but will also allow it to be decentralized; up till now almost all secondary school pupils have had to move to Brazzaville to continue their studies, but in future there will be a secondary school in the chief town of every department bar one.

(1) 1 u.a. = \$ 1.