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INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, Washington, D.C. 20433

LO-1:80-COB-1 The WORLD BANK and the European Investment Bank, in a joint financial operation, are providing funds for a potash project in The Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville). The WORLD BANK is making a loan equivalent to \$30 million, and the European Investment Bank (EIB) is lending the equivalent of \$9 million. The projected facilities will produce 500,000 tons of potash annually, and will result in substantial economic benefits to the Congo. The project will almost double present experts and will add about 15% to present gross domestic product. The Government will receive additional revenues gradually increasing from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million a year.

The loans will be made to the Compagnie des Potasses du Congo (CPC), a Congolese company established in 1964 by a French syndicate and the Congolese Government. The syndicate consists of Mines Domaniales de Potasse d'Alsace (MDPA), one of the world's leading potash producers, Societé des Petroles d'Afrique Equatoriale, which exploits oil and gas fields in Gabon and Congo (Brazzaville) and Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minières, which develops mineral resources in France and developing countries.

Among those present at the signing of the loan documents on January 9, 1967 were, from left to rights His Excellency Jonas Mouanza, Ambassador of Congo (Brazzaville) to the United Nations; Mr. George D. Woods, President of the WORLD BANK; Mr. Joland Pré, Prèsident of the Compagnie des Potasses du Congo; Mr. Julien Martin, Secretary-General of Mines Domaniales de Potasse d'Alsace; and Mr. Paul Ripoche, Secretary-General of Compagnie des Potasses du Congo.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for WORLD BANK.