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GEODETTIC NETWORK PROJECT IN NIGER AND PROGRESS
MADE IN CARTOGRAPHY SINCE 1966

Submitted by the Government of Niger

The Government of Niger is not unaware of the usefulness of cartography as a fundamental ingredient of economic development and progress. It is true that for the first decade after Niger attained national sovereignty, no adequate cartographic service was established in the country; however, this was only because Niger's economic and social development had not yet reached a point where it would have been logical to establish such a service and because it was felt that the 1:500,000 and 1:200,000 maps under preparation by the French Institut géographique national would meet Niger's cartographic needs during the early stages of its development. As soon as the best conditions for development had been created and the nature of the problem and hence the structure of our society had been altered by the need for better food, clothing, housing and transport, mapping became an urgent necessity.

Niger is a continental, semi-desert country which covers an area of 1,267,000 km² and has a population of 4 million. A severe water problem exists in all parts of the country, and much progress is being made in the areas of mineral exploration, roads and both development and physical planning.

There is an urgent necessity to reorganize the topographical and cadastral service in such a way that it can meet present-day needs. Without a geodetic base extension net, any attempt at cadastral surveying or mapping on a scale larger than 1:50,000 would be a mistake.

If progress is to be made in the area of cartography, it would seem to be a good idea to establish a geodetic section as a first step in the right direction.

As progress is made in economic development an increasing number of areas are being covered by studies in planning, development and mineral prospecting. Such areas include the Niger Valley, Dallol Maouri, Maggia, Ader Douchi, the Lake Chad Basin and potentially important regions such as Djado and Air, which have never been the subject of large- and medium-scale maps.

Large-scale surveys are needed for all these studies. Because of lack of facilities (basic triangulation), these maps will be dealt with separately as the need for them arises. Accordingly, enough financial resources must be provided to cover them.

As soon as enough supervisory personnel are available, the geodetic section will be established. It will be responsible for initiating first-order geodetic triangulation (using modern methods of triangulation and trilateration) in the south-western part of the country in an area bounded on the north by 15° parallel north and on the east by 13° longitude east. The triangulation will be based on the International twelfth parallel north arc, which is 250 km. long in the territory of Niger.

After the first phase of this operation has been completed, a United Nations technical assistance project involving personnel and equipment is planned. As progress is made in triangulation, there are plans to add a photogrammetric section, a cartographic section and a natural resources inventory section to the topographical service.

The situation with regard to cartographic work carried out by IGN is as follows:

Prior to 1966

64 1:50,000 sheets

42 regular 1:200,000 maps

11 planimetric base maps

After 1966

51 1:50,000 sheets

17 1:200,000 maps

23 1:200,000 planimetric base maps

The entire country south of the fifteenth parallel is covered by a levelling control network.

Note:

The map annexed to the report will be issued as Addendum 1 to this document.