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REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE  
FOR AFRICA

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Note by the Executive Secretary

Additional replies received from Governments

During the period 16 November to 31 December 1960 two countries, the Republic of Guinea and the Kingdom of Morocco, have replied expressing favourable views on the convening of the proposed regional cartographic conference for Africa. Excerpts from these replies are given below.

16. GUINEA

The Republic of Guinea sees no objections to the convening of a cartographic conference. It would even consider such a conference necessary, if its agenda could include an item as follows: consideration of the cartographic position of the newly independent countries of Africa, whose ex-metropolitan powers - and they alone - hold the originals of the 1:200,000 and 1:500,000 maps.

17. MOROCCO

A conference for the study of cartographic problems in Africa would be of undoubted value from both the scientific and the economic points of view, especially as regards the preparation of development projects for the region concerned.

Basic and applied cartography are indeed of prime importance for the betterment and economic development of a region. In that connexion, Morocco with the atlas of Morocco and several other publications dealing with economic and human questions, has already made a valuable contribution and even opened new avenues.

The agenda for such a conference might include, apart from the usual questions already dealt with at previous meetings, such items as the compilation of national atlases in the participating countries; methods of research and production of medium scale land-use maps of Africa (e.g., 1:1,000,000).

As to the place of meeting, the conference could be held in an African country having adequate facilities for cartographic studies, such as Morocco, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, Senegal or the Congo. The selection of Rabat itself could be justified by the fact that there are a number of bodies engaged in cartographic activities, including : Moroccan National Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics, National Committee on Geography, Geographic Laboratory of the Shereefian Scientific Institute which has published many important cartographic works, Annexe - to the Geographic Institute, Land Conservation Division.

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