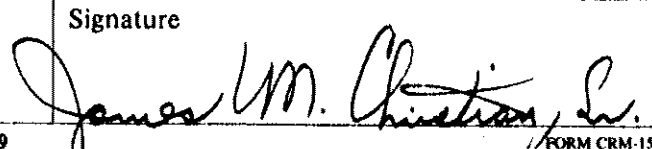


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1. Name of registrant Washington & Christian		2. Registration No. 4569
3. Nature of material (<i>A concise account of the nature of the propaganda material filed</i>) Press Release		
4. Title of material, if any Dissidents In Gabon Continue Efforts To Violate Democratic Procedures		5. Name of foreign principal on whose behalf this material was transmitted. Gabonese Republic
6. Means of transmission Letter	7. Dates of transmission 02/01/94; 02/02/94 ; 02/03/94	8. Total copies transmitted 117
9. List addresses from which this material was transmitted: 805 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20005		10. List states and territories of the United States to which material was transmitted: Washington, D.C. Phoenix, Arizona
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Date of report 02/03/94	Name and title James M. Christian, Sr., Esq. Administrative Partner	Signature 

For Immediate Release

Contact: K.R. Walker (202) 962-3070

**DISSIDENTS IN GABON CONTINUE EFFORTS TO VIOLATE
DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES**

Jan., 28 -- On December 5, 1993, Gabon completed another phase of its three-year transition to a democratic, pluralist society, with a multi-party election for President that fielded 13 candidates.

More than 87.61 percent of all eligible citizens cast their votes in Gabon's first, multi-party presidential election, which was won by President Omar Bongo with 51.07 percent of the vote. The opposition candidate with the next highest number of votes, Rev. Paul Mba Abessole, earned 27.48 percent of the ballots cast.

Responding to the invitation of the Government of Gabon, and with the encouragement of all political parties, more than 100 international observers from 15 nations were present in Gabon for their first presidential elections. Included among them were the Organization of African Unity, the African-American Institute, The African National Congress, the International Commission of Jurists, the European Parliament, as well as representatives from France, Canada, Morocco, and Italy.

The Government of Gabon readily acknowledges that a number of things could have been done better in the administration of its first multi-party election for president. Indeed, prior to the election, recognizing its limited experience, the Government of Gabon sought from the international community -- not always with success -- practical assistance.

Despite logistical confusion and other technical problems, the Government of Gabon was proud to receive the acknowledgement of the international observers that the election, despite the difficulties, was free, fair, open and transparent.

In a post-election statement, the African-American Institute congratulated the Gabonese people for a tremendous effort during their first election. "AAI would like to express its admiration to the Gabonese people for the inspiring and enthusiastic participation it witnessed during the election process. Further, AAI commends the hard work of many election officials at the individual Bureaux de Vote."

The International Jurist Commission, the Organization of African Unity, the African National Congress and the African-American Institute, all agreed in a declaration: "Even if the formal plans for the election were misused, this did not prevent the Gabonese from having the possibility of freely expressing themselves and showing their political maturity. Overall, the observers did not observe willful and deliberate fraud. With respect to the December 5 ballot, the will of the Gabonese to fully exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process in their country was evidenced. For the moment, without further information concerning the elections, the ICJ, the OAU, the ANC and the AAI now congratulate themselves on having already made their contribution to the democratic dynamics in place in Gabon."

The Government shares the same concerns as the Opposition, regarding many of the organizational difficulties evidenced in the election. Nevertheless, the transition from a single-party state to a multi-party democracy did allow for the development of a fully organized, broad range of Opposition candidates.

In accordance with the Constitution, some Opposition candidates challenged the election results before the independent Constitutional Court, which twice, affirmed President Bongo's victory. The President was inaugurated on January 22, 1994.

Recognizing that Gabon's evolving democracy was the creation of all of its organized political forces, the U.S. State Department, in a post-election communique, urged, "the people of Gabon to continue to respect the constitutional process they themselves have established."

Some parts of the Opposition have rejected this advice. The Opposition fully participated in the process from the start; beginning with the National Assembly's approval of the Electoral Code. The multi-party Assembly also established and approved the Electoral Commission, which administered the presidential election independent of the ruling party.

Even before the election, official spokesmen for the Opposition threatened publicly "to lay waste and destruction" upon Gabon if their candidate lost the election. Sadly, the Opposition's supporters made good on this threat during a post-election rampage that caused much destruction of property and the loss of the lives of Gabonese as well as foreign nationals.

Rather than respect an election process they helped created and fully exploited from the start, the Opposition and their supporters continue attempts to disrupt and disparage that process. Instead of honoring two decisions by an independent Constitutional Court, the Opposition has instead raised erroneous claims to have established a parallel government. It has proceeded to disburse

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materials and lay false claims throughout the international community, including the United States, that damage further and unfairly, the reputation of Gabon, and its now firmly established democratic processes.

Despite a victory that lawfully entitles him to organize his new government entirely along partisan lines, President Bongo has magnanimously invited all political groupings, including the opposition to participate in a new government to unite around solving Gabon's problems.