APPENDIX 4

Ghana, the country
The red stripe stands for the blood of those who died in the struggle for independence, the gold bar symbolises the mineral wealth of the country, the green band represents the forest belts in the south, and the black star is the lonestar of African freedom.

Ghana, situated in West Sahel Africa, is 238,540 square kilometres of land, and has an estimated population of 19 million people. 42% of the population are less than 15 years old, and the population growth is estimated at 2.05%, due to a birth rate of 31.79 births/1,000 population, a death rate of 10.4 deaths/1,000 population, and a net migration rate of -0.88 migrants/1,000 population. Life expectancy at birth is 57.14 years, and the infant mortality rate is 76.15 deaths/1,000 live births. There are 4.11 children born to each Ghanaian woman.

30% of the population are Muslim, 24% are Christian, and 38% hold to their indigenous beliefs. 64.5% of the population over 15 years can read and write to some degree.

Ghana is well endowed with natural resources, and has twice the per capita output of the poorer countries in West Africa. Even so, Ghana has $5.2 billion of foreign debt, and remains heavily dependent on international financial ($477.3 million/year) and technical assistance. 31.4% of the population are below the poverty line, and the country has a GDP (purchasing power parity) of $33.6 billion, and an inflation rate of 27.7%. 61% of the labour force are employed in agriculture (small landholders producing cocoa, rice, coffee, cassava, peanuts, corn, shea nuts, bananas, timber: 41% of GDP) and fishing, and 10% work in industry (mining, lumbering, light manufacturing, aluminum smelting, food processing).

Ghana exports $1.5 billion worth of goods, principally gold, cocoa, timber, tuna, bauxite, aluminum, manganese ore, and diamonds, primarily to the UK, Germany, the US, the Netherlands, Japan, and Nigeria, and in return, imports $2.1 billion worth of capital equipment, petroleum, consumer goods, and food. 99.34% of the electricity is produced by hydro power, with only 0.66% from fossil fuels.