

# Equatorial Guinea Reprised

by

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Recently I came across an article about shortwave broadcasting in Equatorial Guinea, and it got me to look back at an article I wrote for the October 1995 issue of *Monitoring Times* called “History and Mystery of Shortwave Broadcasting in Equatorial Guinea.” You can find it after page 7 of this article. The article I found was about a station that never came to air – Radio Atlántica, a project undertaken in 1947 and discussed in my *MT* article. With the information from the new article, plus better-quality images from the *MT* article, as well as some new graphics, we look again at Equatorial Guinea.<sup>1</sup>

The politics of the country haven’t changed much since 1995, save for the expansion of the oil industry and the resulting enrichment of a few. The country has escaped the shortwave fate of many other small countries. Radio Nacional de Guinea Equatorial, Bata, formerly Radio Ecuatorial, is still heard on 5005 kHz., albeit not quite as reliably as in days of yore. At the end of July 2017 it looked like another station had been reactivated after six years. Radio Malabo, until 1974 Emisora de Radiodifusión de Santa Isabel (“Radio Santa Isabel”), and located on the island of Bioko (née Fernando Poo), was heard again with pretty good signals on its old frequency of 6250 kHz. Alas, it disappeared within a few days, and hasn’t been heard since.

Equatorial Guinea was known as Spanish Guinea until it gained independence from Spain in 1968. Bata is on the mainland territory, which is called Rio Muni, while Malabo (formerly Santa Isabel), which is on the island, is the country’s capital.

An [abstract](#) of the Radio Atlántica article can be found in the IEEE archives; it was part of the [IEEE History of Telecommunications Conference in Madrid in 2010](#). The full title is “The True Story of Radio Atlántica 1947–A Wonderful But Once Failed Spanish Dream,” and the author is Francisco Moyano Carmona, a telecom engineer and son of Francisco Moyano Reina, who had been involved in setting up the shortwave facilities at Arganda del Rey, Spain in 1945 and subsequently served as the principal engineer of the Radio Atlántica project.<sup>2</sup>

The article contains some interesting new information about Radio Atlántica. The operating company, Compañía de Radiodifusión Intercontinental, received its permit on January 9, 1947, a process that was somehow connected to the licensing of EAJ29, Radio Central, in

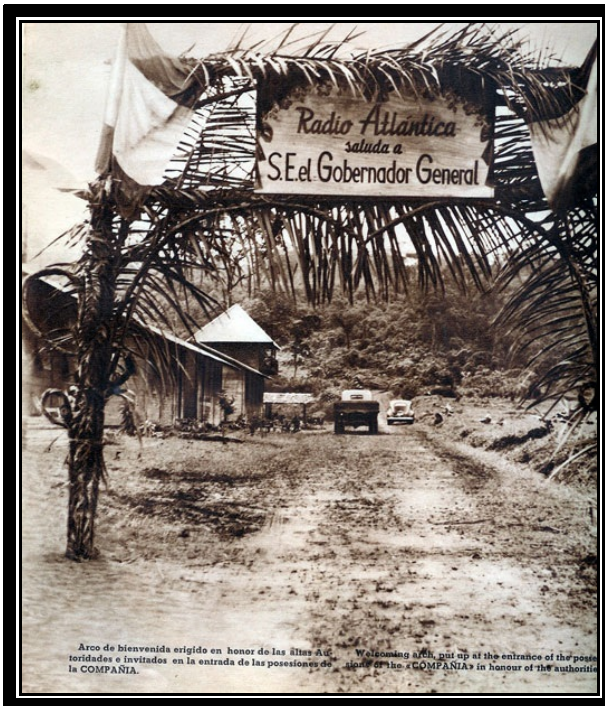
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<sup>1</sup>The illustrations in this article are from QSLs in the author’s collection, from the Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications (collections of Ernie Behr, Bill Flynn, Don Jensen, John Sgrulletta, and Jan Tuner), and from the Dave Thomas collection (thanks to Paul Thomas).

<sup>2</sup>The article reads decently enough, although it appears to be written by someone whose first language was not English. It may be an electronic translation of something originally written in Spanish.

Alcala de Henares, Spain. There is no mention of EAJ29 in the World Radio Handbook of those days (it started publishing only in 1947, but it did not list all very low power mediumwave stations in Spain). Perhaps EAJ29 was some kind of placeholder registration that facilitated construction of the Africa station.

Engineers departed Spain on February 12, 1947, and site preparation began on March 12. Topographically it was an excellent site for international shortwave broadcasting, but a huge amount of work was required. It was hoped that the facilities would be similar to the shortwave stations in Dixon and Delano, California.



Compañía de Radiodifusión Intercontinental moved into its Madrid offices at 50 Diego de León street on May 23. The “former palace” at that address was renovated and redesigned with modern studios, comfortable offices, etc. The dedication and official opening ceremony of the station in then-Spanish Guinea was on August 19, 1947. Many dignitaries attended.

The article explains the background to the station’s development. After the victory in the Spanish Civil War in 1939, and continuing after World War II, Spain and its Fascist leader, Francisco Franco, were largely isolated by the Allies. In 1947 the Spanish economy was in very bad shape; there was a thriving black market, and people were suffering. The Cold War was beginning, as was the Marshall Plan. In the Cold War, Spain sought to align itself with the United

States, hoping for a strategic military alliance, and citing Spain’s opposition to communism, as well as its geo-strategic position and that of its African colonies.

Somehow it was thought that a powerful international voice, Radio Atlántica, in addition to providing a vehicle for propaganda and public and political information, and for earning some income (the station would be nominally commercial), would be viewed by the United States as a sign of Spain’s support, with the hoped-for end result being the warming of diplomatic relations and, most importantly, Spain’s inclusion in the Marshall Plan. An all-out effort was made to sell the United States on the idea of the station, and there was extensive lobbying of Congress, the Pentagon, conservative politicians, and Christian groups.

Alas, the station would be closed a mere four months after its dedication, on December 22, 1947. The IEEE article’s author gives two reasons. First, starting in September, some of the on-site engineering personnel, including chief engineer Francisco Moyano Reina, were suffering from malaria. They were given permission to come home for the Christmas holiday, and they never returned.

The second reason was that, in the end, Spain was not included in the Marshall Plan. The author suggests several reasons for this: very-Catholic Spain was not supportive of religious freedom (President Truman was a Baptist); Franco hated the Freemasons (Truman was a Mason); and America felt that support for Fascist Spain would likely complicate relations with the Soviet Union. The main reason was probably the simplest one: Spain was a Fascist country, and in the war that America had just fought to defeat Fascism it had escaped destruction. Whatever the reason, Spain was excluded from the Marshall Plan. Without those finances, orders for equipment had to be cancelled, and work at the transmitter site stopped. It was the end for Radio Atlántica. Compañía de Radiodifusión Intercontinental appears to have morphed into a mostly-mediumwave network in Spain.

We are fortunate that there is a website that contains some remarkable pictures of Radio Atlántica (a few are included in this article). The site has been listed in the ontheshortwaves.com “DX History on the Net” section for some time, but for those who have not seen it, go to [Crónicas de la Guinea Ecuatorial](#). It consists of photos of life in the country “in the old days.” Search for “radio,” check Title, Captions, Keywords, and you will be treated to 61 wonderful pictures, not only of the Radio Atlántica project but also of the stations in Bata and Santa Isabel, and some other radio-related photos as well. Here are the numbers of the photos that are related to the stations indicated. (Click on the first one in the gallery and a number will appear in the top margin, e.g. File 1/61, File 2/61, etc. Then click on the arrows at the top, far right, to move through the photos. Most photos can be enlarged by double clicking.)

**Radio Atlántica** Photos #1, 2, 15, 16, 20, 23, 36, 44, 45, 50, 54

**Radio Ecuatorial, Radio Bata** Photos #6, 9, 10, 21, 37, 39, 59

**Radio Santa Isabel** Photos #11-14, 17, 26, 27, 29-35, 42, 46, 49, 51, 55, 57, 58



Radio Santa Isabel was first heard in 1952. It was often reported during the 1960s, at that time on 7200 or 7160 kHz., later on 6240, 6250 or 6345. It was also a good verifier, especially

NOMBRE DE LA EMISORA.— (Q. R. A.) Emisora de Radiodifusión de Santa Isabel.  
 SEÑAS.— (Q. T. H.) Apartado de Correos n.º 195.— Santa Isabel.— Fernando Poo.  
 DIRECTOR.— D. Angel G.ª-Margallo Barberá.  
 FRECUENCIA.— 6.240 Kc. - 48,11 metros. *γ 6.345 Kc.*  
 POTENCIA.— (tres emisoras) — 700; 1.800 y 5.000 vatios.  
 COMIENZA SUS EMISIONES.— Con la Marcha «Los Voluntarios».  
 TERMINA SUS EMISIONES.— (Q. R. T.) Con el «Himno Nacional Español».  
 LLAMADA.— (C. Q.) «Aquí Emisora de Radiodifusión de Santa Isabel de Fernando Poo».

EMISIONES (Horas G. M. T.)		Días festivos	
Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes	6,30 a 7,30 12. a 14. 17. a 21.	Martes, Jueves y Sábado	6,30 a 7,30 12. a 14. 17. a 22,30
			12. a 14,30 18,30 a 20,30

EMISION DE NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL.— Todos los días laborables de 13,15 a 13,30  
 EMISIONES EN OTROS IDIOMAS.— (Música y Boletín de noticias)  
 en lengua bubi: todos los días laborables de 17. a 18. GMT.  
 en lengua pamue: id. id. id. de 18. a 18,30 id.  
 en lengua inglesa: id. id. id. de 18,30 a 19. id.

CORREO.— Esta Emisora de Santa Isabel, agradece todos los controles (Q. S. L.) que se le envían de sus emisiones, y los contesta.

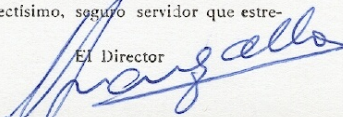
Proximamente emisiones portuguesa y annobonesa.

in the 1960s when it issued a series of QSL-cards depicting views of the station or of indigenous peoples (see below and next page). It became simply the Malabo station of Radio Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial in 1983 when it and the Bata station consolidated under that name.

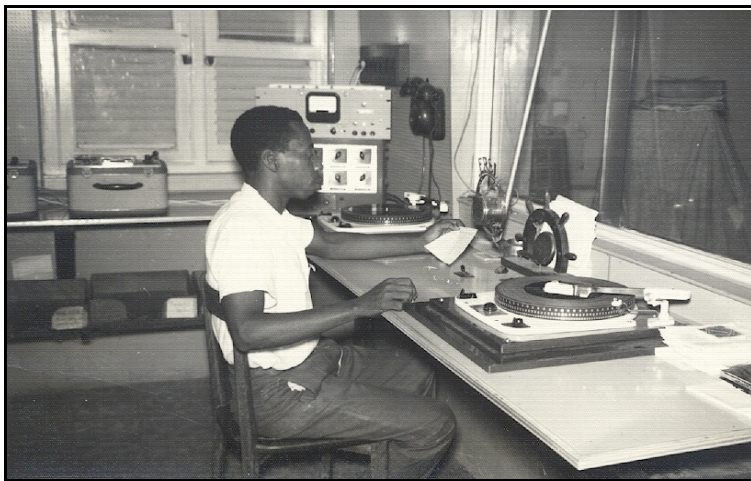
*La Emisora de Radiodifusión de Santa Isabel*

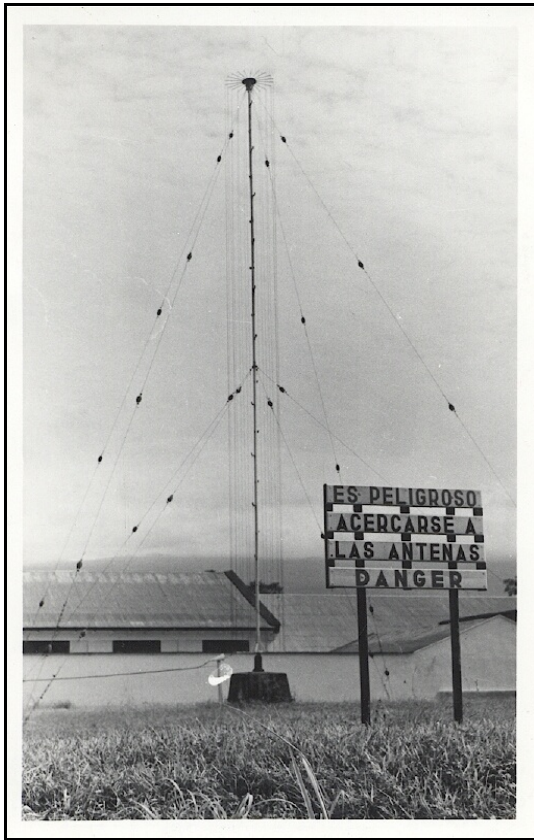
Con Q. T. H. en la ciudad de Santa Isabel, capital de Guinea Española, en la Isla de Fernando Poo. Apartado de Correos n.º 195; acusa recibo de su carta en la que nos daba control de nuestras emisiones, oídas por Vd. con fecha 12 de Mayo del 63 a las 21,10 horas G. M. T. Efectivamente las señales que Vd. indica, procedían de esta Estación.

Esta Emisora de Santa Isabel, le agradece mucho su información, y le invita a oír sus emisiones con regularidad. Le adjuntamos un horario de las mismas, y aprovechamos la ocasión para suscribirnos de Vd. afectísimo, seguro servidor que estrecha su mano.

*El Director*  


S., Donald N. Jensen  
 Ciudad Wisconsin  
 Nación U.S.A.

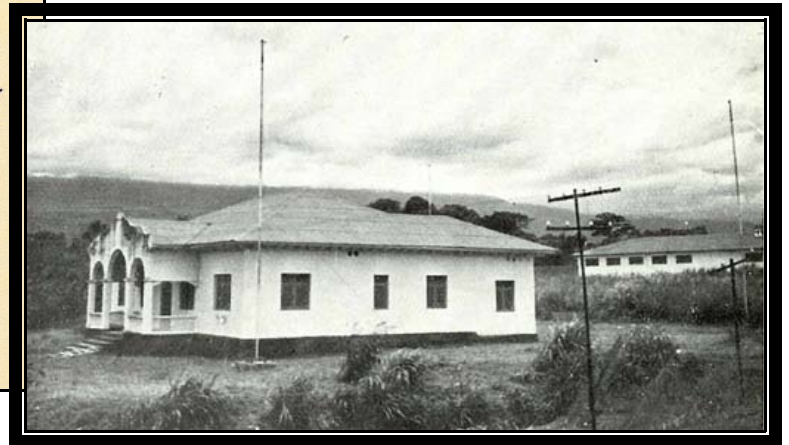




**Radio Nacional  
Malabo**  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Sr. Ernest S. Behr  
Confirmamos su control de recepción  
Frecuencia: 6250 kHz  
Fecha: 7 de Nov 1987  
Hora: 2100-2202 UTC

**Q  
S  
L**



Radio Ecuatorial, Bata, at first using the slogan “La Voz de España,” and later “La Voz de Rio Muni,” came on the air in 1956. The power was 400 watts and the frequency was 7850 kHz. In 1963 it went to 5 kw. and moved to 4926 kHz., and in 1981 it went to 100 kw. on 5005. Needless to say, this greatly improved the signal’s reach.

RADIO ECUATORIAL BATA  
"La Voz de España"  
GUINEA

QTH-Longitud 09° 46' W  
Latitud 01° 52' N

QRC 7850 Kc/s.  
Hallicrafters BC 610 E  
Onda portadora 400 wts.  
Antena: Media onda 70 m.

Horas de Emision (GMT)  
11'00 a 13'45  
19'00 a 22'00

**QSL** Acusamos recibo a su control.  
Sus datos coinciden con nuestros archivos, agrade-  
decemos su amabilidad en escucharnos  
Atentamente le saludamos.

106

**Radio Nacional de Bata**  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Nuestros Oyeles Escritores  
Abdo. 749 BATA-LITORAL

**Q** Frecuencia: 4926 KHz- Banda 61 metros  
**S** Fecha: 23 de Marzo de 1.985  
**L** Hora local: 06.00 U T C 05.00-05.15  
Idioma: Español

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P.O.Box 473  
Mt. View, Ga  
U.S.A.

AVION  
18 JUL 85-19

35 BK  
CORREOS  
35 BK  
REPUBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL

Estimado oyente:  
Con esta fecha, acusamos recibo de su tarjeta informe de recepción de fecha 23 de Marzo de 1.985, correspondiente a nuestro programa matinal de la fecha arriba indicada. Aunque recibió muy débil nuestra señal, según su tarjeta-informe, le invitamos a seguir nuestra transmisión según el siguiente horario: Primer programa 04.55-07.30 UTC. Segundo Programa: 09.55-22.00 UTC.  
Nuestro programa para DX está en antena todos los domingos apartir de las 20.15-20.55 UTC. Los directores de este programa, Juan y José, le envían desde Bata esta tarjeta QSL como acuse de recibo de su informe. Cordiales saludos desde Bata.

*Juan José*



**QSL**

Radio Ecuatorial Bata  
"LA VOZ DE RIO MUNI"

DESEA  
Felices Pascuas  
y  
Próspero Año Nuevo

Two other stations have operated on shortwave from Equatorial Guinea. Radio Africa 2000, Malabo, was on 6910 kHz. with 10 kw. A joint project of the country's Ministry of Culture and the government of Spain, it was on the air from 1989 to 1993.

RADIO AFRICA 2.000.- Malabo (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Características Técnicas

Tm	Frecuencia	Potencia	Antena
BW	6.910 KHz	10 Kw	Log. periódica 60° AZ
FM	90.9 MHz	10 Kw	Corina de dipolos

SR. D. JERRY BERG

Africa 2.000 verifica y confirma que su control de recepción de 22.0.7 a 22.3 horas UTC del día 15 de Julio de 1991 corresponde a nuestra programación de ese día.

Gracias por su interés y cooperación. Esperamos de nuevo sus informes de recepción.


Atentamente,

Africa 2.000, inaugurada el 11 de Octubre de 1989, es una Emisora, de carácter cultural, que nace en virtud de unos acuerdos entre el Ministerio de Cultura de Guinea Ecuatorial y la Cooperación Española, correspondiendo a esta durante diez años la dirección, gestión, financiación y asistencia técnica.


Objetivos: elevar el nivel cultural y educativo de la población, fomentando las culturas autóctonas y contribuir a la expansión del idioma oficial, el español, reforzando la idea de la comunidad hispánica.

Plantilla: 25 profesionales autóctonos, asistidos por expertos de la Cooperación Española.

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Foto: TOEPKE y SERRANO



**Radio Africa 2000**



COOPERACION ESPAÑOLA


**RADIO AFRICA NETWORK**  
PO BOX 851  
MALABO  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECEPTION REPORT OF:  
Frequency/Meter Band: 15190 kHz/19 Meter Band  
Date: February 17, 2005 Time: 1700 UTC

Radio Africa: 7190kHz & 15190kHz / Daily 1700-2300 UTC  
Radio East Africa: 15190kHz / Sat & Sun 0700-1600 UTC  
Radio Africa #2: 15190kHz / Mon - Fri 0800-1300 UTC

For Information and Program Schedules Write to:

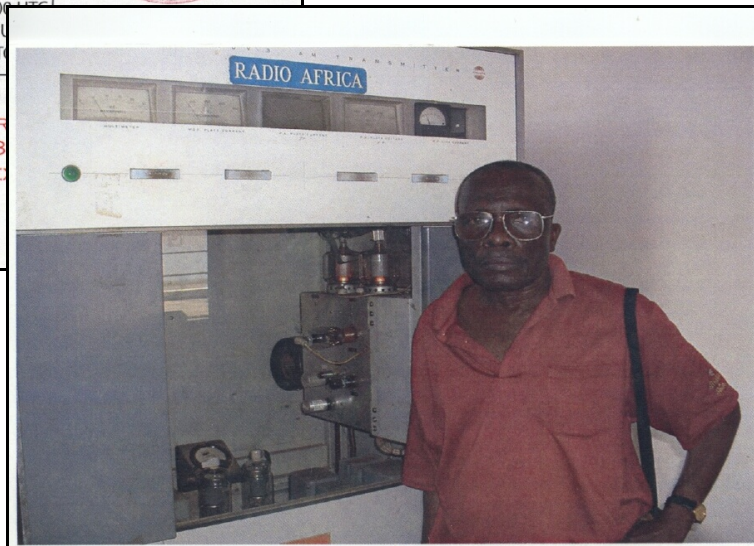
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USA



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
OFFICIAL SEAL  
Office of the Chairman

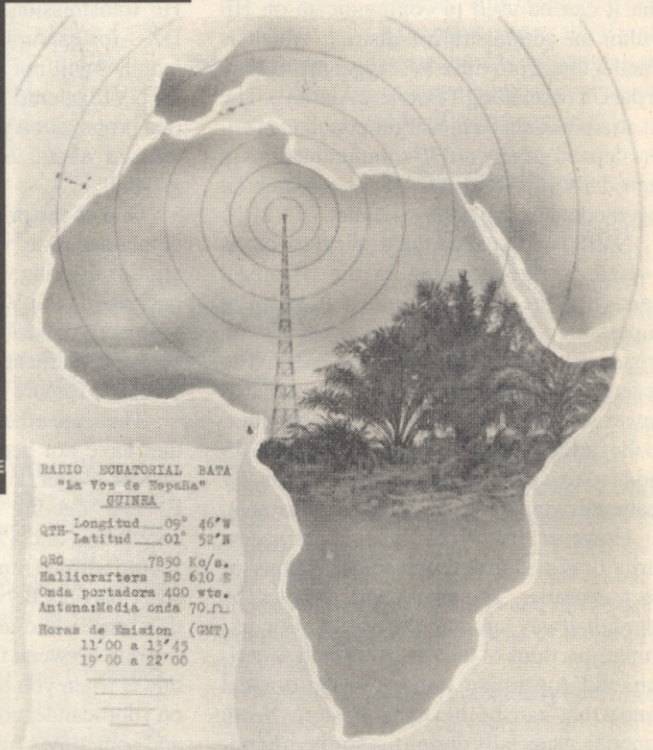
Finally, there were the religious programs transmitted under the name Radio Africa and brokered by a company called Pan American Broadcasting, located in California.

They were heard during the 1990s and until around 2008, using international HF channels (at the end, 15190 kHz.), and transmitting via high power (50-100 kw.) senders located in Bata.



For more memories of Equatorial Guinea on shortwave, check out the IDs at [Interval Signals Online](http://IntervalSignalsOnline.com).

Some of the graphics in this article have been supplied by the Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications.



# History and Mystery of Shortwave Broadcasting in Equatorial Guinea

By Jerry Berg

"Skulls lie in the ocean here, old bones remembered by sons and daughters. Men and women were taken to the island's edge during the reign of Francisco Macias, and pushed over. Their shadows licked the waves, then vanished. With weights tied to their ankles, the plunge was swift."

So began a 1993 newspaper report on a largely forgotten African outpost of the Spanish colonial empire known as Equatorial Guinea. For the first 11 years of independence—1968 to 1979—the country was ruled by Macias, who was said to have murdered an estimated 40,000 people, including 21 of his own cabinet ministers. Eventually overthrown in a coup, Macias went into the jungle with \$150 million which he burned when pursuers started closing in. When they caught him, they had to bring in Moroccan soldiers for the

firing squad because Macias vowed he would return from the dead to haunt all those connected with his demise, and no one doubted him.

Ruling Equatorial Guinea since 1979 has been Teodoro Obiang, who has family connections to Macias. Although the human rights situation has improved somewhat as a result of the collapse of two of Spanish Guinea's benefactors, Cuba and the Soviet Union, plus the collapse of world cocoa prices, Obiang has himself been charged with widespread human rights violations. These have not been on the scale of Macias, but thousands have disappeared or been jailed and the regime is suspected of a threat on the life of the U.S. ambassador. The country survives on foreign aid.

Spain came to this African backwater in 1778 and remains the major influence in its life. The country consists of three parts: the

jungle-covered mainland enclave of Rio Muni, whose main city is Bata; the relatively fertile island of Bioko (formerly called Fernando Poo), some 20 miles south of the Cameroon coast and 100 miles northwest of the Rio Muni mainland; and the smaller island of Annobon, a distant 400 miles to the southwest (on the far side of Sao Tome). The country's capital, Malabo, formerly called Santa Isabel, is on the island of Bioko. The population of the country is about 375,000.

## ■ Radio Atlantica.

Spanish Guinea, as it was known before 1968, does have the redeeming value of having long been the source of good shortwave broadcast DX. And as befits a place where voodoo and witchcraft play a big part, it has also been home to some interesting shortwave mysteries. The biggest one was a project known as Radio Atlantica.

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Sus datos coinciden con nuestros archivos, agradece-  
decemos su amabilidad en escucharnos  
Atentamente le saludamos.



The story started authoritatively enough, with a news item in *The New York Times* of June 13, 1947. "The world's most powerful commercial radio station" had been under construction since February 1947 on the island of Fernando Poo, said the article. The 200 kW station would be used largely for advertising, and one beam would be to the United States. The programs would be directed from Madrid, and time would be sold to any commercial user. Programming was expected to consist largely of recordings, and the station would commence operation with a library of 55,000 records. "The economic struggle between nations is beginning, and a directional station of 200 kW puts at the disposition of Spain and her commercial firms the greatest instrument of propaganda," it was proclaimed.

The news was published again, along with some new information, in Ken Boord's "International Short-Wave" column in the October 1947 edition of *Radio News*, wherein it was confirmed that work had begun on the station early in the year. It would be operated by the Sociedad de Radiodifusion Intercontinental, a company which operated mainly low-powered mediumwave stations in Spain, and it would be known as Radio Atlantica. Transmissions would be in Spanish, English, German, Portuguese, Italian and French, with beams toward Europe, Africa, the U.S.A. and South America, plus Spain.

"The Voice of Spain will be heard in all parts of the world," continued the article. "This will be, in the first place, a demonstration of our progress technically, and of our high ambitions, and, in the second place, no less important, Spain will be able to speak in a strong voice to people in every spot in the world, directly and definitely, without necessity of intermediaries."

More detailed information appeared in Ken Boord's column two months later in the form of an interview by Eddy Copper-Royer, "Comptoir International de Publicite, New York and Paris," with Sr. Don Valentin Ruiz Senen, President of the Compania Intercontinental in Madrid. Sr. Ruiz Senen noted that a high-elevation, equatorial location would be best for worldwide transmission. It was estimated that the directional antennas would increase signal levels so that "when . . . Radio Atlantica is on the air, radio listeners in San Sebastian, Madrid, Pamplona, London, Milan, Stuttgart will hear it as well as a local station." It was reported that the frequency would be "as short as possible, probably in between the 13 and 17 meter bands in daytime, and 25 to 30 meters at night."

Sr. Ruiz Senen reported that the Spanish



government's role in the venture "could not be more enthusiastic. Understanding the international interest in such an enterprise and the prestige of the Spanish nation which will bring under such form, at the disposal of all the nations, a powerful instrument of exchange, the government granted a concession to build and operate the station. The Governor General of Guinea, Sr. Bonelli, took a very important part in establishing the conditions under which the station is going to be built and will have to be operated, up to the point that he authorized the construction in a large area of 60 acres located at Musola."

"The Compania de Radiodifusion Intercontinental, to which the concession has been granted . . . will create offices everywhere in the principal economic centers such as New York, Buenos Aires, Brussels, Lausanne, Milan, Lisbon, Paris, and so on," he continued. "There will be a delay of 18 to 19 months before the first broadcast can be on the air. Programs will be recorded every day in the principal centers of the United States, in London, and so forth; then they will be shipped by air to Fernando Poo. This will give to the programs the immediate reaction of all international artistic activities and the station will in such a way broadcast the best radio production in all lines."

The equipment would be American. It was reported that an order for two 5 kW transmitters had been placed with a well-known U.S. manufacturer, one for delivery to Madrid, the other to Fernando Poo, for establishment of a direct circuit between the sta-

tion and the home office. The 200 kW transmitter would also be ordered from the U.S., which was at that time the only source for senders of such power.

### ■ Atlantica on the air?

The 1948 and 1949 editions of the *World Radio Handbook* gave possible frequencies and a possible future schedule of Radio Atlantica, and it wasn't long before loggings of the station began appearing in the DX press. Newark News Radio Club Shortwave Section Editor James J. Hart of Irvington, New Jersey, reported in the February 1949



Two unusual QSL's from Radio Santa Isabel.

NNRC Bulletin that the new Radio Atlantica was testing irregularly on 14402 kHz, and had been heard with good signals until 2300 GMT. The next month he reported having heard the station himself, IDing as "Radio Atlantica."

Seven months later, however, Ken Dobeson, the British representative of Radio Nacional de Espana, reported that the station was still under construction and that the studios were completed but that start-up would have to await the arrival of high-power tubes, probably from the U.S. Two months later he

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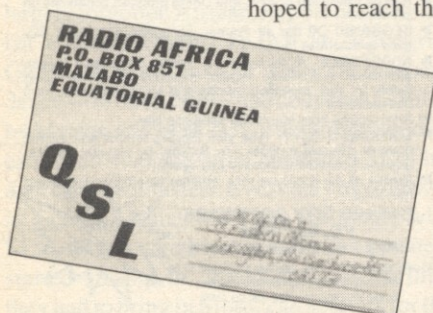
reported that the main station would be operational in 1950 and that a small transmitter, which would ultimately be used for point-to-point service between the station and the home office in Madrid, would soon be operational.

In May 1951, Ken Boord reported that he had been reliably informed that a low-powered transmitter had been operating from Santa Isabel (as Malabo was then known), on the island of Fernando Poo, for four years. In November, well-known Michigan DXer John DeMyer reported that Emisora de Radiodifusion de Santa Isabel had been heard in African countries, and that it was operating with low power on 7200 kHz at 0630-0730, 1200-1400 and 1700-1900 GMT. A higher-powered transmitter was expected to come into service around December 5, 1951, when an international meeting of West African colonies was to be held in Spanish Guinea.

In 1952, the *World Radio Handbook* listed Emisora de Radiodifusion de Santa Isabel on 7200 kHz with 500 watts of power. DXer John J. Oskay of New Jersey, who thought he had heard the station with mentions of "Atlantica," received a non-verification letter in which station official Angel Margallo said that the station was in fact on the air on 7200 kHz at 0630-0730, 1200-1400 and 1800-2030 GMT. Their most distant report had been from Germany, and they planned to increase their power to 750 watts, with a new antenna, by January 15, 1952.

In a letter to the NNRC Amateur Section in February 1952, Margallo provided some interesting observations on a Spanish Guinea that was very different from the land of the future. "It is very hot here, but health conditions are much better than in some of the nearby colonies. Many married people of European stock and their children live here. Also, many foreign people from the French and English colonies come here by plane for the weekend. This week, 15 French people arrived and the plane leaving for Douala [Cameroun] carried five Englishmen who had spent their vacation here."

Margallo, who was EA0AB, noted that his DXCC was stuck at 93, but that he hoped to reach the



100 mark before returning to Spain on extended leave. "Much of my time is spent on official work connected with the operation of the government radio station on the 40 meter band," he said.

The exact sequence and relationship of the foregoing events has never been established with precision. In my opinion, either Margallo had a separate amateur transmitter, or the early, low-powered Radio Atlantica transmitter to which Messr. Dobeson had made reference in 1949 had in fact arrived, and whatever transmitter was at hand had been put to work by Margallo for combined amateur and broadcasting purposes—a not uncommon practice in the early days of shortwave broadcasting.

The 14400 kHz signal may have been a harmonic of this transmitter, perhaps even emitted intentionally. Early mentions of "Atlantica" may have been the product of overenthusiasm, either in DXers' imaginations or in the broadcasting practices of Sr. Margallo, who may have made some informal "Radio Atlantica" announcements in order to accelerate the station's place in history. This is all speculation, however.

In January 1952, Ken Boord reported that construction of super-power Radio Atlantica had been delayed indefinitely, but that an improved transmitter for 7200 kHz was imminent. Oskay noted in the February 1952 NNRC Bulletin (without citing any particular source) that "at the present time [Radio Atlantica] seems years away as the transmitter for that one is being built in the U.S.A. and due to our defense program it has been sidetracked indefinitely."

Whatever the reason, Radio Atlantica never made it on the air. As most DXers know, however, Spanish Guinea has over the years been home to several sought-after shortwave stations. The origins of these shortwave broadcasting efforts may well have been the long-forgotten Radio Atlantica project.

#### ■ Equatorial Guinea on shortwave today.

The stations that have been on the air from Spanish Guinea have been exotic enough to be interesting, and powerful enough to be decently heard, especially in eastern North America. Emisora de Radiodifusion de Santa Isabel, on 7200 kHz, was the first. It was heard often in the United States from 1952 onward.

It became known as Radio Malabo in



*The Radio and Television Studios of Santa Isabel.*

1975, and it is now the Malabo branch of Radio Nacional de Guinea Equatorial. It is fairly well heard on 6250 kHz at 0530 UTC sign on and until 2200 UTC sign off. "Radio Africa" English-language religious programs are also heard intermittently over the Malabo sender on varying frequencies around 7190 or 15190 kHz, closing at 2300 UTC. A separate 10 kW station, Radio Africa 2000, was also on the air from Malabo on 6910 kHz from 1989 until a dispute over Spanish aid forced its closedown in 1993.

Radio Ecuatorial in Bata went on the air in 1956 with 400 watts. It was heard on 7850 kHz. It is now the Bata sender of Radio Nacional on 5005 kHz (and occasionally 4926), and is also heard often at 0500 UTC sign on and until 2200 UTC sign off.

#### ■ Radio Calatrava.

A final shortwave mystery connected with Spanish Guinea was a station called Radio Calatrava, which was heard from time to time in 1958-59 in the 6668-82 kHz range. It closed down at 2100 UTC, usually after a classical music program and the playing of "Ave Maria."

Although the station was commonly thought to be in Spanish Guinea, the location was never established with certainty. There was a Calatrava in Rio Muni, but Radio Bata told one DXer that Calatrava was in South America (although the *National Geographic* was unable to come up with a South American town by that name). Many towns in Spain, which were located in what was once a Spanish political subdivision known as Campo de Calatrava, added "de Calatrava" to their names, but there was no suggestion that the station was in Spain.

Radio Calatrava was heard by respected DXers both on the East Coast and in Europe, and although it merited a brief entry in the 1960 and 1961 editions of the *World Radio TV Handbook*, it was last heard in late 1959, disappearing thereafter into the mists of DX history that have enveloped this faraway place from the beginning.