

## International Explorationists Dinner Meeting - November 18

### *The Independent in Africa*

by Jim Smitherman III, United Meridian International Corporation

UMIC and its partners are credited with five international new field commercial discoveries since 1993. These are the Lion and Panthere fields in Cote d'Ivoire and the Zafiro, Opalo, and Topacio fields in Equatorial Guinea. As a result of these discoveries and their ensuing development, Equatorial Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire have achieved energy independence. Current gross production from these developments now averages 50,000 BOPD, with 55 million cubic feet of gas per day.

This talk, which was recently presented in South Africa, will emphasize the "integrated project" concept that enables smaller fields to be profitable. The development of the Lion and Panthere fields will be summarized, together with their link up to the

SIR oil refinery and gas-fired power project at Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Remaining potential on the shelf and in the deep water of Cote d'Ivoire will also be addressed.

In Equatorial Guinea, the Zafiro-Opalo-Topacio complex development, plus production plans through an FPSO, will be described.

The activity in West Africa has caused UMIC's capital budget to grow from \$3 million in 1993 to over \$115 million in 1996.

#### **Biographical Sketch**

**Jim Smitherman III** is president of United Meridian International Corporation

(UMIC), the international division of United Meridian Corporation. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University where he earned a B.A. in business administration and an M.S. in geology. Prior to joining UMC in 1988, Mr. Smitherman held various exploration and development positions with Exxon, Weaver Oil and Gas, and CSX Oil and Gas.

