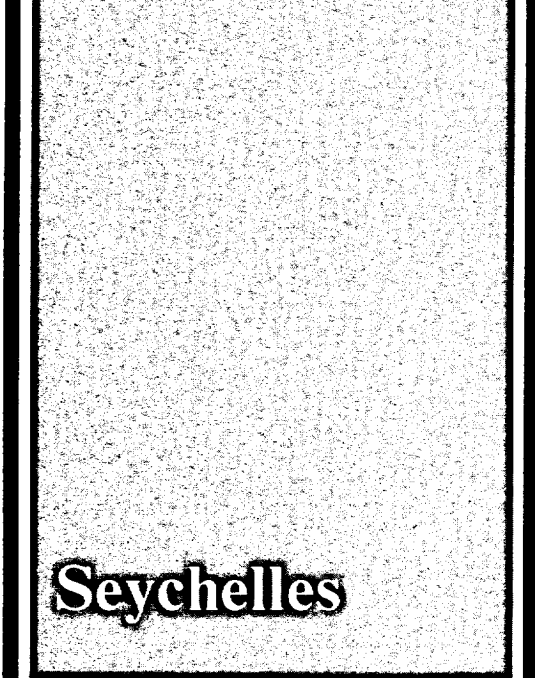




Seychelles

Independence Date:	June 29, 1976
Capital:	Victoria
Population:	65,000 (1983)
Economy:	The Seychelles economy is based primarily on agriculture (exports of copra, cinnamon and vanilla), fisheries and tourism.

Canada/Seychelles Bilateral Relations: Relations between Canada and Seychelles are cordial. Canada has been helpful to Seychelles in the past through a small aid fund administered by the Canadian High Commission in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania and the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Future development cooperation will be through NGOs or CIDA's Institutional Cooperation Programmes.

President France Albert René: Born in 1935 in Victoria, Seychelles, President René was educated in the Seychelles, Switzerland and England, where he studied law. In 1964, he was elected leader of the Seychelles People's Democratic Party. After independence in 1976, he served as Prime Minister, and Minister of Works and Development in the coalition government. He assumed the Presidency in 1977, following the coup that removed the Mancham government from power. President René was elected President in June 1979 as the candidate nominated by the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, the country's sole political party. He is married with one son.