

SENEGAL

Bordered to the north by Mauritania, to the east by Mali and to the south by Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, Senegal is made up in large part of a plain which stretches to the Atlantic Ocean. Four rivers flow through Senegal. That part of the country nearest the Sahelian region has been affected by drought in recent years. Formerly a French colony, Senegal achieved independence in 1960.

Domestic policy

Senegal's domestic policy is profoundly marked by the personality of His Excellency Léopold Sédar Senghor, who has been President of the country since independence. President Senghor's political philosophy is one of democratic socialism based on two main objectives: rationalization of production and achievement of social justice. Having great prestige internationally and being assured of traditional support at home, the President has little difficulty maintaining his popularity; accordingly Senegal enjoys remarkable social and political stability.

In the legislative and presidential elections of February 25, 1978, the Senegalese government was able to make great progress toward liberalization of the regime and construction of a Senegalese democracy. The limited multipartism in the National Assembly, with three parties each representing a defined political view point (democratic socialist, liberal democratic, and Marxist-Leninist), constitutes an important step in preparation for a succession to Senghor. In 1979, a fourth political party of conservative outlook was authorized. A few leftist, populist and Islamist political parties have not been recognized. The constitution provides that the current Prime Minister will automatically succeed the Head of State in case of the latter's resignation, death or impeachment.

Economically, Senegal is essentially an agricultural country. Peanut cultivation dominates Senegalese agriculture, and represents almost 50 per cent of the country's annual export revenues. Economic growth is weak, with a level of 2.6 per cent per year since independence; in light of the population growth, this figure indicates a stagnant economy. Great efforts have been made, however, to diversify production, and with this objective in view, much importance is given to the development of