

## CAMEROON/CANADA BILATERAL RELATIONS

Canada's relationship with Cameroon is more than just cordial, and the bilingual character of the two countries has helped to create reciprocal interests. The first Canadian embassy in Francophone Africa was established in Cameroon in 1962 by Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

Although Cameroon is not an exclusively Francophone country, it takes an active interest in many international Francophone institutions. However, in view of the fact that Cameroon is a bilingual country with an important anglophone minority, Cameroon has preferred to be an associate rather than a full member of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT). Furthermore, Cameroon does not take part in the annual summit meetings between the chiefs-of-state of France and a number of (mainly Francophone) countries.

Canada's development assistance and cooperation program with Cameroon is greatly appreciated by the Cameroonian people and is one of Canada's oldest in Africa. It is a very diversified program, but one which pays particular attention to the large infrastructure projects which are priority items for the Cameroon government. These include the restructuring of the Transcameroonian railway and enlarging the port of Douala.

The Canadian bilateral assistance program with Cameroon has totalled some \$73.2 million since 1965, mostly in the form of subsidies. The 1978-83 program is principally directed towards stimulating rural production, improving the transportation system and taking an integrated approach to forest sector development.