

Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Date of independence:	September 10, 1974
Capital:	Bissau
Population:	767,739 (1979)
Head of State and Head of Government	His Excellency Brigadier-General Joao Bernardo Vieira
Economy:	Agriculture

Canada/Guinea-Bissau Relations: Guinea-Bissau gained independence from Portugal in 1974. It has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world. The country's only developed resource is agriculture although it has bauxite, phosphate and zircon deposits, and apparently off-shore oil as well. Relations between Canada and Guinea-Bissau have so far been quite limited, although a number of co-operants have worked with NGOs in Guinea-Bissau.

His Excellency Brigadier-General Joao Bernardo Vieira: Born in 1939. One of the most important military chiefs in the battle for independence. Member of the standing executive committee of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Following independence in 1975, responsible for the Armed Forces, President of the National Assembly. Trained for one year in Cuba. Chief State Commissioner (Prime Minister) in 1978. On November 14, 1980, headed a coup carried out primarily by officers to oust President Luiz Cabral. Leader of the Revolutionary Council that took power.