

Democratic Republic of Madagascar

Date of independence:	June 27, 1960
Capital:	Antananarivo
Population:	9.5 million (1983)
Head of State and Head of Government:	His Excellency Admiral Didier Ratsiraka
Economy:	Economy primarily agricultural; the main exports are spices, coffee and other agricultural products.

Canada/Madagascar Relations: Canada has long been present in Madagascar through religious communities active primarily in education. Political ties have been rather limited since neither country has an embassy in the other's capital. A certain number of small and medium-sized Canadian businesses have become established in Madagascar.

His Excellency Admiral Didier Ratsiraka: Born 1936 in Vatmandry in Tamatave province. Entered the École navale de Brest, obtained a diploma as a signals engineer, graduated from the École supérieure de guerre navale, military attaché to the Madagascan embassy in Paris. May 1972, Minister of Foreign Affairs; February 1975, member of the Military Directorate. On June 15, before the Directorate dissolved, it invested Mr Ratsiraka as head of state and government. Elected President of the Republic for a seven-year term by referendum on December 21, 1975, and re-elected on December 7, 1982. Promoted to Admiral on December 31, 1983.