

PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE
OF MALI

President Traoré was born in 1936 in Kayes, on the border between Senegal and Mali. He began his career with the French Army, having first attended the Officer Training School in Fréjus. He was assigned to the Malian Army in 1960 and was promoted Lieutenant in 1964. On November 19, 1968 he led a Military Committee of National Liberation in a takeover of the regime of Modibo Keita.



Since 1969, when he became General and President of the Government, Lt. Traoré has skillfully avoided a number of danger points, including some attempted coups. The new regime promised to hold free parliamentary and presidential elections. Its purpose was to dismantle the country's socialist structures, to reorganize the economy and to achieve national reconciliation. A new constitution was adopted by referendum in 1974. Civilian government did not return until five years later, however, in order to allow a new party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM) to be created. General Traoré has been its Secretary-General since March, 1979. Legislative and presidential elections were held in June, 1979 and then in 1985, giving President Traoré, whose list received 99% of the votes, a five-year term.

President Traoré was President in Office of the West African Economic Community in 1977, and is currently in the same role with the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). He is currently pursuing a more liberal economic policy, in cooperation with the IMF.

President Traoré visited Canada in 1978 in the context of the OMVS. Along with Prime Minister Mulroney, President Traoré took part in the Paris Francophone Summit in February 1986.