
Cameroon

Date of Independence:

January 1, 1960

Capital: Yaoundé**Population:** 11.4 million**Head of State:**

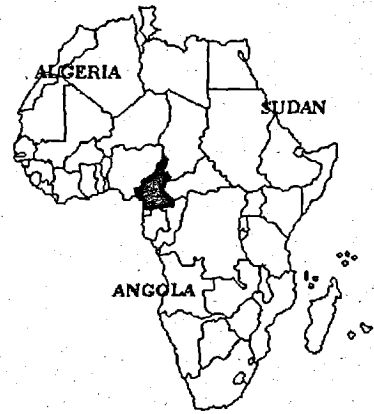
His Excellency Paul Biya

Head of Government:

Simon Achidi Achu

Foreign Minister:

F. Leopold Oyono

Economy: Oil, agriculture,
lumber, aluminum.

Canada-Cameroon Relations: In 1962, Cameroon became the first country in Francophone Africa with which Canada established diplomatic relations. Cameroon has since become one of our most important partners on the African continent. An important network of contacts at all levels has given our relations a productive momentum that goes well beyond the development aid area. Our trade with Cameroon is among our most significant with sub-Saharan Africa, reaching a total of more than \$26 million in 1991.

Canadian Aid: The co-operation program, which began in 1961, is one of the oldest in Africa. It is concentrated primarily in the areas of forestry, energy and human resources development. In 1991-92, Canada's bilateral assistance totalled \$28.1 million, and is estimated at \$22 million for 1992-93.

Political Authorities: His Excellency Paul Biya, President: Born in 1933, he received his secondary schooling in Cameroon (taught by Canadian brothers) and later at the Lycée Louis Le Grand in Paris. He graduated in public law and has a diploma from the Institut d'études politiques. Mr. Biya became Prime Minister in 1975 and President after his predecessor resigned in 1982. He was elected in 1988, then re-elected in 1993 in a disputed multi-party election.

Simon Achidi Achu, Prime Minister: Born in 1934, he held several positions before being appointed Secretary-General of the Public Service in 1971. He was Minister of Justice from 1972 to 1975. He left the government in 1975 to return to private life, where he worked at the local level. He was responsible for a planters' co-operative up to the time of his appointment as Prime Minister in April 1992. He heads a coalition government.

F. Leopold Oyono, Minister of External Relations: A famous author, Mr. Oyono has been Cameroon's ambassador to many countries: Liberia (1963-65), the EEC, Belgium and the Netherlands (1965-69), France (1969-70), Morocco (1970), Italy, (1971), Permanent Representative to UNESCO (1971-75), the United Nations (1975), and Ambassador to the United Kingdom (1984-85).