

Central African Republic

Date of Independence:	August 13, 1960
Capital:	Bangui
Population:	2,470,000 (1983)
Head of State:	His Excellency General André Kolingba (1981)
Economy:	Diamonds, uranium, wood, food crops, cotton, coffee, groundnuts.

Canada/Central African Republic Relations: The Central African Republic (CAR) is a small, landlocked country and one of the world's poorest nations. Canada's relations with the CAR have fluctuated since independence. For a while they made no progress, particularly because of the tension caused by the Bokassa dictatorship. Relations improved when the country returned to a more conventional government, but the world economic crisis has prevented rapid progress. A number of Canadian NGOs are active in the CAR, and some Canadian firms have contracts from multilateral organizations.

His Excellency André Kolingba: Born in 1935 in Bangui. Pursued a military career in France and the CAR. Became a general in 1973. Appointed ambassador to Canada in 1975; later posted to West Germany. In 1979, became Chief of Staff of the CAR Armed Forces. In 1981, he overthrew President Dacko and became President of the Military Committee for National Recovery and Head of Government.