

Republic of Vanuatu

Date of Independence:	July 30, 1980
Capital:	Port Vila
Population:	127,000
Head of State:	H.E. Ati George Sokomanu, President
Head of Government:	The Honourable Father Walter Lini, C.B.E., Prime Minister
Economy:	Agriculturally based, but with an important expatriate ser- vices sector. Principle exports are Copra, cocoa, and coffee. Little manufacturing.

Canada-Vanuatu Relations: Canadian bilateral assistance to Vanuatu is restricted to Mission-Administered Funds (MAF) and support for non-governmental organizations. For 1985/86, \$150,000 has been allocated for small project assistance, and an additional \$100,000 has been granted to assist with disaster relief reconstruction following two tropical cyclones in January. Canada has also provided Vanuatu with bilingual legal expertise through the Public Service Commission Executive Interchange Program. As well, approximately 25 CUSO volunteers are in Vanuatu, working in health services and village fisheries.

Honourable Father Walter Lini: Father Lini was born in 1942 and was ordained as an Anglican Deacon in 1969. He was elected President of the National (now Vanua'aku) Party in 1974. In the 1979 elections, the Vanua'aku Party won a majority with Father Lini as Chief Minister. On independence in 1980, he became Vanuatu's first Prime Minister and he was re-elected in 1983.