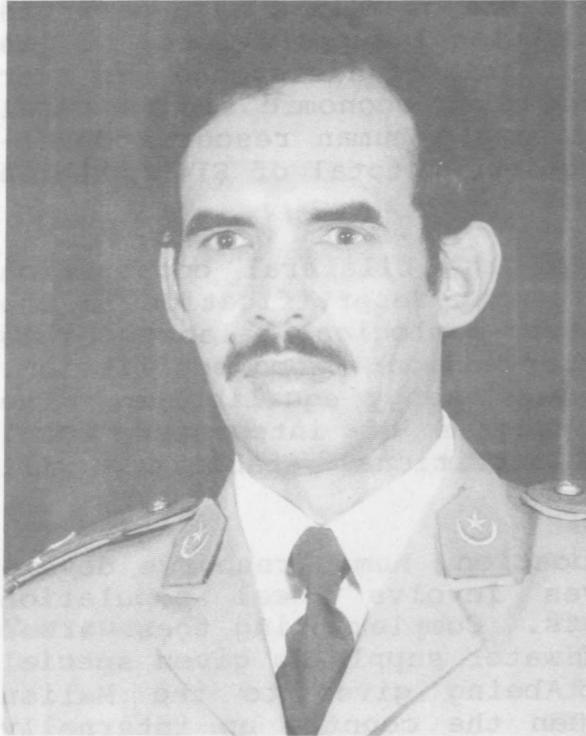


PRESIDENT MAAOUYA OULD  
SID'AHMED TAYA  
OF MAURITANIA



The President of Mauritania, His Excellency Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, was born in Atar, approximately 250 miles northeast of the capital Nouakchott in 1941. As a soldier, Colonel Taya studied in France at various military schools. President Taya began his military career in Mauritania in 1960 where he held a number of important command positions, including Assistant Chief of Staff of the National Army and Minister of National Defence.

A member of the Military Committee for the National Welfare, Colonel Taya was appointed Prime Minister on April 25, 1981, a post he held for close to three years. In March 1984, Colonel Taya was named Chief of Staff of the National Army. On December 12, 1984, he became President of the Military Committee for the National Welfare and Head of State.

President Taya's main goals in coming to power were to improve Mauritania's economy, reduce corruption and restore civil liberties, starting with the release of all political prisoners of the old regime. President Taya also took measures to ensure greater equity and efficiency in the distribution of emergency food aid.

President Taya is married and has two children.