

News Release

Minister for
External Relations
and International
Development



Communiqué

Ministre des
Relations extérieures
et du développement
international

No. 253

November 5, 1990.

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN TO VISIT CANADA

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announced today that the Prime Minister of the Republic of Benin, Mr. Nicéphore Soglo, will be in Canada for a working visit November 6 to 10, 1990.

Mr. Soglo, executive director at the World Bank from 1979 to 1986, has been Prime Minister of Benin since February 1990. He will be in Ottawa to explain the mandate of his transitional government, which is to establish a multi-party system and democratic institutions in this West African country. The Marxist-Leninist regime, in place since 1972 in Benin, is thus peacefully giving way to a more democratic and multi-party system. Legislative and presidential elections are scheduled to take place in February and March 1991 respectively.

"This visit provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen our bilateral ties with Benin and to reiterate Canada's willingness to support greater openness and democracy around the world," said Madame Landry.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Soglo will meet with CIDA officials as well as with representatives of several Crown corporations with international activities.

The Prime Minister of Benin will conclude his visit by holding consultations with both the public and private sectors in Montreal.

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