

Republic of the Ivory Coast

Date of Independence:	August 7, 1960
Capitals:	Abidjan (economic and administrative) Yamoussoukro (political)
Population:	9,294,000
Head of State and Head of Government:	His Excellency Félix Houphouet-Boigny
Economy:	Agricultural economy based mainly on export crops: coffee, cocoa, pineapple, cotton and wood. Some manufacturing.

Canada/Ivory Coast Relations: Canada decided to open an embassy in Abidjan in 1969, owing to the increasing role of the Ivory Coast in African affairs and our policy of support to Francophone countries. President Houphouet-Boigny visited Canada in June 1983. Our trade with the Ivory Coast in 1984 comprised \$16.9 million in exports to that country and \$33.2 million in imports. Canada's co-operation program in the Ivory Coast, which began in 1968, first concentrated on education, but later expanded to water supply, energy, mining and tourism. CIDA has a rural electrification project (\$41 million) in the northwest region of the country, and provides a \$25 million line of credit, of which 65% has been advanced to the Ministry of Rural Development. A bilateral commission meets every two years.

His Excellency Félix Houphouet-Boigny: Born in 1905. Physician. Founder and president of the Rassemblement démocratique africain and the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire. In 1946, represented the Ivory Coast in the French National Assembly; from 1956 to 1960, held cabinet positions in a number of French governments. In 1960, became the first President of the Ivory Coast. Re-elected for a sixth mandate on October 27, 1985. Senior head of state in Black Africa.