

each delegation was announced, a charming young African, dressed in a green uniform with a sash of Cameroons colours, introduced herself as "guide". Each delegation was allotted a car with its national flag on the windshield and a driver who spoke fluent French.

The Canadian delegation was lodged in an African house on the outskirts of the town belonging to a member of the Cameroons Government. Despite its isolated situation, it furnished a better opportunity of learning the African way of life than any hotel lodging could have done. The house was modern and airy, with electric light, refrigeration and modern plumbing, and was surrounded by a large garden full of flowers and birds. A reminder that it was a trouble-torn area of Africa was given by the warning that all doors and shutters must be kept securely locked after dark. Security patrols checked every hour on the hour during the night to make sure that the delegation had not been disturbed. There were serious disorders in the nearby African quarter, where three men were murdered and several score Africans were killed by UPC supporters in an effort to throw a pall over the celebrations; and the major airports were also attacked and damaged.

Presentation of Credentials

Early on the morning of January 1 (the day's work starts at 7.30 in tropical Africa), Mr. Comtois presented his credentials to Prime Minister Ahidjo at the presidential residence, transmitting Prime Minister Diefenbaker's congratulations and good wishes for the future of the new Republic and giving him two books—Mr. Bruchesi's magnificently illustrated volume "Canada" and a copy of the new atlas of Canada published in French by Mr. Comtois' own department. Mr. Comtois remarked to the Prime Minister that although geographically Canada and the Cameroons were far apart they would be next-door neighbours at the United Nations, where the Cameroons, Canada and Ceylon sit in that order, and he hoped that future relations would always be close and cordial.

After these formalities, events moved to the sports stadium, where the flag of the independent Cameroons was raised with great ceremony. There was a most impressive march past of squads of young Cameroons students from all districts, followed by tribesmen in their native costumes, dancers, musicians and a striking delegation of pygmies from the rain forests. The march past took over three hours and was followed by an informal "little chop", a programme of sporting events, and African dances rounded out the afternoon. In the evening Prime Minister Ahidjo held a gala reception, which culminated in the election of "Miss Independence Day".

The next morning chartered airplanes transported the visiting delegations to Douala, the largest commercial centre, near the mouth of the Vouri River. Here the delegation was lodged in a modern air-conditioned hotel, which was a grateful change from the oppressive heat and humidity of Douala, which possesses one of the most trying climates in Africa. The same type of ceremony was repeated at the Douala stadium, where, however, a large contingent of ex-members of the