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FIRST MEETING OF CANADA-IVORY COAST
JOINT BILATERAL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 17-19, 1981

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the first session of the Canada-Ivory Coast Bilateral Joint Commission was held on November 17, 18 and 19, 1981, in Ottawa. The Ivory Coast delegation was led by His Excellency Siméon Aké, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ivory Coast, and the Canadian delegation by the Honourable Pierre Bussières, Minister of State for Finance.

In their opening addresses, both ministers expressed their common desire to see the first session of the Canada-Ivory Coast Bilateral Joint Commission lay the foundation for enhanced bilateral relations between the two countries. In this connection, the meeting of the bilateral commission made it possible to take stock of current co-operation projects and also to examine new directions which the two parties wished to take in the next co-operation programme. The Ivory Coast side expressed its satisfaction with the Canadian decision to continue to provide support for projects under way and to expand its financial and technical assistance by introducing new mechanisms of co-operation.

The two delegations also examined the state of commercial relations between their countries and agreed to seek solutions that would increase and equalize their volume of exchange. With this in mind, the parties expressed special interest in the signature of an air agreement, and of agreements on investment guarantees and double taxation. On industrial co-operation, the Ivory Coast side

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