

Economic issues featured in Canada-Cameroon talks

Some 60 ministers, government officials and businessmen from Cameroon visited Canada in early May to participate in the second session of the Cameroon-Canada Bilateral Commission and Economic Days Canada/Cameroon.

The second session of the Cameroon-Canada Bilateral Commission was held in Ottawa, May 6 to 8, and presided over jointly by Canada's Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina and Cameroon's Minister for Foreign Affairs William Eteki Mboumoua.



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Mrs. Vézina addressed the bilateral commission meeting in Ottawa.

During the discussions, Canadian and Cameroon representatives reviewed many important international questions, particularly those pertaining to Africa. They also reviewed and defined the broad objectives

of their economic co-operation program for the coming years, and discussed economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

The Cameroon-Canada Bilateral Commission was established following the official visit made to Cameroon by Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark in July 1979, and the first session was held in Yaoundé, in April 1982. The commission was set up to serve as a framework for discussions on bilateral relations with Cameroon which is one of Canada's oldest partners in Sub-Saharan Africa and the oldest in Francophone Africa.

The meeting of the commission was followed by a series of economic seminars held in Vancouver, May 9-11, in Toronto, May 12-13, and in Montreal on May 15-17.

The seminars were organized by the Cameroon government, the Canadian Export Association and the Department of External Affairs, to bring to the attention of the Canadian public, and especially of the business community, the trade and economic opportunities which Cameroon offers. Different aspects of industrial and commercial co-operation between Canada and Cameroon in the sectors of forestry, mines, energy, transportation, computers and food processing were among the issues discussed.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade Stewart McInnes presided at the economic seminar in Vancouver, Minister of State for Forestry Gerald Merrithew presided in Toronto and Minister of State for Small Businesses André Bissonnette led

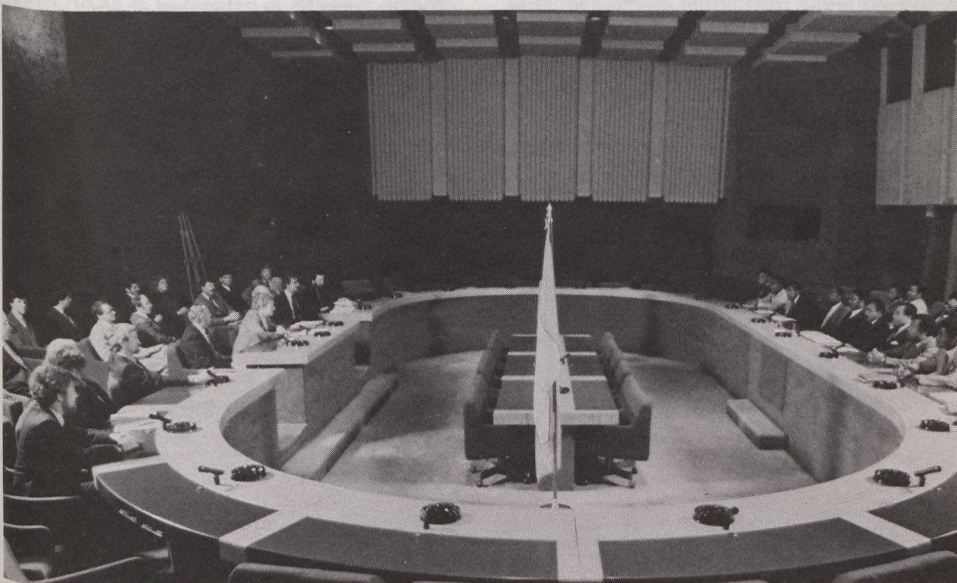


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Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina with the Canadian delegation (left) and Minister for Foreign Affairs William Eteki Mboumoua with Cameroon representatives at the second session of the Cameroon-Canada Bilateral Commission.

the seminar in Montreal. Minister of State for Planning and Land Management Youssoufa Daouda led the Cameroon delegation.

SIMCAN project

Following the bilateral commission meeting in Ottawa and as the highlight of Economic Days Canada/Cameroon, Mrs. Vézina announced the signing of a contract with SIMCAN of Montreal, Quebec for an industrial co-operation project in Cameroon. The project will be financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Under the project, SIMCAN will establish a network of dealerships for the maintenance, parts supply and distribution of Canadian equipment to improve the durability and performance of equipment used in many West African Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) projects. The project will be established in Douala, an important seaport in Cameroon.

Several Cameroon businesses will participate to ensure that there is a network of service centres capable of providing follow-up service after initial sales of equipment are made.

Mrs. Vézina said that "the project will ensure that Canadian equipment sold in Cameroon will be serviced with efficiency and effectiveness". She added that "it will also improve opportunities for Canadian businessmen in West Africa by assuring a more responsible and effective means of servicing Canadian equipment sold there".

Mrs. Vézina also announced that the co-operative agreement between the Canadian Export Association (CEA) and the National Centre of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Cameroon has been renewed.

The project, financed by the Industrial Co-operation program of CIDA allows CEA to maintain a resident director at Douala on a full-time basis to promote investment projects by Canadian business in co-operation with Cameroonian business investors.

Natural gas for Japan

Mobil Oil Canada Limited and Petro-Canada are taking over management of a \$2-billion project to ship liquified natural gas to Japan. The consortium will also include Nissho-Iwai Corp., a Japanese trading company, West Coast Transmission Limited of Vancouver and Suncor Inc.

The project is slated to supply 2.3 million tonnes of liquified natural gas annually to Japan for a 20-year period. The gas will be produced from fields in B.C. and Alberta and transported through a new pipeline. Shipments are expected to begin in 1989.