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Visit by the Honourable Monique  
Vezina Minister of External  
Relations and International  
Development and Minister of State  
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Dept. of External Affairs  
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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**VISIT**

**BY**

**THE HONOURABLE MONIQUE VÉZINA**

**MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR SENIORS**

**TO BENIN**

**GHANA, NIGER, MALI**

**AND TO**

**FRANCE**

**May 1993**

43-267-4

Canada

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**FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1993**

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Ottawa

2:00 p.m. Departure for Cotonou, Bénin

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**SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1993**

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**COTONOU, BÉNIN**

5:50 a.m. Land in Cotonou  
Cotonou International Airport  
Welcoming

Photo op and press briefing

4:00 p.m. Visit to  
Regional Centre for Development  
and Health (CREDESA)

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**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1993**

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Morning Mr. Théodore Holo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Robert Tagnon  
Minister of Planning

Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Paul Doussou  
Minister of Finance

1:00 p.m. Working lunch given by Mr. Nick Hare  
to Canadian Ambassador to Benin  
3:00 p.m.

Note: Attending the luncheon will be certain ministers, the Speaker of the National Assembly, representatives of the Human Rights Commission and of the Association of Women Jurists, and Monsignor Archbishop Sousa (mediator in the Togolese situation).

Photo op and press briefing

- 4:00 p.m. Visit to Panafrican Centre  
for Cooperative Training  
Note: Technical assistance from Desjardins Movement.
- 5:15 p.m. Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Nicéphore Soglo  
President of the Republic of Benin  
  
Photo op and press briefing
- 7:00 p.m. Reception hosted by Mr. Nick Hare  
Canadian Ambassador to Benin  
for the Canadian community and businessmen and their  
partners in Benin  
  
Note: participants in Canada World Youth exchanges.
- 8:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by  
the Government of Benin

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**MONDAY, MAY 10, 1993**

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**ACCRA, GHANA**

- Morning Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Obed Asamoah  
Ghanaian Minister of Foreign Affairs  
  
Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Jerry J. Rawlings  
President of the Republic of Ghana  
  
Photo op and press briefing
- Afternoon Talk with  
H.E. Dr. Kwesi Botchwey  
Secretary of Finance and Economic Planning  
  
Inspect Afrique 2000 (Credit Union)  
Note: Access for women to credit

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**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1993**

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Morning

Talk with  
H.E. Dr. Kwesi Botchwey  
Secretary of Finance and Economic Planning  
Note: In case the talk could not  
take place the previous day.

Visit to port for delivery of Champion graders  
Note: Structural adjustment project

Visit to training centre and workshops  
for Gratis project in Tema

Afternoon

Visit to Akosombo Dam  
Note: Involvement of Canadian General Electric

Evening

Reception given by Mr. Douglass Fogerty  
High Commissioner of Canada to Ghana  
for the Canadian community and businessmen  
and their Ghanaian partners

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1993**

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8:00 a.m.

Departure for Niamey

**NIAMEY, NIGER**

10:30 a.m.

Arrival

11:30 a.m.

Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Mahamane Ousmane  
President of the Republic of Niger

Photo op and press briefing

12:30 p.m.

Talk with  
H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou  
Prime Minister of Niger

3:30 p.m.

Départure for Bamako

MALI

**Bamako**

- 4:10 p.m. Arrival in Bamako
- 4:15 p.m. Talk with  
Ministers and delegation at reception
- Photo op and press briefing
- 6:15 p.m. Talk with  
to Mr. Mohamed Alhousseini Touré  
7:00 p.m. Minister of External Relations
- 7:15 p.m. Talk with  
Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré  
President of the Republic of Mali
- Photo op and press briefing
- 8:30 p.m. "Private" dinner hosted by  
Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré  
President of the Republic of Mali.

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**THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1993**

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**Kati**

- 8:30 a.m. Visit Brian Mulroney School  
Note: This very important visit symbolizes Canadian  
follow-up to the Chaillot Summit. Presentation of 400 books  
(Canada Fund).

**Bamako**

- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon hosted by Mr. Denis J. Bélisle  
to  
2:30 p.m. Canadian Ambassador to Mali  
Note: for the Société civile du Mali
- 4:45 p.m. Talk with  
Members of the Canadian Coopération  
Committee

6:00 p.m.

Reception hosted by  
Mr. J. Denis Bélisle  
Canadian Ambassador to Mali  
for the Canadian community, Ministers of the Government, the  
diplomatic corps, representatives of the political parties,  
representatives of the National Assembly and main Malian  
partners of the Embassy

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**FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1993**

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**Bamako**

11:00 a.m.

Meet the press

2:00 p.m.

Departure for France

**FRANCE**

**Nice**

8:55

Arrival  
Nice International Airport Côte d'Azur

Welcoming

**Cannes**

1:00 p.m.

Possible luncheon with Mr. Jean-Louis Roy  
Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural  
and Technical Cooperation

Evening

Talk with  
Mr. Jacques Toubon  
Minister of Culture and la Francophonie, followed by  
reception and launching ceremony for Haitian film

# News Release

Minister for  
External Relations  
and International  
Development



# Communiqué

Ministre des  
Relations extérieures  
et du développement  
international

No. 108

May 6, 1993

## THE HONOURABLE MONIQUE VÉZINA TO VISIT WEST AFRICA AND FRANCE

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Vézina, will visit four West African countries and France from May 7 to 16.

Mrs. Vézina will visit Benin on May 8 and 9; Ghana, May 10 to 12; Niger, May 12; Mali, May 12 to 14; and France, May 14 to 16. She will hold talks with African heads of state and government on prospects for co-operation between Canada and their countries, and on political and economic developments in the region. She will also use the occasion to meet numerous ministers and the Canadian community at work in these countries, and to visit projects supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"On the one hand, the purpose of this visit is to reaffirm Canada's commitments toward Africa and further to lend support to the ongoing process of democratization and economic reform on the continent. On the other hand, the tour will provide an opportunity to take stock of Canada's bilateral and regional assistance programs and make preparations for this October's Mauritius Summit of La Francophonie," said the Minister.

At the end of her West African visit, Mrs. Vézina will travel to France, where she will meet with the new French

Affaires extérieures et  
Commerce extérieur Canada  
External Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

Canada



Minister of Culture and La Francophonie, Mr. Jacques Toubon, and the Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, Mr. Jean-Louis Roy. Mrs. Vézina will co-host, with Mr. Toubon, an evening highlighting La Francophonie, in the context of the Cannes Film Festival.

N.B.: An information kit is available upon request.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Manon Chevalier  
Special Assistant (Communications)  
Office of the Minister  
(819) 994-6161

or

Gabrielle Mathieu  
Media Relations Office  
Canadian International Development Agency  
(819) 953-6060

or

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874



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Biography of the Honourable Monique Vézina

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Backgrounders:

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2. Regional map
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### BENIN

Profile on Bénin

Backgrounder on Canada-Benin relations

Biographies:

- Nicéphore D. Soglo
- Théodore Holo
- Monseigneur de Sousa
- Paul Dossou
- Robert Tagnon

### GHANA

Profile on Ghana

Backgrounder on Canada-Ghana relations

Biographies:

- Jerry John Rawlings
- Obed Y. Asamoah
- Kwesi Botchwey

.../2

Canada

## NIGER

Profile on Niger

Backgrounder on Canada-Niger relations

Biographies: Mahamané Ousmane  
Mahamadou Issoufou

## MALI

Profile on Mali

Backgrounder on Canada-Mali relations

Biographies: Alpha Oumar Konaré  
Abdoulaye Sékou Sow  
Mohamed Alhousseini Touré

## FRANCE

Biography: Jacques Toubon



## The Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations and International Development and Minister of State for Seniors

Born in Rimouski, Quebec, Monique Vézina was elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Rimouski-Témiscouata on September 4, 1984.

She became a member of the Cabinet, having been appointed Minister for External Relations and thus also responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In June 1986, she became Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

In August 1987, Mrs. Vézina was appointed Minister of State for Transport, and in March 1988 she became Minister of State for Employment and Immigration. In September 1988, the Prime Minister added the Seniors portfolio to her responsibilities.

On January 4, 1993, Mrs. Vézina was re-appointed as Minister for External Relations and International Development while retaining the position of Minister of State for Seniors. The latter responsibility underlines the importance of seniors in Canadian society and provides a voice for them on matters of concern to them. Mrs. Vézina is also generally responsible for La Francophonie and for relations with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Vézina has been active in numerous social and educational organizations. Among other things, she has been National President of the Dames Hélène de Champlain movement, member of the board of directors and President of the Organismes familiaux associés du Québec, member of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation du Québec, and Chairperson of the Commission de l'enseignement secondaire.

Mrs. Vézina has been active in economic and financial circles as well, particularly within the Desjardins co-operative movement, as President of the Fédération des Caisses populaires Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent, as a member of the board of directors of the Confédération des Caisses populaires et d'économies Desjardins du Québec, and as President of the Fondation Desjardins.

Mrs. Vézina also served as Vice-Chairman of the board of directors of the Régie de l'assurance-automobile du Québec. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Quebec Real Estate Board.

As Minister of Supply and Services Canada, she was also responsible for Statistics Canada and the Royal Canadian Mint, while at the same time being the Receiver General of Canada.

As Minister of State for Transport, Mrs. Vézina served as spokesperson for issues concerning Quebec and the Francophone regions of Canada, and also dealt with issues concerning disabled persons.

In her position as Minister of State for Employment and Immigration, Mrs. Vézina was responsible for relations with Quebec and the Atlantic provinces in immigration, for numerous employment programs, including the legislated employment equity program, and for administering the Unemployment Insurance Act. At the same time, she served as Minister of State for Seniors within the National Health and Welfare portfolio.





## **L'honorable Monique Vézina, ministre des Relations extérieures et du Développement international et ministre d'État pour le Troisième âge**

Née à Rimouski au Québec, Mme Monique Vézina est élue députée de la circonscription de Rimouski-Témiscouata le 4 septembre 1984.

Elle accède alors au Cabinet fédéral en tant que ministre des Relations extérieures et, à ce titre, a également la responsabilité de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI). En juin 1986, elle devient ministre des Approvisionnement et Services du Canada.

En août 1987, madame Vézina est nommée ministre d'État aux Transports, et en mars 1988, elle devient ministre d'État à l'Emploi et l'Immigration. En septembre 1988, le Premier ministre du Canada ajoute le portefeuille du Troisième âge à ses responsabilités.

Enfin, le 4 janvier 1993, madame Vézina devient ministre des Relations extérieures et du Développement international, tout en demeurant ministre d'État pour le Troisième âge, responsabilité qui souligne l'importance des aînés dans la société canadienne et leur donne un porte-parole pour les questions qui les touchent de près. Mme Vézina a également la responsabilité générale de la Francophonie et des relations avec l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique.

Tout au long de sa carrière, Mme Vézina a oeuvré au sein de nombreux organismes sociaux et éducatifs. Elle a été notamment présidente nationale du Mouvement des Dames Hélène de Champlain, membre du conseil d'administration et présidente des Organismes familiaux associés du Québec, membre du Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation du Québec et présidente de la Commission de l'Enseignement secondaire.

La participation de Mme Vézina aux activités des milieux économiques et financiers est tout aussi marquante, notamment au sein du Mouvement coopératif Desjardins, à titre de présidente de la Fédération des Caisses populaires Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent, de membre de l'exécutif de la Confédération des Caisses populaires et d'économies Desjardins du Québec, et de présidente de la Fondation Desjardins.

Mme Vézina a aussi assumé la vice-présidence du conseil d'administration de la Régie de l'assurance-automobile du Québec. Elle a aussi fait partie du conseil d'administration de la Société immobilière du Québec.

En tant que ministre des Approvisionnement et Services Canada, elle fut également responsable de Statistique Canada, de la Monnaie Royale canadienne et en même temps Receveur général du Canada.

Comme ministre d'État aux Transports, madame Vézina a agi à titre de porte-parole pour les dossiers touchant le Québec et les régions francophones du pays, et s'est occupée aussi des questions concernant les personnes handicapées.

Dans sa charge de ministre d'État à l'Emploi et l'Immigration, madame Vézina a été chargée des relations avec le Québec et les provinces de l'Atlantique en matière d'immigration, de nombreux programmes dans le domaine de l'emploi, dont le programme légiféré d'équité en matière d'emploi, ainsi que de l'administration de la loi de l'assurance-chômage. Elle a assumé en même temps les fonctions de ministre d'État pour le Troisième âge au sein du portefeuille de la Santé nationale et du Bien-être social.



## WESTERN AFRICA

### A REGIONAL APPROACH

#### • BACKGROUND

Canada began to assist public development in Western Africa only after the wave of independence in the early 1960s. Co-operation, originally limited to education, has since expanded to include assistance with human resource development, agriculture, infrastructures, fisheries, protection of natural resources and the environment. More recently, Canada has lent support to structural adjustment programs, the democratic process and the strengthening of society.

Canada's total budget for Western Africa, which was only a few million dollars in the 1960s, totalled over \$200 million in 1992-1993.

Canadian programs in this region have been concentrated in the following countries: Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Ghana. Canada has also supported co-operative activities in almost all other countries in the region, but on a more intermittent basis.

#### • A REGIONAL VISION

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) long-term strategy, as set out in *Africa 21: A Vision of Africa for the 21st Century*, recommends adopting a regional approach, while giving priority to the establishment of democracy and support for entrepreneurship.

There is a broad consensus on this approach among a large number of organizations, including the Organization of African Unity, the Africa Leadership Forum and the Global Coalition for Africa. According to these organizations, increased regional integration and co-operation is one of the key factors for achieving sustainable development in Africa.

There are many challenges to be faced in Western Africa, and co-operation must adapt to the new realities. By adopting a more regional approach, future co-operation with countries in the region will be able to provide an appropriate response to these challenges.

● *REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS*

A regional approach to co-operation is not new for CIDA. What is new is the decision to make it one of the three pillars of CIDA's development assistance strategy in Africa. The following projects illustrate this approach:

● *PANAFTTEL*

Canadian co-operation in telecommunications in Western Africa began in 1978 with construction of a 3,000-km microwave network linking Dakar and Cotonou via Bamako, Ouagadougou and Niamey.

Once construction was completed, Canadian assistance to the Pan-African Telecommunications Agency (PANAFTTEL) continued to provide the technical training necessary to maintain the network. Also, institutional support for the national telecommunications offices in the five countries was developed to strengthen the independence and financial viability of these organizations.

Since all member countries experienced common technical and institutional concerns, they set up an unofficial forum for co-ordination. The Joint Co-ordination Committee was created in 1985, to promote greater co-operation and co-ordination among the network's member countries. This initiative led to exchanges of expertise and the formation of technical subcommittees to co-ordinate maintenance of the network.

● *HUMAN RIGHTS*

A major program to support the development of democracy and the promotion of human rights in Francophone Africa was launched recently. The Canadian Centre for Study and International Co-operation is responsible for managing this three-year program, which is valued at \$6 million.

The funded activities will encourage the promotion of democratic culture and human rights. A number of components are planned: various studies, support for initiatives by non-governmental partners in Africa, and support for organizations that either defend and promote human rights or organize training and awareness activities.

● *PAN-AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING*

The Centre was founded in 1967 to provide adequate training for Africans working in the co-operative and rural development sector. It received official status from the Pan-African Co-operative Conference, a group of 15 member states in sub-Saharan Africa.

The project to provide Canadian support for the Pan-African Centre for Co-operative Training began in 1985. CIDA provided around \$2 million between 1990 and 1992. Among other achievements, the Centre awarded diplomas to 45 students, completely reviewed and adapted the content of the "Studies in Co-operative Action" program, better equipped the information resource centre, and made the Centre's administrative and financial management more efficient.

• *CONTROLLING AIDS*

Canada is among the four largest donors in the international fight to control Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The Centre for International Co-operation in Health and Development at Laval University has created a focus program in more than ten Francophone African countries to control AIDS. This program supports various projects in the areas of education, counselling, epidemiological surveillance and control of sexually transmitted diseases.

• *PRIMTAF*

The Francophone Africa Technology Support Program (PRIMTAF) is designed to help participating countries assume their responsibilities more effectively in the area of technological development. PRIMTAF's activities take the form of partnerships with existing organizations or agencies. This country-specific Program is being implemented in 13 countries located in Africa and in the Indian Ocean vicinity.

May 1993

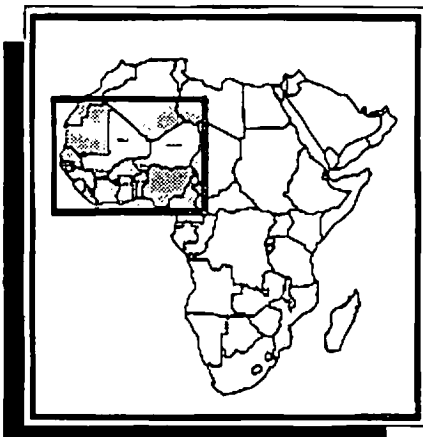
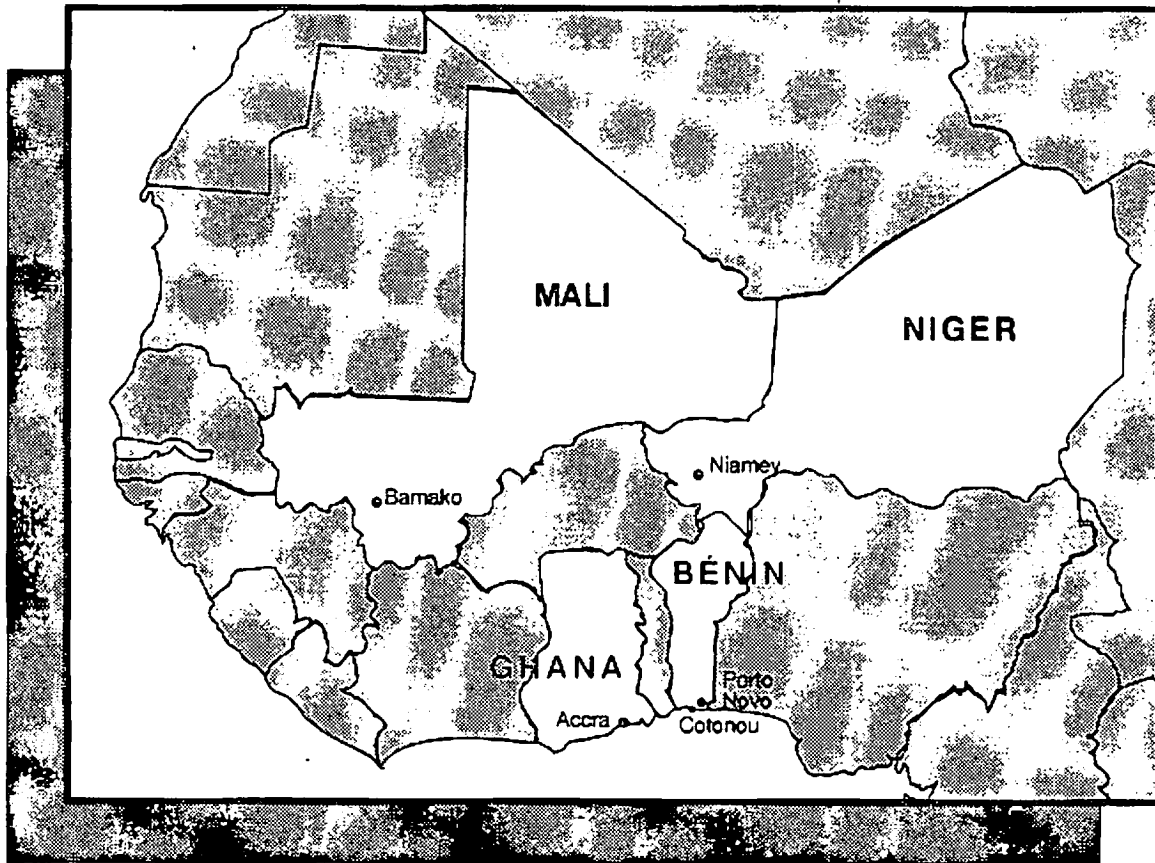


# AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

# WEST AFRICA

Visite officielle de l'honorable  
Monique Vézina  
Mai 1993

Official Visit of the Honourable  
Monique Vézina  
May 1993



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada

## CANADA, THE HEART OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

The Government of Canada quickly made La Francophonie an integral part of its foreign policy. La Francophonie is indeed the natural international extension of the French fact in Canada. The federal government has taken care to involve provinces with a substantial Francophone majority or minority, for the benefit of all Canadians.

### **DEFINITION AND HISTORY**

La Francophonie is the community of peoples who speak French or use it to varying degrees. It may also be regarded as an institutional complex, consisting of both governmental and private organizations and associations involved in pursuing dialogue and co-operation, which maintains the French language as the preferred means of communication.

Recognizing the importance of the French fact in this country, as well as its international dimension, the Government of Canada has associated itself with La Francophonie since the very beginning, participating actively in the creation and development of its numerous institutions. Canada was, thus, one of the founding members of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) in Niamey, Niger, in 1970, and has played an influential and effective role from the outset. Furthermore, Jean-Marc Léger, a Canadian from Quebec, was designated as ACCT's first Secretary-General.

### **INSTITUTIONS**

Over the years, the community of French-speaking countries has established various mechanisms and structures for discussion and consultation. Canada has played an active and ongoing role in all instances. ACCT remains the central component of La Francophonie. Its objectives are to promote mutual co-operation in education, culture, science and technology, to help bring people closer together through the French language. It seeks to create a new solidarity between North and South and to encourage the formation of enlightened opinions about the various French-speaking cultures. Its current Secretary-General is also a Canadian from Quebec, Jean-Louis Roy.

Founded in the 1960s, two permanent Ministers' Conferences consider education, and youth and sports, as avenues to contribute to the socio-economic development of member countries. Francophone Games, accompanied by major cultural events, are now held every four years. The second Games are scheduled for 1993 in France.

Moreover, a large number of paragonovernmental or private, professional or educational organizations, bound together by the French language, receive support from the federal government in the form of annual grants, contributions to meetings or loans of personnel.

### **THE APPEAL OF THE SUMMITS**

Since 1986, regular meetings of the heads of state or government of the member countries have given La Francophonie a boost. These summits are chosen as the opportunity for open dialogue on international issues of concern to the participating states, and they make it possible to mobilize the resources needed to support activities regarded as priorities.

Moreover, the Prime Minister of Canada distinguished himself at the fourth and most recent summit in Chaillot in the fall of 1991, when he proposed the creation of a human rights unit and stressed the merits of tying international assistance to respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights.

### **PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION**

Aware of Canadian realities, the Government of Canada has sought to find original solutions to ensure that the provinces can concretely participate in the activities of La Francophonie. Quebec and New Brunswick have thus been granted the status of participating governments, allowing the three governments to make an active and individual contribution within the ACCT. Ontario and Manitoba pool their efforts as part of the national delegation.

This provincial participation may occasionally even take the form of designating a provincial minister as head of the Canadian delegation to speak on Canada's behalf, as at conferences of Ministers of Education or Ministers of Youth and Sports. This spirit of openness has also made it possible to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement, allowing Quebec to attend the summits, providing for its full and complete participation in the aspect of co-operation, while Canada plays the leading role in political and economic matters, with Quebec acting as an "interested observer."

### **CANADA: A NATURAL LINK TO LA FRANCOPHONIE**

This Canadian participation in the multilateral institution of La Francophonie thus demonstrates Canada's desire to clearly project its true identity on the international scene. Moreover, this effort to bring the Francophone community closer together is not just the concern of the central government alone; it is a matter of interest to all Canadians. Many people are active participants, and everyone benefits.

## BENIN

### **PROFILE**

<i>Independence :</i>	<i>August 1, 1960 (France)</i>
<i>Capital City :</i>	<i>Porto Novo</i>
<i>Head of State and of Government :</i>	<i>Nicéphore SOGLO, elected President March 1991</i>
<i>Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation :</i>	<i>Théodore HOLO</i>
<i>Topography :</i>	<i>Long corridor, 135 km of coastline on Atlantic. Low-lying plains to the south, fertile plateaux to the north.</i>
<i>Climate :</i>	<i>Tropical</i>
<i>Main crops :</i>	<i>Cotton, corn, manioc, sorghum</i>
<i>Main resources :</i>	<i>Agricultural, offshore oil</i>
<i>Languages :</i>	<i>French (official), Fon, Yoruba and Adja to the south; and Bariba to the north.</i>
<i>Ethnic groups :</i>	<i>Fon (26%), Yoruba (14%), Adja, Bariba, Somba, Dendi, Tem and Ayizo</i>
<i>Religions :</i>	<i>Animist (60%), Christian (20%) and Muslim (20%)</i>
<i>Monetary unit :</i>	<i>CFA franc = 0.02FF</i>

<b>COMPARATIVE DATA</b>	<b>BENIN</b>	<b>CANADA</b>
<i>Area</i>	112 622 km <sup>2</sup>	9 976 000 km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Population (1990)</i>	4.74 million	27.52 million
<i>forecast year 2000</i>	6.5 million	29 million
<i>Population density</i>	41.1 pers/km <sup>2</sup>	2.6 pers/km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Urbanization (1990)</i>	37.7%	77.1%
<i>Avg. annual rate of population growth</i>	3.0%	0.6%
<i>Life expectancy 1990</i>	50.5	77.4
<i>Infant mortality 1990, per 1 000</i>	112.9	6.6
<i>Per capita GNP 1990</i>	US\$340	US\$20,370
<i>Avg. GNP growth (1991-BAD)</i>	4.7%	0.9% (1992)
<i>Inflation rate 1991</i>	3.5%	1.5 1992

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

<i>Main exports :</i>	<i>Palm oil, cashew nuts, seafood</i>
<i>Main imports :</i>	<i>Petroleum, construction materials, consumer goods</i>
<i>Main trading partners :</i>	<i>France, European Economic Community, Nigeria, China, Japan, United States</i>

### **TRADE WITH CANADA** (\$millions)

<i>Canadian Exports :</i>	<i>4.2 (1991), 1.5 (1992)</i>
<i>Canadian Imports :</i>	<i>negligible for the two years</i>
<i>Total Canadian contribution : (national and international)</i>	<i>10.59 (1991-1992)</i>

May 1993



## CANADA-BENIN RELATIONS

Our bilateral relations with Benin are focused mainly on co-operation and support for democratic development. President Soglo met with Minister Landry on visits to Canada in May 1987 and November 1990. Trade is limited and is balanced in Canada's favour. The Soglo administration has expressed receptivity toward new partnerships and the indicators of development suggest that Benin is on the right track.

Over the years, Benin has benefited from a modest Canadian Local Initiatives Fund and a series of traditional projects. Canada has supported projects in education, health and nutrition. Moreover, Canadian consulting engineers have contributed toward irrigation, energy, road transportation and communication projects. Benin is also the centre of a few regional projects, such as the Pan-African Telecommunications Agency (PANAFTTEL) and the African Centre for Co-operative Training.

### **Canadian Co-operation Program with Benin**

Canada decided to set up an official development assistance program for Benin shortly after the Francophone Summit (the Chaillot Summit) in the fall of 1991. This decision was essentially the result of Benin's development toward democracy.

Following two planning missions, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) concluded that one of the most beneficial initiatives for the country was to encourage the spirit of enterprise. Of such projects, in the planning stage, one can mention a New Brunswick initiative aimed at business women.

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Canada

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### Canadian Co-operation Program with Benin

Canada decided to set up an official development assistance program for Benin shortly after the Francophone Summit (the Chailot Summit) in the fall of 1991. This decision was essentially the result of Benin's development toward democracy.

Following two planning missions, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) concluded that one of the most beneficial initiatives for the country was to encourage the spirit of enterprise. Of such projects, in the planning stage, one can mention a New Brunswick initiative aimed at business women.

## **BENIN**

**H.E. Mr. Nicephore D. Soglo**

***President of the Republic***

*Born in Lomé, Togo on November 29, 1934  
Beninese nationality*

*Mr. Soglo was educated in France and obtained degrees in Administration, Private Law and Public Law. He pursued a career in the financial institutions of Benin and was Finance Minister under President Kérékou. Internationally, he was Governor of the International Monetary Fund, after which he became World Bank Administrator representing 24 African states. His experience gives him a sound knowledge of inter-African monetary and financial deliberations.*

*The Benin National Sovereignty Conference of February 1990, which signalled the beginning of the transition to a multipartite democracy and a market economy, chose him as Prime Minister and made him responsible for forming a transitional government. He was then elected President in the democratic elections of March 1991.*

*From the outset, his objectives have included : the construction of a democratic state in which human rights would predominate, the launching of a national economic recovery program, the application of a program of structural adjustment and the development of an improved educational system to draw on the potential of the country's youth.*

*In 1992, he became President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).*



**BENIN**

**Théodore Holo**

***Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation***

*Born April 15, 1948 in Porto Novo, Benin*

*Mr. Holo is an attorney by training and a university professor by vocation. He has a Doctorate in Law (Paris) and has authored a large number of legal, political and administrative studies. During the transitional period, he was Undersecretary-General of the High Council of the Republic and a member of the Constitutional Commission. He has been in office since March 1990.*

**BENIN**

**Monsignor de SOUSA**

***Archbishop of Cotonou***

*An important ecclesiastical and political figure, he played a decisive role in the transition between the Kérékou and Soglo governments. He presided over the National Sovereign Conference and is President of the High Council of the Republic.*

**BENIN**

**Paul Dossou**

***Minister of Finance***

*Born January 26, 1943 in Djougou, Benin*

*Mr. Dossou has a degree in Economics and has pursued a career in financial administration both in his country and internationally. He became Finance Minister in July 1991, after serving as Planning Minister.*

**BENIN**

**Robert Tagnon**

***Minister of Planning***

*A computer engineer by training, Mr. Tagnon is a staunch defender of the new government, having been strongly influenced by the 10 years he spent in prison under the Kérékou regime.*

## GHANA

### PROFILE

<i>Official Name :</i>	<i>Republic of Ghana</i>
<i>Independence :</i>	<i>March 6, 1957</i>
<i>Capital :</i>	<i>Accra (population 1.5 million)</i>
<i>Area :</i>	<i>238 537 km<sup>2</sup> (two-thirds the size of Newfoundland and Labrador)</i>
<i>Population :</i>	<i>15.4 million (1991), growth 3.2%</i>
<i>Leaders :</i>	<i>President Jerry J. Rawlings Vice-President Kow N. Arkaah Foreign Secretary Dr. Obed Asamoah Finance Minister Dr. Kwesi Botchwey</i>
<i>Political System :</i>	<i>Republic after military rule Referendum on new constitution passed 28 Apr 92 Elections residential, November 3, 1992; parliamentary December 29, 1992</i>
<i>Languages :</i>	<i>English (official), Ashanti, Fante, Ewe, Twi</i>
<i>Ethnic groups :</i>	<i>Ashanti (44%), Mole-Dagbani (16%), Ewe (13%)</i>
<i>Religions :</i>	<i>Tribal (45%), Christianity (43%), Islam (12%)</i>
<i>Currency :</i>	<i>Cedi: C\$ 1.00 = 400 cedis (Dec 1992 approx)</i>

### COMPARATIVE DATA

	GHANA	CANADA
<i>Area</i>	<i>238.537 km<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>9 976 000 km<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Population (1990)</i>	<i>15.4 million</i>	<i>27.5 million</i>
<i>Forecast for 2000</i>	<i>19 million</i>	<i>29 million</i>
<i>Population density</i>	<i>64.5 pers/km<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>2.6 pers/km<sup>2</sup></i>

<i>COMPARATIVE DATA</i>	<i>GHANA</i>	<i>CANADA</i>
<i>Urbanization (1990)</i>	43%	77.1%
<i>Average annual population growth rate</i>	3.2%	0.6%
<i>Life expectancy at birth (1990)</i>	54 years	77.4 years
<i>Infant mortality (1990, per 1 000)</i>	97	6.6
<i>GDP per capita (1990)</i>	US\$400	US\$20,370
<i>GDP growth rate (1990)</i>	5.3%	0.9% (1992)
<i>Inflation rate (1991)</i>	10%	4.2% (1992)
<i>Economy :</i>	<i>GDP US\$ 6.5 billion, growth 5% (1991)</i> <i>GDP per capita US\$ 420 (1991)</i>	
<i>Resources :</i>	<i>Gold, timber, bauxite, diamonds</i>	
<i>Exports :</i>	<i>Cocoa, bauxite, timber, gold</i>	
<i>Imports :</i>	<i>Oil, food, machinery, consumer goods</i>	
<i>External debt :</i>	<i>US\$ 3.5 billion (1990)</i>	
<i>Donors :</i>	<i>IDA, UK, Japan, ADB, Canada, France</i>	
<i>Canadian Aid :</i>	<i>C\$ 68.28 million (1991-92 country &amp; multilateral)</i>	
<i>Bilateral Trade :</i>	<i>Exports from Canada C\$ 38.1 million (1991)</i> <i>Imports to Canada C\$ 8.1 million (1991)</i>	

May 1993



## CANADA-GHANA RELATIONS

Canada's relations with Ghana reflect three decades of personal and official contacts through our aid program and in international organizations. Canada provided observers for the constitutional referendum on short notice, and also made available substantial assistance and expert observers for the presidential elections. The most recent high-level visits were by Hon. Walter McLean MP in February 1993 and January 1992, and Minister Landry in September 1989. Douglass Fogerty has headed our High Commission in Accra since 1990, and Annan Cato has headed the Ghanaian High Commission in Ottawa since last May.

There were modest trade benefits as Canada imported \$5 million of cocoa and aluminum in 1992 and exported some \$26 million of wheat (fourth-largest market in Africa), trucks and other items. Canadian General Electric recently won a \$36-million European-financed contract to retrofit six hydro-electric generators at the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River. Canadian investment in the revitalized gold-mining sector has been growing recently, as gold is projected to surpass cocoa as the leading primary export.

### **Canada's Assistance Program for Ghana**

Established in 1958, the Canada-Ghana co-operation program was the first official assistance program implemented by our country in Africa. Between 1958 and 1992, Canada provided approximately \$840 million to Ghana, just over half of it in bilateral assistance. For the 1992-1993 fiscal year, the bilateral funds allocated to Ghana amounted to about \$31.6 million.

Support for Ghana's structural adjustment program is the largest component in terms of disbursements under Canada's assistance program (about \$15 million a year). This policy of support has made it possible for the government of Ghana not only to reorganize its finances but, at the same time, to also restore the industrial infrastructures and provide social services to the people.

The second major component of the program is based on relieving poverty through projects in many sectors : food aid, access to drinking water (with community participation), women in development (particularly access to credit -- a project that is managed by the Canadian Co-operative Association), and support for the Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology for Industrial Service Program, to mention only a few.

May 1993

Canada

## GHANA

### H.E. Flight-Lieutenant (ret'd) Jerry John Rawlings

#### *President of the Republic of Ghana*

*President Rawlings was born in Dzelukope (Volta region) on June 22, 1947, to a Ghanaian mother and a Scottish father. Rawlings attended the prestigious Achimota School, graduating in 1966. He enlisted in the Ghana Armed Forces as a flight cadet in 1967, rising to the ranks of pilot officer (1969) and flight lieutenant (1978).*

*In 1979, Rawlings and several young military officers were arrested for a coup attempt. They were later forcibly released from detention and with popular support successfully overthrew the military government of the time. Following elections held a few months later, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) led by Rawlings turned over power to the new civilian government of President Hilla Limann. However, on December 31, 1981, Rawlings and many of his former AFRC colleagues staged a new coup, citing the widespread corruption and ineffectiveness of the Limann government.*

*Rawlings' Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) ruled until January 7, 1993, becoming Ghana's longest-serving government. The first years of PNDC rule saw the establishment of revolutionary organizations, which sought to protect workers' rights and root out corruption. In 1983, faced with economic difficulties, Rawlings' government agreed to implement a comprehensive Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) with International Monetary Fund/World Bank and other donor support. The SAP was successful in correcting many distortions in the Ghanaian economy and in producing solid economic growth for the country. Ghana's successful economic recovery contributed to Rawlings' landslide victory in the presidential elections on November 3, 1992. He received 58 per cent of the vote, while his nearest opponent received 30 per cent.*



## GHANA

### The Honourable Dr. Obed Y. Asamoah

#### *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana*

*Dr. Asamoah was born in Likpe Bala in the Volta region on February 6, 1936, and attended Achimota School in Accra and Woolwich Polytechnic in London. He obtained a law degree at Kings College (London) and a Master of Law degree at Columbia University (New York) in 1965. He practised law and taught at Legon University until 1969, when he was elected to Parliament. He later served as Chairman of Ghana Film Industries and Ghana Bauxite Co.*

*As soon as Rawlings' Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) took power, Dr. Asamoah was appointed Secretary for Foreign Affairs in January 1982 and continued to serve in this capacity throughout the PNDC's eleven-year tenure. Following the inauguration of the Fourth Republic in January 1993, Dr. Asamoah was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs by President Rawlings. He is one of a number of ministers who are not members of parliament.*

*Dr. Asamoah is one of the longest-serving ministers in Rawlings' government.*

## GHANA

### The Honourable Dr. Kwesi Botchwey

#### *Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana*

*Dr. Kwesi Botchwey was born on September 13, 1942, and attended Legon University where he obtained a law degree. He earned a Master of Law degree at Yale University in 1968 and a JSD Degree from Michigan University in 1972. After teaching law at the Universities of Zambia (1970-1972) and Dar-Es-Salaam (1972-1974), he returned to teach at Legon between 1974 and 1982.*

*When Rawlings' Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) took power, Botchwey was appointed Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning in 1982 and continued to hold this portfolio throughout the PNDC's eleven-year tenure. Following the inauguration of the Fourth Republic in January 1993, he was appointed minister with the same portfolio by President Rawlings. He is one of a number of ministers who are not members of parliament.*

*In 1983, along with Joe Abbey (currently Ghana's Ambassador to the UN), he negotiated a Structural Adjustment Program with the International Monetary Fund and donors, and has managed its successful implementation ever since.*

## NIGER

### **PROFILE**

<i>Independence :</i>	<i>August 3, 1960 (France)</i>
<i>Capital City :</i>	<i>Niamey</i>
<i>Head of State :</i>	<i>Mahamane OUSMANE</i>
<i>Prime Minister :</i>	<i>Mahamadou ISSOUFOU</i>
<i>Minister for External Relations and Co-operation :</i>	<i>Abdramane HAMA</i>
<i>Topography :</i>	<i>Landlocked country, arid in the north; a vast plateau separates two basins : the basin of the Niger and the basin of Lake Chad; volcanic massifs</i>
<i>Climate :</i>	<i>Generally hot and dry, more humid in the southern zone</i>
<i>Main Crops :</i>	<i>Food crops (millet, sorghum, rice) and export crops (cotton, oilseeds, tobacco)</i>
<i>Main Resources :</i>	<i>Mines (cassiterite, uranium, iron), potential for tourism</i>
<i>Languages :</i>	<i>French (official), Haoussa, Djerma</i>
<i>Ethnic Groups :</i>	<i>Haoussas, Djermas, Songhais, Tuaregs, Peuls, Tupuris</i>
<i>Religions :</i>	<i>Islam (85%), animist, christian</i>
<i>Monetary Unit :</i>	<i>CFA franc = 0.02FF</i>

<b>COMPARATIVE DATA</b>	<b>NIGER</b>	<b>CANADA</b>
<i>Area</i>	<i>1 267 000 km<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>9 976 000 km<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Population (1990)</i>	<i>7.73 million</i>	<i>27.52 million</i>
<i>Projection (for the year 2000)</i>	<i>10.8 million</i>	<i>29 million</i>
<i>Population density</i>	<i>4.8 pers/km<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>2.6 pers/km<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Urbanization (1990)</i>	<i>16.2%</i>	<i>77.1%</i>
<i>Average annual rate of population growth (1985-1990)</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
<i>Life expectancy at birth (1990)</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>77.4</i>
<i>Infantile mortality (per 1 000)</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>6.6</i>
<i>GNP per capita (1988)</i>	<i>US\$280</i>	<i>US\$20 370</i>
<i>Average annual growth of GNP (1991 - BAD)</i>	<i>-2.3%</i>	<i>0.9% (1992)</i>
<i>Average annual rate of inflation (1991 - BAD)</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>1.5% (1992)</i>
<i>External public debt as a % of GNP (1989)</i>	<i>84.9%</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Debt service as a % of export revenue (1990)</i>	<i>34.7%</i>	<i>21.6%</i>

**EXTERNAL TRADE**

*Main Exports :* *Uranium ore, live animals, skins and leather*

*Main Imports :* *Petroleum products, highway transportation equipment, food products, mechanical and electrical equipment*

*Main Trading Partners :* *France, Nigeria, Germany, Italy, Ivory Coast and other EEC countries*

**TRADE WITH CANADA**  
(millions \$)

*Canadian Exports :* *1.7 (1991), 1.0 (1992)*  
*Industrial equipments, food grains*

*Canadian Imports :* *7.3 (1991), 9.1 (1992)*  
*Ore, equipments to repair*

*Total Canadian contribution :* *23.54 (1991-1992)*

*Mai 1993*



## CANADA-NIGER RELATIONS

Bilateral relations are very cordial and are essentially based on one of the oldest co-operation programs in the region. From 1989 to 1992, following the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) decentralization, Niger benefited from a significant bilateral program. Niger also sends a very large contingent of senior officials to Quebec City each year for training at École Nationale d'Administration Publique.

Niger has been Canada's partner in La Francophonie since its inception. Prime Minister Mulroney met Prime Minister Cheiffou (who had recently assumed his duties) at the Chaillot Summit in November 1991. Canada is represented by Ambassador Denis Bélisle in Abidjan and Director Carol Voyer in Niamey, while Ambassador Abdou Aboubacar represents Niger in Ottawa.

Trade clearly favors Niger. Canada's imports in 1991 totalled \$11.3 million, while its exports totalled a mere \$1.8 million.

### **The Canadian Aid Program in Niger**

In recent years, the main objective of Canada's official development aid program in Niger has been to uphold sustainable development in the country by focusing on macroeconomic balance, human resource training, rural development and infrastructure reinforcement.

As a result of the economic statement of December 2, 1992, and the resultant cutbacks, Canada has decided to concentrate its co-operative efforts in three regions of Africa, including West Africa. However, attempts to streamline the CIDA program have forced Canada to reduce its involvement in Niger. The regional involvement and bilateral projects, which may be used to assist Niger, will be part of the Strategic Framework for West Africa now in preparation.

Canadian funds allocated to Niger during the 1992-1993 fiscal year are estimated to be \$10.7 million.

May 1993

Canada

## NIGER

### Mahamane Ousmane

#### *President*

*Mr. Mahamane Ousmane, President of CSD-Rahama, was born on January 20, 1950, in Zinder.*

*Mr. Ousmane is a member of the new generation of political leaders in Niger. His rise to power has been meteoric. He was President of the national provisional wing of the CDS when it was formed in January 1991, a position in which he was confirmed at the Party congress in February 1992, before being selected as presidential candidate by a large majority.*

#### Schooling

- C Series Baccalaureate, Mathematics-Physics, Niamey 1969;*
- Master's Degree, Applied Math, Statistics and Information, Nantes, France, 1974;*
- Diploma in Advanced Monetary and Financial Economics, Paris, 1978;*
- Statistics-Economics Diploma, Paris, 1978.*

#### Professional Training

- Public Administration and Business Management, ENAP, Québec, 1987;*
- HEC Development Centre, Montreal, 1987;*
- Professional training in industry, business, services, banking and financial organizations at home and abroad.*

#### Experience

- Assistant to Director of Statistics and National Accounts, Planning Ministry, Niamey, 1978-1980;*

- *Director of Informatics, Planning Ministry, 1980-1984;*
- *Director of Informatics and Statistics, Planning Ministry, 1984- 1986;*
- *Director of Organization and Methods and Advisor to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, Niamey, since January 1986;*
- *Administrator, African Institute of Informatics, Libreville, Gabon, 1980-1986;*
- *Administrator, Crédit du Niger, 1985-87;*
- *Chairman of the Board of Directors, Niger International Telecommunications Corporation (STIN), since June 22, 1988;*
- *Chair or member of numerous national and international committees;*
- *Consultation in economics and management for numerous national and international organizations (public administration enterprises in Niger--PADIS, CEA, CEAO, CDEAO, etc.);*
- *Lecturer, 1980 to 1988 at University of Niamey and several professional schools;*
- *Languages: French, English, Spanish, Arabic.*



## NIGER

### Mahamadou Issoufou

#### *Prime Minister*

*Born in 1952 in Dandodji, Illela, Mr. Issoufou became leader of the Nigerian Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS-Tarayya), in the country's first free presidential and democratic election held on February 27, 1993.*

*The former Technical Director of the Air Mining Corporation (Somair), Mr. Issoufou is a graduate of the École Supérieure des Mines of Saint-Étienne, France.*

*Mr. Issoufou was a leading figure in a clandestine group at the height of the emergency regime of General Senyi Kountché. His many involvements made him a well-known figure during the National Conference of Niger (July 29 to November 3, 1991). The new Prime Minister seeks to bring all of his countrymen together regardless of ethnicity, race, class, age or sex.*

*The political credo of his party is to consolidate national unity, to restore peace and the authority of the State, and to promote economic and financial recovery. Mr. Issoufou feels that sustainable development can be achieved only by the consolidation of national unity.*

*In order to restore the macroeconomic imbalance, Mr. Issoufou favours negotiations with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) in the context of a growth adjustment program.*

*In education, the Prime Minister believes that the problems of his country's schools can best be treated by genuine reform of basic education and intensified scientific and technical instruction.*

## MALI

### **PROFILE**

<i>Independence :</i>	<i>September 22, 1960 (France)</i>
<i>Capital City :</i>	<i>Bamako</i>
<i>Head of State :</i>	<i>Alpha Oumar KONARÉ</i>
<i>Head of Government and Prime Minister :</i>	<i>Abdoulaye Sékou Sow</i>
<i>Minister for External Relations:</i>	<i>Mohamed Alhousseini TOURÉ</i>
<i>Topography :</i>	<i>Landlocked country, vast plains and low-altitude ferralitic plateaux, a few massifs</i>
<i>Climate :</i>	<i>Desert zone in the north, steppes and savanna in the centre, heavier rain in the south</i>
<i>Main Crops :</i>	<i>Fruit and vegetables, grain, millet, maize, sorghum, rice, cotton, tea, sugar cane, peanuts, tobacco</i>
<i>Main Resources :</i>	<i>Gold, mining potential (uranium, iron, bauxite)</i>
<i>Languages :</i>	<i>French and Bambara (official), Peul and Songhai</i>
<i>Ethnic Groups :</i>	<i>Bambaras, Fulanis, Peuls, Songhais, Malinkes, Tuaregs, Dogons</i>
<i>Religions :</i>	<i>Islam (65%), Animism (30%), Christianity (5%)</i>
<i>Monetary Unit :</i>	<i>CFA franc = 0.02FF</i>

**COMPARATIVE DATA**

	<b>MALI</b>	<b>CANADA</b>
<i>Area</i>	1 241 238 km <sup>2</sup>	9 976 000 km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Population (1990)</i>	9.21 million (44% under 15)	27.52 million
<i>Projection (for the year 2000)</i>	12.69 million	29 million
<i>Population density (1987)</i>	10.2 pers/km <sup>2</sup>	2.6 pers/km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Urbanization (1990)</i>	22.6%	77.1%
<i>Average annual rate of population growth (1990 - AfDB)</i>	2.9%	0.6%
<i>Life expectancy</i>	47	77.4
<i>Infantile mortality (1990, per 1 000)</i>	133	6.6
<i>GNP per capita (1990)</i>	US\$230	US\$20 370
<i>Average annual growth of GNP (1991 - AfDB)</i>	3.8%	0.9% (1992)
<i>Average annual rate of inflation (1991 - AfDB)</i>	2.0%	1.5% (1992)
<i>External public debt as a % of GNP (1990 - AfDB)</i>	125.4%	32.75%
<i>Debt service as a % of export revenue (1990)</i>	13.7%	21.6%

**EXTERNAL TRADE**

*Main exports :* Cotton, animals, peanuts, karite  
*Main imports :* Food and petroleum products, machinery and vehicles  
*Main trading partners :* France, Ivory Coast, Germany, Algeria, Netherlands, Senegal

**TRADE WITH CANADA**  
(millions \$)

*Canadian Exports :* 2,9 (1991), 6,4 (1992)  
wheat, metal, electronic equipment  
*Canadian Imports :* 8,0 (1991), 5,8 (1992)  
cotton, wood  
*Total canadian contributions :* 45,22 (1991-1992)  
(national and international)

Mai 1993



## CANADA-MALI RELATIONS

Relations between our two countries are essentially based on the co-operation program, which makes Canada one of Mali's chief partners. The objective of this program is to achieve a social and ecological balance in Mali.

Politically, our relations with Mali are cordial. Mali is a member of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) and a partner in La Francophonie. Minister Landry visited Mali in 1988 for bilateral consultations, and President Konaré made a working visit to Canada in October 1992.

However, there is virtually no trade between Canada and Mali. Canadian exports are related to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) program and to the contracts that a few Canadian firms are able to secure as part of multilaterally financed assistance projects. The Government of Mali has been represented in Canada by Ambassador Souleymane Sidibé since February 1993, and Canada's accredited ambassador to Mali is Mr. J. Denis Bélisle, who resides in Abidjan.

In 1992, Elections Canada participated very actively in planning Mali's democratic elections, and Suzanne Duplessis, Member of Parliament for Louis-Hébert and Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Landry, led the delegation that attended President Konaré's inauguration.

### **Canada's Assistance Program for Mali**

Last year (1992), Canada and Mali celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their co-operation in development. In recent years, concerted action has been focused on the following objectives: stabilization of the vegetation cover, food balance and the development of energy resources. These involvements were based on the importance of training human resources, who, in turn, are a strategic component for the entire co-operation program.

.../2

Canada also supports Mali's structural adjustment program, to help the country correct its macroeconomic imbalances and to support the reform under way in the public sector enterprises. Examples include : support to the Régie des chemins de fer and restructuring of the grain market. CIDA is contributing to the country's economic recovery by supporting the private sector (small business).

The restoration of democracy in Mali is in keeping with the objectives of Canada's foreign policy and with CIDA's current thinking, which is that sustainable development cannot take place without democracy and respect for human rights. CIDA supports this evolution. For the 1992-1993 fiscal year, Mali has received approximately \$18.5 million in official development assistance.

May 1993

## MALI

### His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré

#### *President of the Republic of Mali*

*Alpha Oumar Konaré was born on February 2, 1946. After attending elementary and high school in Mali and Senegal, he graduated in Arts from the École Normale Secondaire in Katibougou in 1964. He completed his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure (history and geography) and at the University of Warsaw in Poland, where he defended a doctoral thesis in 1975, specializing in history and archeology.*

*Beginning in 1974, he occupied the positions of Research Officer, Institute of Humanities; Division Chief, Historical and Ethnographic Heritage, Ministry of Culture; and Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture (1978). From 1980 to 1989, after resigning from the Mali government, he devoted himself to research at the Centre Pédagogique Supérieur (later known as ISFRA). In 1989, he created a private training centre for formal education.*

*He was president of several national and international associations, and a consultant to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) and the UN Development Program (UNDP). From 1989 to 1992, he was President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).*

*Politically, he assisted in the creation of a democratic movement in 1967 and led a political struggle via the newspaper Les Échos. In 1990, he helped to draft the Call to the People and the Open Letter to the President of the Republic.*

*In May 1991, he actively contributed to the creation of the ADEMA political party and was elected as its president, since he had been one of the key figures in the revolution that led to the overthrow of the Moussa Traoré regime. ADEMA subsequently won over 60 per cent of the positions in the municipal elections and 60 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly in March 1992.*

*Alpha Oumar Konaré was elected President of the Republic in the democratic, multiparty elections of April 1992. He was sworn in two months later.*

## MALI

### His Excellency Abdoulaye Sékou Sow

#### *Head of Government and Prime Minister of Mali*

*Born in Bamako in 1931, Abdoulaye Sékou Sow attended Jean Louis Monod School in Medina Coura and then Lycée Terrasson in Fougères (now Lycée Askia) before going to Montpellier, France, where he was admitted to the local lycée.*

*From the lycée, he went on to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in Montpellier. He then enrolled in the Faculty of Law and Economics, also in Montpellier and then in Paris, before finally attending teachers' college in Saint-Cloud.*

*Abdoulaye Sékou Sow holds numerous diplomas, including master's degrees in philosophy and law, a doctorate with honors in public law and a lawyer's certificate.*

*He is the author of several papers, studies and articles on public administration, administrative justice, administration and development, the nature of government and training. He was Director of Mali's Office of Tourism, Director of the National School of Administration in 1968-1969 and 1976-1977, and technical adviser to the Department of Industrial Development and, subsequently, the Ministry of Energy and Mines.*

*Abdoulaye Sékou Sow founded the review Études et documents de l'ENA.*



## **MALI**

### **Mohamed Alhousseyni Touré**

#### **Minister of External Relations**

*Mr. Touré was born on February 11, 1946, in Niafunké. Following elementary schooling in Mali, he pursued studies in Germany, where he received in 1972 a civil engineering diploma from the Friedrich List Advanced School of Transportation.*

*He was appointed Head of the Programs Division at the National Branch of Public Works in 1972. Other appointments follow, such as Director General of SEMA, Chief of Staff of the Transportation Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency (1983-1987), Minister of Finance, Minister of Transport, and then Ambassador in Washington.*

*He accompanied President Konaré when the latter made a working visit to Canada in October 1992. At the time of his nomination as Minister, on June 9, 1992, Mr. Touré was Malian Ambassador to the United States.*

## FRANCE

### Jacques Toubon

#### *New Minister of Culture and La Francophonie*

*Jacques Toubon, 51, an assistant to the mayor of Paris, is a member of the Rassemblement pour la République (RPR).*

*Former Secretary-General of the RPR (1984-1988) and a deputy for Paris since 1981, Mr. Toubon is a member of the central committee and the political bureau of the neo-Gaullist movement.*

*Born on June 29, 1941, in Nice, Mr. Toubon has a Licentiate in Law and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies in Lyon. A former student of the National School of Administration (ENA, which trains elite civil servants) and assigned to the Ministry of the Interior, he was Chief of Staff of the Prefect of Basses-Pyrénées from 1965 to 1968.*

*After being Chief of Staff of the Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories from 1968 to 1969, he was appointed as technical adviser to the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Relations. In 1971, he became the collaborator of Mr. Chirac, who was then the Minister responsible to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations.*

*He was Mr. Chirac's technical adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 1972, and Mr. Chirac's Chief of Staff responsible for political affairs at Matignon, the Prime Minister's headquarters, from 1974 to 1976.*

*Since the RPR was founded in December 1976, Mr. Toubon has been national delegate in charge of elections. He took over the RPR Federation of Paris in 1978 and the secretariat of the RPR group at the European Assembly in Strasbourg the following year. He was elected as a deputy for Paris in 1981, and as Deputy and Mayor of the 13th Arrondissement two years later.*

*He served as Secretary-General of the RPR from 1984 to 1988, was reelected as a deputy for Paris in 1986 and 1988, was Chairman of the Commission on Constitutional Law, Legislation and General Administration of the Republic from 1986 to 1987, has been Delegate-General of the RPR since 1992 and now chairs his party's Senior Committee on Man and Society.*

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