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JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT
TO CANADA OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

At the invitation of Their Excellencies the Governor General of Canada and Mrs. Schreyer, His Excellency the President of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea and Mrs Touré visited Canada from October 30 to November 6, 1982.

The presidential couple was accompanied by a large ministerial delegation.

During his visit to Canada, the Head of State of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea had talks with various Canadian personalities. Mr. Touré talked mainly with His Excellency the Governor General and with the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau. This interview was followed by a working session with several ministers in attendance. The presidential couple was then received in Toronto by the Honourable John B. Aird, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. A large luncheon meeting was organized by the Canadian Export Association. President and Mrs. Touré visited the Alcan facilities at Arvida, the Quebec Energy Research Institute in Varennes and the facilities of Bombardier Ltd. in Montreal. Under the auspices of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, the morning of November 4 was dedicated to an economic seminar on Guinea, led by President Touré. During the evening the Premier of Quebec and Mrs. Lévesque received the Presidential couple and their delegation in Quebec City.

This first visit of the Guinean President to Canada marked a new and significant phase in relations between Guinea and Canada. The furthering of political relations brought about by the visit was a logical sequel to the excellent economic relations that have existed for many years. It is natural for two countries both having French as an official language to intensify their relations at all levels and in all fields.

The talks, which were held in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, indicated that a considerable similarity of viewpoints existed on all the questions dealt with, namely North-South dialogue, Namibia, the South African apartheid policy, and trouble spots in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. Bilaterally, the Guinean side and the Canadian side alike were pleased with the constructive development of relations between them. They agreed to increase relations in all sectors, especially development cooperation and economic exchanges. They decided to create a bilateral commission to this effect that would meet periodically on dates set through diplomatic channels.

In the realm of development cooperation, the parties conducted an in-depth exchange of views on ways and means of producing substantial and significant cooperation between the two countries. Many avenues of activity were named: the sending of experts to the Ministry of small and medium businesses and handicrafts to begin a technical cooperative for resource management and allocation the improvement and modernization of infrastructures such as transportation, energy and water supply, and the establishment of transfer mechanisms better able to respond rapidly to urgent needs. In this regard, a line of credit in the form of a subsidy would be provided for capital equipment and spare parts, along with a food aid program. Finally, participation by Canadian groups and institutions in the fields of research, rural development, technical instruction and professional training would be encouraged by the appropriate Canadian cooperation mechanisms.

Economic exchanges were furthered by two large meetings in Toronto and Montreal enabling the Guinean delegation to give more than 200 Canadian businessmen and industrialists an idea of the interesting possibilities held forth by the abundant mineral, agricultural and fisheries resources, and by the favourable Investment Code of Guinea. The Canadian private sector was encouraged to join with the Guinean government in creating joint venture companies to develop the natural resources of Guinea. The parties also discussed mechanisms by which to generate financial assistance from third countries for economic and industrial projects in Guinea. In this regard, the Canadian party noted with interest the priority given by the Guinean party to the Konkouré and Mifergui/Mount Nimba projects.

The President of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea and Mrs. Touré joined with the large ministerial delegation accompanying them in expressing to the Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer, to the Prime Minister and the people of Canada their sincere thanks for the warm and friendly welcome extended to them throughout their visit to Canada. The Governor General and the Prime Minister accepted in principle Mr. Touré's invitation to visit the Popular Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.