



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

N°: 69  
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: MAY 3, 1982

FIRST JOINT SESSION OF THE  
CANADA-CAMEROUN MIXED COMMISSION,  
YAOUNDÉ, APRIL 28-30, 1982

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the first joint session of the Canada-Cameroon Mixed Commission was held in Yaoundé the 28th, 29th and 30th of April, 1982 under co-chairmanship of the Honourable Serge Joyal, Minister of State and Mr. Bello Bouba Maigari, Minister of Economy and Plan. His Excellency Mr. Jacques Denault, Ambassador of Canada to Cameroon and His Excellency Mr. Lucas Nkweta Zam, Ambassador of Cameroon to Canada also participated at the meeting.

During his stay in Cameroon the head of the Canadian delegation, the Honourable Serge Joyal was received by Mr. Paul Biya, Prime Minister, Mr. Paul Dontsop, Minister of State responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Victor Ayissi Mvodo, Minister of State responsible for Territorial Administration, Mr. Philémon Yang Yundji, Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Ibrahim Mbombo Njoya, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. René Ze Nguele, Minister of National Education, Mr. Felix Tonye Mbog, Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Guillaume Bwele, Minister of Information and Culture.

.../2

Mr. Joyal also visited a number of projects being undertaken by Canadian firms, including a training centre for mechanics and operators which also includes the supply of road maintenance equipment as well as locomotives made in Canada. At the end of his stay, Mr. Joyal was planning to visit the city of Foumban.

The chairmen for the two delegations had discussions on general bilateral relations between Canada and Cameroon and reviewed the results of development cooperation and commercial and cultural exchanges since the inter-governmental meetings of July 1979.

The chairmen also noted with satisfaction the increase in cooperation between the two countries, which is taking place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship. Reference was made to their common willingness to identify, to each country's benefit, the objectives of development cooperation in the economic and cultural spheres in the context of the Cameroonian 5th Five Year Plan and the interests and priorities of Canada so that further, substantial progress in areas of common interest can be realized.

The Canadian side presented a review of the programme of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the mechanisms and institutions to execute various projects and programmes and the delineation of CIDA activities in sectors which correspond to the needs and planning of the Cameroonian Government. The principal areas of intervention of CIDA are the rural development and human resources sectors. Provision has been made for certain special mechanisms which include a line of credit.

For its part, the Cameroonian side presented the major directions and strategy of the Cameroonian 5th Five Year Plan, and identified sectors and projects for which they wish to receive Canadian assistance. Following these discussions, the two delegations agreed on the sectors of intervention and the priority projects which will be subject to further study and planning so that these development cooperation programmes can be brought to fruition.

In the discussion dealing with commercial exchanges, after having reviewed the results to the present, the two sides presented a review of their key interests and ways to facilitate these exchanges. In this regard, the delegations outlined a draft of a double taxation agreement, a line of credit for the Export Development Corporation and the institutional framework for these exchanges. Further discussions will follow in the near future so that these questions can be finalized.

At the same time, an official trade mission, of sixteen Canadian businessmen visited Cameroon to have meetings with members and officials of the Cameroonian Government and their counterparts in the commercial and industrial sectors in Cameroon. This mission enabled both sides to identify and follow-up on specific projects. It was noted that there has been a large number of visits and exchanges in the last year and the desire to see these types of exchanges continue to develop was expressed. The Canadian delegation noted with satisfaction the opening of an economic and commercial mission attached to the Embassy of Cameroon in Ottawa. In addition, the Cameroonian side expressed satisfaction that in the near future Canada will name an honorary consul in Douala, whose functions will be principally trade related.

The two sides underlined the importance they attach to the broadening of cultural cooperation and the exchange of ideas and projects which could be undertaken in this area. Both delegations also reviewed their cultural activities in recent years and discussed respective views on future prospects for cultural cooperation.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Paul Biya, Mr. Joyal delivered a letter from the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer to the President of the United Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Ahmadou Ahidjo inviting him to make an official visit to Canada. President Ahidjo has accepted to come to Canada May 25th to 29th this year.

Four agreements, totalling six million Canadian dollars (1.56 Billion Francs CFA) were signed during the visit. These agreements concern medical equipment (\$150 000 or 39 Million F CFA), the National Centre for Forestry Development (CENADEFOR) valued at \$2.6 million or 676 million F CFA, an amendment to the loan for the supply of locomotives to the Cameroonian Railway Authority (REGIFERCAM) \$3 million or 780 million F CFA and aid to the centre for assistance to small and medium size business (CAPME) provided by the Canadian Exporters Association valued at \$150 000 or 65 million F CFA, provided under the AEGIS of the industrial cooperation programme.

On completion of his visit to Cameroon, Mr. Joyal took the opportunity to thank the Minister of Economy and Plan, Mr. Bello Boubou Maigari as well as the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon for the very warm hospitality which he and the members of his delegation received and emphasized that the success of this first session of the Mixed Commission underlined the deep friendship and spirit of cooperation which mark relations between Canada and Cameroon.