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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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was pleased with Canada's desire to participate in the creation of joint ventures at the small- and medium-sized business level.

Cultural relations were also discussed, and the importance of giving them fresh impetus was recognized.

During his visit, Mr. Siméon Aké was received by His Excellency Edward Schreyer, the Governor-General of Canada, by the Honourable Jean Marchand, Speaker of the Senate, and by the Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Aké also had talks with several members of the Canadian government including the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on Francophone Affairs, the Honourable Monique Bégin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pépin, Minister of Transport, and the Honourable Pierre Bussières, Minister of State for Finance.

A considerable similarity of views emerged from these cordial talks, both on questions of a bilateral nature and on most major international problems, mainly those related to peace and security in Africa. North-South questions were also discussed. Mr. Aké was pleased with the very active role played by the Canadian government in stimulating North-South dialogue, and appreciated Canada's understanding of the economic situation in developing countries, especially concerning the payment of fair prices for raw materials and the stabilization of market prices.

The delegations were pleased with the constructive, open climate that characterized their work. They noted that the very positive results stemming from the meeting would no doubt give fresh impetus to co-operation between the two countries.

The Ivory Coast delegation expressed its sincere thanks to the Canadian government for the warm reception it had received and for the attentive way in which it had been treated while in Canada.

The next session of the Canada-Ivory Coast Bilateral Joint Commission will be held in Abidjan.