

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date of Elections: 31 July 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly provided for in the November 1986 Constitution*.

Characteristics of Parliament**

The National Assembly of the Central African Republic is composed of 52 members elected for 5 years.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

General legislative elections had not been held since March 1964. The previous National Assembly was dissolved in January 1966 after the military coup d'Etat.

The November 1986 Constitution provided for a one-party State and a Parliament elected by universal suffrage every five years. The inaugural congress of the *Rassemblement démocratique centrafricain* (RDC), the sole legal party, took place on 6-7 February 1987. The following month, on 24 March, the July polling date was set by the President of the Republic, General Andre Kolingba, who had assumed power in 1981 and was elected for a six-year term in November 1986.

In accordance with the Constitution, the RDC chose the National Assembly candidates from among its members; they totalled 142 for the 52 seats at stake. The generally peaceful campaign ended on 30 July.

Voter turnout on polling day (approximately 50%) was considerably lower than for the 1986 constitutional referendum. Final results were proclaimed on 8 August by the National Control Commission, which is under the responsibility of the Supreme Court. The new Assembly first met in mid-October. On 3 December, a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers headed by Gen. Kolingba took place.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XXI* (1986-1987), p. 9.

** Although the Constitution stipulates that Parliament consists of the National Assembly and the Economic and Regional Council (together known as Congress), only the elections for the Assembly are dealt with in this chapter.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors. 900,000 (approx.)
 Voters. 50% (approx.)

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Number of Candidates</u>	<u>Number of Seats</u>
<i>Rassemblement démocratique centrafricain (RDC)</i>	..,	..