

SEYCHELLES

Dates of Elections: 23 to 26 June 1979

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for 23 members of Parliament provided for by the Constitution of March 1979*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the Republic of Seychelles, the People's Assembly, is composed of 25 members: 23 elected and 2 appointed by the President of the Republic to represent the Inner Islands and Outlying Islands, respectively. All members have 4-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All citizens of Seychelles who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, persons convicted of crime, and those owing allegiance to a foreign State.

Qualified electors who are members of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front are eligible to be Assembly candidates. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the offices of President of the Republic and Minister of the Government.

The 23 elected members of the People's Assembly are chosen in single-member constituencies ("electoral areas") by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill elective seats which fall vacant between general elections, unless these occur within six months of the dissolution of the Assembly.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following independence in June 1976**, the National Assembly was dissolved one year later after a coup d'Etat. A Constitution foreseeing new presidential and parliamentary elections was promulgated in March 1979; it replaced that of 1976.

In the 1979 legislative elections, candidates belonging to the left-wing Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF), the country's sole legal political party that was formerly known as the Seychelles People's United Party, captured 98% of the votes cast by the electorate. Mr. France Albert Rene, the only candidate for President of the Repu-

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 25-26.

** See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections A-(1975-1976)*, p. 10.

blic, captured the uncontested presidential race which took place at the same time. Mr. Rene, who has been Head of State since June 1977, announced his new Council of Ministers on 28 June.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Number of registered electors.	28,950 (approx.)
Voters	27,920(96.43%)

Political Group	Number of Seats
Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) . . .	25

2. Distribution of Elected Members of the People's Assembly according to Sex

Men.15
Women.8
	23