SOMALIA

Date of Elections: 30 December 1979

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1979 Constitution*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Somalia, the People's Assembly, comprises 171 members elected for 5 years. Furthermore, according to the Constitution, the President of the Republic may appoint to the Assembly up to 6 persons from among people dedicated to science, culture and art, or highly esteemed patriots.

Electoral System

All Somali citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Every citizen who has attained the age of 21 years is eligible for election as Deputy.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the 1969 general elections, Parliament was dissolved later in the year and the military took command of the country. President Siad Barre declared Somalia a socialist State and introduced a revolutionary programme of national unification and social and economic reform. In 1976, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), the country's sole legal political party, was formed.

In August 1979, a new Constitution was approved by popular referendum. The election date was announced on 11 December. All candidates belonged to the SRSP; electors could vote for or against each, the SRSP nominating an alternate candidate in the latter case. Among those elected were 20 members of the armed forces and six women.

On 26 January 1980, the new Assembly unanimously elected incumbent President Siad Barre for a six-year term. On 7 February, the President announced the formation of his new Government.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments,* pp. 27-28.

Statistics

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

Voters 3,985,838
Votes in favour of the Somali Revolutionary
   Socialist Party. 99.91%

Political Group	Number of Seats
Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party	171"

* Six additional members are appointed by the President of the Republic.