

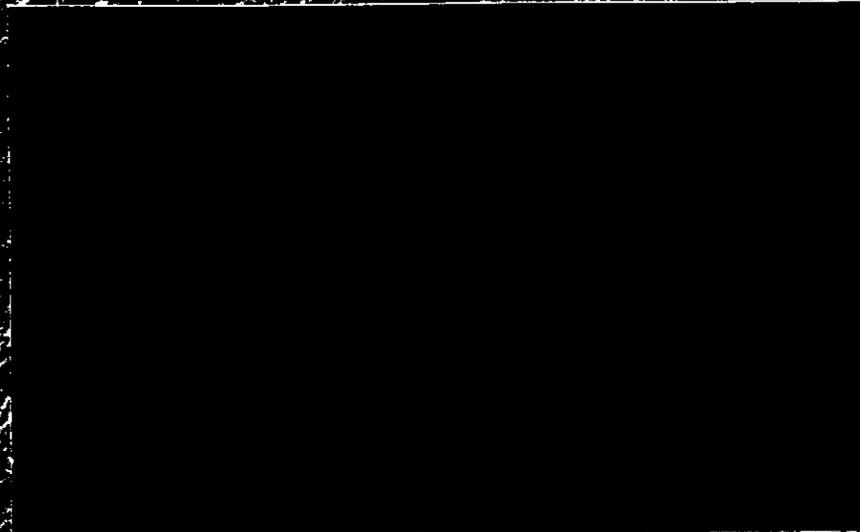
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International  
Foundation  
for Election  
Systems



# **International Foundation for Election Systems**

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## **Pollworker Training Support and Observation Mission**

**December 29, 1996 Partial Elections**

**❖ Republic of Côte d'Ivoire ❖**

**TRIP REPORT**

**January 1997**

Prepared by:

**Mara Posner, Program Officer for Africa and the Near East**

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## 1. Overview

In November 1996 the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) received funding requests from two Ivorian NGOs, le Group d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Democratie et le Developpement Economique et Social en Cote d'Ivoire (GERDDES-CI) and Observatoire National des Elections (ONE), to support training and observation activities associated with December 29<sup>th</sup> partial elections. The requests were submitted to the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan and forwarded to IFES. Following discussions between IFES, the U.S. Embassy and the Canadian Embassy it was decided that IFES would finance the GERDDES poll worker training activity and the Canadians would cover ONE observation deployment. IFES then received approval from Regional Affairs/AF to use remaining DHF funds to cover the costs associated with this activity.

IFES Program Officer Mara Posner traveled to Cote d'Ivoire from December 10, 1996 to January 1, 1997 to disburse the IFES funds and work with the Ivorian NGOs on the election-related activities. She arrived in Abidjan on December 10<sup>th</sup> and from December 14-21 traveled with the GERDDES trainers to three regions of the country, assisting with implementation of the training seminars. During the week of December 23-28 she met with representatives from the U.S. and Canadian Embassies, members of the NGO community and assisted ONE in organizing observer deployment. On December 27<sup>th</sup> she traveled to Korhogo to work with ONE Regional Coordinator Raphael Ouattara in preparing for observation of the Korhogo sous-prefecture legislative election. On election day Ms. Posner visited polling stations in the Korhogo region evaluating the performance of polling station supervisors who had received the GERDDES pollworker training.

Upon her return to Abidjan she met with U.S. Embassy, GERDDES and ONE representatives for follow up meetings and debriefings before departing Cote d'Ivoire on January 1, 1997.

## 2. Background on the electoral system

Cote d'Ivoire has held presidential, legislative and municipal elections every five years since 1960, as required by law and the Ivorian constitution. However, until 1990 only one political party, the People's Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI), was represented at the polls. In early 1990 Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny was forced by political events to implement the multiparty system provided for in the Ivorian constitution, and opposition parties participated in general elections for the first time later that year, gaining 9 out of a total 175 seats in the National Assembly.

Opposition parties changed the political arena and made it apparent that a revision of the electoral code was necessary to make the election process conform to the new political landscape. Thus, work began in parliament to draft a new electoral code and in December 1994 it was promulgated by the National Assembly.

## 3. Opposition boycott of the 1995 general elections

The new electoral law corrected some incongruities of the previous code but contained several elements deemed unacceptable by Ivorian opposition parties. The number one point of contention

was the continued role of the Ministry of the Interior in election administration and organization. Opposition political parties and civil society groups had consistently called for the creation of an independent electoral commission to oversee Cote d'Ivoire's elections. Other controversial elements included strict eligibility guidelines for voting and candidacy, and who should have responsibility for revising the electoral list.

Despite the expressions of dissatisfaction with the new code, the government considered it as a law passed by the people's representatives in the National Assembly that must be applied. At the same time, the opposition demanded the law be withdrawn. With an eye on the upcoming 1995 general elections civil society groups attempted mediation between the two sides. Their intervention produced no immediate results as neither side would back down from its position. Several opposition parties called for a boycott of the October presidential election. Their boycott facilitated the landslide victory of Henri Konan-Bedie, the PDCI candidate and former president of the National Assembly.

Negotiations resumed following the October election and a settlement was reached whereby the government accepted demands to create an election oversight committee and opposition parties agreed to participate in the November legislative elections. The National Supervisory and Arbitration Election Committee was created as a supervisory body with members from political parties and civil society. The Committee's primary task was to be the review and updating of the electoral list in advance of the legislative elections. Unfortunately, the Committee was never given the resources to accomplish its mission and no revisions were made to the list prior to the elections.

Once again, opposition parties called for a boycott of the 1995 legislative elections. On election day violent clashes erupted in many regions. Allegations of fraud were widespread, and when the day had ended, elections had been canceled or results annulled in six legislative and four municipal races. It wasn't until October, 1996 that partial elections for the vacant seats were scheduled for December 29, 1996.

#### **4. Ivorian NGO involvement in the election process**

Ivorian NGOs are increasingly active in the democratization process in Cote d'Ivoire. With each successive election, Ivorian NGOs have shown their capacity to mobilize and contribute effectively to the process. They are becoming the voice of civil society while at the same time educating civil society about their role in participatory democracy. NGOs are acquiring experience in coordinating their activities with the government in select cases, as in the GERDDES' pollworker training program and ONE's observation effort.

GERDDES is the most visible and active of the Abidjan-based NGOs that promote democracy and economic development in Cote d'Ivoire. It is one of the few NGOs with regional representation. Mr. Honore Guie, its president, is the force behind many GERDDES and ONE initiatives and is a respected leader of the NGO community. He was IFES' primary contact for both election-related activities.

ONE is a collective of six NGOs established in August 1995 to mediate the political crisis between the government and opposition parties over the electoral code. As a result of the agreement, ONE was scheduled to work with the Supervisory Committee in reviewing the electoral list, and to train national observers to participate in observation of the legislative elections. Due to a number of reasons the revision of the electoral list did not take place. However, with financial support from the African American Institute (AAI) and the Canadian Embassy, ONE did accomplish its goal of training and deploying the first team of Ivorian election observers for the November legislative elections. The ONE-trained domestic observer activities were part of a larger UN-coordinated international observation of the 1995 elections.

ONE organized and implemented an August 1996 study of the socio-political situation in Gagnoa during the 1995 election boycott. Gagnoa is the stronghold of a primary opposition party, the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI). ONE's objective in conducting the study was to identify the causes of ethnic and party clashes associated with the 1995 elections and propose solutions to avoid future clashes, especially for the rescheduled partial elections. IFES funded this study and a copy of the report was submitted to Program Officer Mara Posner upon her arrival in Abidjan. The report is on file in the IFES Resource Center. (The report's final conclusions are Attachment A)

ONE is open to all NGOs working for the promotion of democracy and human rights in Côte d'Ivoire. Members of ONE are:

1. L'Association Internationale pour la Democratie en Afrique-Section Côte d'Ivoire (AID-CI)
2. L'Association Ivoirienne de Defense des Droits des Femmes (AIDF)
3. L'Association Syndicale de la Magistrature (ASM)
4. Le Group d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Democratie et le Developpement Economique et Social en Côte d'Ivoire (GERDDES-CI)
5. La Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme (LIHDO)
6. Le Mouvement International des Femmes Democratres-Section Côte d'Ivoire (MIFED-CI)

#### **5. Background on IFES involvement in the 1996 election**

Once the dates for partial legislative and municipal elections were announced, GERDDES and ONE obtained Ministry of the Interior (MINT) approval to train polling station supervisors and organize a team of domestic observers. IFES received proposals and requests for funding from GERDDES and ONE via the American Embassy in Abidjan in early November 1996. IFES received authorization from the Embassy and the State Department (Regional Affairs/AF) to extend the expiration date of DHF funds previously awarded to IFES for work in Côte d'Ivoire, in order to support one of the two activities. Following discussions between IFES, the American Embassy and the Canadian Embassy it was decided that IFES would finance the GERDDES pollworker training activity and the Canadians would cover ONE observation deployment. IFES Program Officer Mara Posner traveled to Côte d'Ivoire in early December to manage the financial support of the GERDDES activity, to work with GERDDES in implementing the training, to observe the December 29<sup>th</sup> elections, and to evaluate the impact of the training on the performance of pollworkers.

## 6. The GERDDES training of polling station supervisors

Although this was a GERDDES training, several of the trainers were from ONE and would later serve as regional coordinators of observation teams. The ONE participants had been part of the original team that developed the training seminar for the 1995 election. (The list of trainers, training schedules and other training related documents are Attachment B).

The day and a half pollworker training program presented in each of three sites consisted of an opening ceremony, an overview of the seminar by Mr. Guie, an overview of the responsibilities of polling station supervisors by a representative of the prefecture, three "workshops" in which the essential components of the job were broken down, a simulation/role play of setting up and running a polling station, a lessons-learned session, and a closing ceremony. The prefect of the region and sous-prefects representing the MINT and the government were invited to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies.

Participants were candidates nominated by their sous-prefecture to serve as polling station supervisors. Final selections decisions had not been made at the time of the training. The prefects made participants aware of the fact that their attendance at the seminar was not a guarantee they would ultimately be chosen. Thus, not all the participants in the GERDDES training were eventually chosen to work as polling station supervisors on election day. Similarly, it should be noted that not all polling station supervisors received the GERDDES training.

If participants had to travel to the town where the training was being held, they stayed in hotels and received per diem. Participants and trainers had lunch together each day of the seminar at a nearby restaurant. At the last session of the training GERDDES asked participants to rate the seminar. Most of the negative comments had to do with logistics and administrative details. The seminar contents and trainers were rated favorably.

### Gagnoa

The Gagnoa training took place December 14-15 and included approximately 120 participants from Gagnoa, Guiberoua and Ouragahio. Three legislative seats were at stake in Gagnoa alone and one in each of the other towns. Comments on the training included:

- 1) "I would like to thank all the NGO representatives who worked with us over the past two days. I was scared when I was chosen as a candidate to be polling station supervisor for the upcoming partial elections, given everything we lived through during the elections last year. But I leave here fortified with everything I need to know to fulfill my civic duty on election day. I hope these seminars will happen regularly in order to familiarize everyone with the role of a transparent vote in a true democracy."
- 2) "This training was welcome because it allowed us to understand many of the details of the procedures and organization of the vote. It also allowed us to raise questions and find solutions to certain problems that we could potentially face on election day. We were able to get the information

we needed from the trainers as well as from administrative authorities. I hope this training continues after the partial elections and is extended to the rest of the population because many of our extended family members still don't know how to exercise their right to vote."

3) "The seminar ran smoothly and the trainers mastered perfectly its themes. I believe it was very enriching for democratization in Africa and in particular, Côte d'Ivoire. On election day I hope to apply all that we learned so that voting operations in my polling station run smoothly as well."

4) "In general, I believe everything went well. All the trainers were very well qualified and especially, Madame Kapet, who was the only woman among the trainers, yet was not bothered by this fact. Thanks to you, I learned many things about the role of a polling station supervisor and I will try to apply what I learned on election day. Thank you for your initiative and I encourage you to continue."

#### Man/Facobly

The December 17-18 training in Man was for 35 polling station supervisors covering the municipal election in Facobly, about 30 kms outside of Man. Initially, many of the participants expressed indignation at being trained at all, as many of them had served as supervisors in past elections. However, once the seminar was over comments on the training were more positive:

1) "After having served as polling station supervisor six times, it is with much pleasure that I participated in this seminar. At the beginning I did not think I had anything new to learn from it. However I found myself fully engaged throughout the debates and workshops and now feel my experienced was greatly reinforced by the seminar. It made me realize the enormous responsibility of the position because one simple error could bring about a major conflict."

2) "This kind of training is necessary for the consolidation of democracy in Côte d'Ivoire. It should be given to all political party representatives and the general population in order to guarantee social peace."

3) "This seminar was of capital importance. Having never supervised a polling station, it allowed me to understand the mechanics of setting up and running a polling station, my role as a supervisor, the role of the party delegates, secretaries and party representatives."

4) "This seminar was very enriching and owes it originality to the simulation of setting up a polling station which made it a most complete training."

#### Korhogo

The Korhogo training from December 18-19 included participants from Seguela, Ouaninou, Booko and Korhogo. There were approximately 105 participants in all. Two women participated in this seminar--the only ones trained. Feedback included:

1) "This seminar was very welcome. The training should be continued through the post-electoral

period and include political parties as well.”

2) “This training has reinforced our capacity to fulfill our role as supervisor of a polling station. What also impressed me was the seriousness of the trainers and the fact they had come all the way from Abidjan. It was a very enriching seminar.”

3) “I hope this kind of training for polling station supervisors will continue because we learned many things about the mechanics and organization of the vote. In addition, the simulation permitted us to observe some unexpected situations we may face on election day, showing us that as the supervisor we must remain calm and serious in dealing with these situations.”

4) “The training is a positive thing because it allowed us to learn some things that we were previously missing. We hope to be able to receive training for the next elections as well.”

#### **7. The performance of electoral agents on election day**

The GERDDES training had a significant impact on the performance of the polling station supervisors trained, as witnessed by ONE observers on election day. Not only did ONE observers notice the impact but this was expressed by the supervisors themselves and even recognized by Minister Bombet the day after the election. The training yielded polling station supervisors who possessed knowledge of polling station procedures and certain parts of the electoral code. No less important, however, was the confidence they acquired in their authority to make decisions. The only negative feedback they expressed was frustration that the other polling station staff (secretaries and party representatives) hadn't received training and that voters were unfamiliar with voting procedures.

Two out of the three polling station supervisors IFES observed on election day had attended the GERDDES training. The one who did not attend had been on a business trip in Abidjan and observing his performance allowed a comparison of the performance of GERDDES-trained supervisors versus a non-trained supervisor. When the non-GERDDES trained supervisor was asked about training, he said would have liked to have attended it even though he had supervised polling stations in the past. As indicated in the Korhogo observation report, his lack of training was apparent as the set-up and procedures of his polling station did not reflect what had been taught in the GERDDES seminars.

A detailed observation report of the Korhogo election is included as Attachment C.

#### **8. Commentary on the elections and results**

There was consensus from all concerned parties that the elections were carried out in a climate of peacefulness and that results were fair and reflected the “will of the people.” The government quickly recognized gains made by the opposition, specifically by the FPI which took all seats in the Gagnoa region. Minister Bombet announced the results on national television and made a point of

highlighting the participation of civil society through the NGO activities. He also thanked international donors for their support and offered his assessment of the elections that they were a successful indicator of the consolidation of democracy in Côte d'Ivoire.

ONE's official communique, delivered January 2, 1997 praised all sides for their respect of the law and the democratic process. ONE described the elections as well run and without major incident, noting the climate of cooperation between representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and political and administrative authorities. It stated political actors avoided confrontation, pointed to the presence of officials from the election oversight commission, complimented the competence of voting station supervisors and thanked voters for their patience.

Nevertheless, ONE identified irregularities and inconsistencies observed on election day, pointing out these were mostly isolated cases rather than symptomatic of the process. Some of these included (direct translation from the French text):

1. The presence of police at polling stations
2. The lack of clear identification of polling station staff
3. The often poor choice of secretaries and vote tabulating assistants
4. The poor training of some polling station staff
5. The behavior of some party representatives at polling stations
6. The process of identification of voters and who is eligible to vote
7. The (mis)use of indelible ink for signature fingerprinting

See Attachment D for the full text of the ONE press release

December 29, 1996 partial election results				
Region/locality	Candidate(s)	Party	Percentages	Elected
Gagnoa (commune)	Mema Bamba	PDCI	39.8%	Dano D. Mamadou T. (FPI)
	Dozo Joachim	PCDI	53.59%	
	Dano Djedje	FPI		
	Mamadou Toure	FPI		
Gagnoa (sous-prefecture)	Diaby Moustapha	RDR	6.56%	Dasse H. (FPI)
	Badobre Pierre	RDR		
	Cahi Brizi	PCDI	38.09%	
Guiberoua	Dasse Henri	FPI	61.91%	Brissi T. (FPI)
	Mabo Gohou J.	PDCI	41.88%	
Ouragahio	Brissi Troupa	FPI	58.12%	Gbagbo L. (FPI)
	Didi Langui	PDCI	25.67%	
Seguela	Gbagbo Laurent	FPI	74.33%	Bakayoko Y. (PDCI)
	Bakayoko Youssouf	PDCI	48.63%	
	Soumahoro Mamadou	RDR	43.20%	
	Dosso Valy	Indep.	5.47%	
Korhogo (sous-prefecture)	Dosso Massoma	Indep.	2.70%	Ousmane C. (PDCI)
	Ousmane Coulibaly	PDCI	61.31%	
	Coulibaly Mamadou	RDR	38.69%	
Adzopé	Yapo Achi Christophe	PDCI	63.28%	Yapo A. (PDCI)
	Kouao Kouao	FPI	33.49%	
	Dia Yapi	Indep.	3.23%	
<i>Facobly*</i>	Sekou Sangare	PDCI	47.65%	Tehi K. (FPI)
	Tehi Kouhon	FPI	52.35%	
<i>Booko*</i>	Vassidiki Diomande	PDCI	56.58%	Vassidiki D. (PDCI)
	Diomande Ismaila	FPI	43.42%	
<i>Ouaninou*</i>	Lancina Bamba	PDCI	52.50%	Lancina B. (PDCI)
	Saoure	Indep.	47.50%	
<i>Lakota*</i>	Diarra Pelkan Marc	PDCI	58.82%	Diarra Pelkan (PDCI)
	Boga Doudou	FPI	41.18%	

\* indicates municipal election

PDCI = Parti Democratique de Côte d'Ivoire; FPI = Front Populaire Ivoirien;

RDR = Rassemblement des Republicains

## 10. Final Comments and Recommendations

GERDDES and ONE deserve to be complimented for their initiative in organizing the training of election workers and for deploying national observers to monitor the elections. Based on their involvement in the 1995 election, the NGOs' recognized a continuing need and overcame funding constraints to fulfil the training and observation needs for the 1996 partial elections. For future elections, a comprehensive and universal training program for all election workers (not just supervisors) should be a prominent feature of the election preparation process in Côte d'Ivoire and included in national and regional election budgets. Many of the prefects and sous-prefects feel they have barely enough funds to cover such material items as vehicles, fuel, voting screens and lanterns and do not consider training among the primary election needs.

As witnessed by ONE observers on election day, training is an essential part of the election process. Several polling stations supervisors, who had not benefited from the GERDDES training, asked ONE observers to confirm their polling station was set up correctly, to clarify a procedure, or to settle an argument over a regulation. The lack of universal training for pollworkers translates into an uneven application of the election code which can lead to delays or mistakes in tabulating results or in filling out election forms, as well as other irregularities that may alter the results.

The professionalization of election administration in Côte d'Ivoire and the standardization of training can have a far-reaching positive impact on the establishment of a sustainable participatory democracy. The MINT's willingness to allow Ivorian NGOs to train pollworkers and undertake domestic election observation is a sign the Ivorian government is open to change. Addressing remaining insufficiencies of the electoral process, perhaps through the establishment of an election commission with legal and financial standing, is a way for the Ivorian government to exhibit continued commitment to advancing the democratization process. With regard to Ivorian civil society, IFES hopes the NGOs will work on fine tuning their organizational and management skills so they may play an increasingly significant role in Côte d'Ivoire's democratic consolidation.

## Appendices

- Attachment A:** Final conclusions from the GERDDES report entitled, "Rapport de la Mission d'Evaluation de la Situation Socio-Politique dans le Departement de Gagnoa depuis les Elections Legislatives du 26 Novembre 1995."
- Attachment B:** The list of GERDDES trainers, training schedules and other training-related materials for the December, 1996 GERDDES pollworker training seminars.
- Attachment C:** Ms. Posner's observation report for the Korhogo sous-prefecture legislative election of December 29, 1996.
- Attachment D:** ONE's communique de presse delivered January 2, 1997.

## CONCLUSION

L'ONE a tiré plusieurs enseignements de cette enquête menée dans le département de Gagnoa en vue des élections législatives partielles.

Le premier enseignement est la très grande satisfaction des populations qui ont apprécié le fait que la société civile (L'ONE) ait décidé de s'impliquer dans la recherche de solution, dans une approche "technique" et non partisane. Les deux communautés ont salué cette initiative qui, selon elles, va accélérer la décrispation, dès l'instant qu'une entité neutre s'intercale entre les forces politiques (les partis) qui ont du mal à trouver un terrain d'entente. Pourtant être écouté par les deux bords, la société civile devrait donc être plus présente sur le terrain.

Le second enseignement est la plus grande méconnaissance que les populations ont du système électoral et le désabusement d'une partie de l'électorat. Peu de gens ont une connaissance claire des opérations préélectorales et avaient donc beaucoup de mal à répondre aux questions des enquêteurs. Le pourcentage de réponses aux questions posées est parfois tombé à moins de 30%. Les équipes de l'ONE ont été aussi surpris de constater que même les représentants des partis politiques maîtrisaient mal le processus électoral et se fondaient souvent sur la rumeur. Peu ont pu fournir des preuves matérielles des allégations faites. Les équipes devaient donc faire des recoupements pour essayer d'approcher la réalité des faits. Il est donc absolument indispensable que des campagnes d'éducation civique soient menées régulièrement en direction des populations et que les responsables locaux des partis aient une formation adéquate pour encadrer les militants et fonder leurs réclamations sur des preuves matérielles indiscutables pour faire taire la rumeur, qui a été en réalité à la base des affrontements.

Le troisième enseignement c'est la volonté réelle des populations de vivre dans la Paix, la Concorde et la Fraternité. Mis à part la question des terres qui n'est pas un problème politique, les communautés Baoulé et Bété veulent vivre en parfaite harmonie au plan politique, dès l'instant qu'au niveau national, les leaders trouvent un accord minimal de cohabitation pacifique. C'est pour cela que l'ONE saisit l'occasion de ce rapport pour lancer un appel à toutes tendances confondues d'arriver à un modus vivendi qui permettra d'avoir en Côte d'Ivoire, pour l'avenir, des élections calmes et transparentes. L'occasion est fournie par les prochaines élections partielles et l'ONE souhaite vivement que toutes les forces politiques et administratives se mobilisent pour leur réussite.

L'ONE tient à remercier très vivement le Ministre de l'Intérieur, M. Emile Constant BOMBET qui a accueilli favorablement la mission de l'ONE et pris les dispositions nécessaires pour que toutes les autorités politiques et administratives reçoivent sa délégation. Il lui sait gré de bien vouloir transmettre au Gouvernement et au Chef de l'Etat sa profonde gratitude.

Il remercie aussi les autorités et les populations du département de Gagnoa pour leur accueil chaleureux et leur disponibilité à répondre aux questions qui leur ont été posées. Il est prêt à tenir compte de toute nouvelle observation portant sur le contenu de ce rapport qu'il soumet aux autorités de l'Etat et aux partis politiques représentés à l'Assemblée Nationale.

L'ONE, exprime enfin toute sa reconnaissance à l'IFES et à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique pour leur soutien, sans lequel cette mission n'aurait jamais pu s'accomplir. Il souhaite que cette contribution à la consolidation de la démocratie et de l'Etat de droit en Côte d'Ivoire soit renforcée, afin que la société civile, dans sa démarche bénévole et non partisane, continue de jouer son rôle qui est aujourd'hui positivement apprécié par la population.



GROUPE D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA DEMOCRATIE  
ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL  
EN COTE D'IVOIRE

GERDDES-CI

ATELIERS DE FORMATION  
DES  
PRESIDENTS DE BUREAU DE VOTE

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FORMATEURS

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- 1- M. GUIÉ K. Honoré, Professeur de Droit à l'Université d'Abidjan  
Président du GERDDES-CI
- 2- M. BILÉ B. Mathieu, Professeur de Droit à l'Université d'Abidjan  
Secrétaire Général de la LIDHO
- 3- M. OUATTARA Raphaël, Professeur de Lettres à l'Université  
d'Abidjan  
Secrétaire Général de l'AID-CI
- 4- Mme KAPET B. Bernadette, Sociologue  
Trésorière du GERDDES-CI
- 5- M. KOUADIO Jean, Professeur à l'Institut National Supérieur de  
l'Enseignement Technique (INSET)  
Secrétaire Général du GERDDES-CI
- 6- M. SONZAH I V. Vincent, Professeur de Droit à l'Université  
d'Abidjan  
Membre du GERDDES-CI
- 7- M. TRAORÉ Souleymane, Professeur à l'Institut National  
Supérieur de l'Enseignement Technique  
(INSET)  
Président de la Section de Yamoussoukro  
du GERDDES-CI



GROUPE D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA DEMOCRATIE  
ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL  
EN COTE D'IVOIRE

GERDDES-CII

ATELIERS DE FORMATION  
DES  
PRESIDENTS DE BUREAU DE VOTE

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THEMES DES ATELIERS

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1- "L'ouverture du Bureau de vote"

Animateurs: - Mme KAPET B. Bernadette  
- M. KOUADIO Jean

2- "Le déroulement du scrutin"

Animateurs: - M. BILÉ B. Mathieu  
- M. OUATTARA Raphaël

3- "La fermeture du Bureau, le dépouillement  
et la transmission des résultats"

Animateurs: - M. GUIÉ K. Honoré  
- M. SONZAH I V. Vincent



GROUPE D'ETUDE ET DE RECHERCHE SUR LA DEMOCRATIE  
ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL  
EN COTE-D'IVOIRE  
GERDDES-CI

PROGRAMME DES ATELIERS DE FORMATION  
DES  
PRESIDENTS DE BUREAU DE VOTE

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GAGNOA

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SAMEDI 14 DECEMBRE 1995

MATIN

8h00 : Inscription des participants

8h30 - : Accueil des Invités

8h45 : Arrivée des Autorités

9h00 - : Cérémonie officielle d'ouverture  
Allocutions :

- Le Maire de la Ville de Gagnoa
- Le Président du GERDDES-CI
- La Représentante de l'I.F.E.S.
- Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Canada ou son Représentant
- Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis ou son Représentant
- Le Préfet de Région

10h00 : Pause-café

10h25 : Assemblée Plénière :  
Communication sur "La connaissance des textes électoraux"  
Conférencier: M. Honoré K. GUIE, Président du GERDDES-CI

10h45 : Discussions

11h45 : Constitution des groupes pour les ateliers

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

APRES-MIDI

14h30 : Assemblée Plénière :

Communication sur "L'organisation du scrutin"

+ Conférencier: un Représentant du Ministère de l'Intérieur

15h30 : Discussions

15h45 : Pause-café

16h00 : Ateliers-A: L'ouverture du bureau de vote

B: Le déroulement du scrutin

C: La fermeture du bureau, le dépouillement et la transmission des résultats

**DIMANCHE 15 DECEMBRE 1996**

MATIN

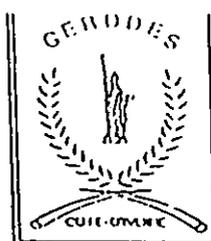
9h00 : Simulation

11h00 : Pause-café

11h30 : Cérémonie de clôture

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

15h00 : Fin de l'Atelier



GROUPE D'ETUDE ET DE RECHERCHE SUR LA DEMOCRATIE  
ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL  
EN COTE-D'IVOIRE  
GERDDES-CI

PROGRAMME DES ATELIERS DE FORMATION  
DES  
PRESIDENTS DE BUREAU DE VOTE

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MAN

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LUNDI 16 DECEMBRE 1995

MATIN

8h00 : Inscription des participants

8h30 - : Accueil des Invités

8h45 : Arrivée des Autorités

9h00 - : Cérémonie officielle d'ouverture  
Allocutions :

- Le Maire de la Ville de Man
- Le Président du GERDDES-CI
- La Représentante de l'I.F.E.S.
- Le Préfet de Région

10h00 : Pause-café

10h25 : Assemblée Plénière :  
Communication sur "La connaissance des textes électoraux"  
Conférencier: M. Honoré K. GUIE, Président du GERDDES-CI

10h45 : Discussions

11h45 : Constitution des groupes pour les ateliers

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

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15h30 : Discussions

15h45 : Pause-café

16h00 : Ateliers-A: L'ouverture du bureau de vote

B: Le déroulement du scrutin

C: La fermeture du bureau, le dépouillement et la transmission des résultats

**MARDI 17 DECEMBRE 1996**

MATIN

9h00 : Simulation

11h00 : Pause-café

11h30 : Cérémonie de clôture

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

15h00 : Fin de l'Atelier



GROUPE D'ETUDE ET DE RECHERCHE SUR LA DEMOCRATIE  
ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL  
EN COTE-D'IVOIRE  
GERDDES-CI

PROGRAMME DES ATELIERS DE FORMATION  
DES  
PRESIDENTS DE BUREAU DE VOTE

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KORHOGO

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JEUDI 19 DECEMBRE 1995

MATIN

8h00 : Inscription des participants

8h30 - : Accueil des Invités

8h45 : Arrivée des Autorités

9h00 - : Cérémonie officielle d'ouverture

Allocutions :

- Le Maire de la Ville de Korhogo
- Le Président du GERDDES-CI
- La Représentante de l'I.F.E.S.
- Le Préfet de Région

10h00 : Pause-café

10h25 : Assemblée Plénière :

Communication sur "La connaissance des textes électoraux"

Conférencier: M. Honoré K. GUIE, Président du GERDDES-CI

10h45 : Discussions

11h45 : Constitution des groupes pour les ateliers

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

APRES-MIDI

14h30 : Assemblée Plénière :

Communication sur "L'organisation du scrutin"

Conférencier: un Représentant du Ministère de l'Intérieur

15h30 : Discussions

15h45 : Pause-café

16h00 : Ateliers-A: L'ouverture du bureau de vote

B: Le déroulement du scrutin

C: La fermeture du bureau, le dépouillement et la transmission des résultats

**VENDREDI 20 DECEMBRE 1996**

MATIN

9h00 : Simulation

11h00 : Pause-café

11h30 : Cérémonie de clôture

12h15 : Pause-déjeuner

15h00 : Fin de l'Atelier

REPUBLIQUE  
DE  
COTE D'IVOIRE

GUIDE  
DU PRESIDENT DE BUREAU DE VOTE  
POUR LES ELECTIONS GENERALES DE 1995

*réalisé par*  
LE MINISTRE DE L'INTERIEUR

*en collaboration avec*  
LE CER DES COTE D'IVOIRE  
*et le soutien de*  
L'AMBASSADE DU CANADA EN COTE D'IVOIRE

## Élections

# Le GERDES forme les présidents de bureau de vote

La section ivoirienne du groupe d'étude et de recherche sur la démocratie et le développement économique et social (GERDES-CI) et le ministère de l'intérieur et de l'intégration nationale ont organisé un séminaire de formation des présidents de bureaux de vote pour les législatives partielles, les 19 et 20 décembre à Korhogo.

Financé par... (Fondation Internationale pour les systèmes électoraux), un organisme américain basé à Washington, ce séminaire a pour objectif de former et d'informer les potentiels présidents de bureaux de vote sur les textiles électoraux afin qu'ils puissent conduire correctement le scrutin dans leur bureau de vote. Les participants sont

venus des circonscriptions électorales de Korhogo, Massala et Ouaninou. Les délégués de Boko invités ne sont pas arrivés. Pratiquement, après deux séances en plénière au cours desquelles deux communications ont été faites sur "la connaissance des textes électoraux" et sur "l'organisation du scrutin", le séminaire a éclaté en trois ateliers. Un atelier a traité de "l'ouverture du bureau", un autre du "déroulement du scrutin" et un troisième de "la fermeture du bureau de vote, du dépouillement et de la transmission des résultats". Des exercices de simulation ont été faits par chaque sous-groupe sur son thème, devant les autres, de sorte qu'à la fin, tout le monde a vu comment ça se passe sur le terrain.

*Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*  
**Partial Legislative Election Observation Report**  
Korhogo sous-prefecture ❖ December 29, 1996

IFES Program Officer Mara Posner joined Raphaël Ouattara, Korhogo Regional Coordinator for Observatoire National des Elections (ONE), in visiting several polling stations in the Korhogo sous-prefecture legislative race on December 29, 1996. Regional Coordinators were also stationed in Gagnoa, Man and Abidjan to cover a total of seven legislative and four municipal races. More information on the December 29<sup>th</sup> partial elections can be obtained from ONE's detailed observation report.

### Preparations

The day before the election Mr. Ouattara and Ms. Posner visited the Prefect of Korhogo to inform him of the ONE observer mission. The Prefect provided a list of all polling stations in the Korhogo sous-prefecture, identified by number, location, number of registered voters, and name of the polling station supervisor.

ONE assigned eight observers to cover the Korhogo election; two teams of three and one team of two. As the polling stations were located in villages outside the town of Korhogo, it was not possible to send observers to each of the 63 polling stations. Instead, the ONE Coordinator decided to send observer teams to villages with the largest number of registered voters, villages with more than one polling station or villages that had problems in the past with elections or political parties.

### Election Day

On election day Ms. Posner and Mr. Ouattara stopped by the sous-prefecture to check in with authorities before preceding to the villages of Lataha and Kohotieri to observe polling stations 37, 39 & 40. (Note: in French polling stations are called "Bureau de Vote" or BV for short). The Regional Coordinator was also required to check in at the hotel throughout the day, in case any of the other teams encountered problems. He was also supporting observer teams for the municipal elections in Lakota, Booko and Seguela.

Ms. Posner was interested in assessing the impact of the IFES-supported GERDDES training on the performance of pollworkers. Mr. Diarrassouba Issouf, supervisor of BV 40 in Lataha, and Mr. Soungari Soro, Supervisor of BV 37 in Kohotieri, had attended the GERDDES training a week prior. Mr. Kofi N'Goran, the supervisor of BV 39 in Lataha, had not attended the GERDDES training and observing his performance allowed for a comparison.

**Observations of BV 40:** Mr. Diarrassouba was in the final stages of setting up the polling station when the ONE observer team arrived at approximately 8:00 AM. The polling station was well placed in a free standing one-room hut and it was well arranged. Both party delegates were present and Mr. Diarrassouba had chosen a secretary from the voter registry to help him run the polling station, per the electoral code. There were 5-7 gendarmes just outside the polling station, which seemed excessive. The ONE observer team stayed in BV 40 for about 25 minutes and during that time there were no voters present.

**Observations of BV 39:** The ONE observer team preceded to BV 39, also in Lataha, to observe operations there. Polling station supervisor Koffi N'Goran had not attend the GERDDES/IFES training, as he was out of town at the time. This polling station was situated on the grounds of a primary school and was poorly arranged. It was simply a table set up about 20 feet outside a classroom, where voters went to place their ballot in an envelope. Voters were not lined up in an orderly fashion; rather there was a mass of people in front of the table. While we spoke to Mr. N'Goran, his secretary checked voter registration and identity cards and neither one of them was watching the ballot box.

**Observations of BV 37:** The third polling station visited by the ONE team was in the village of Kohotieri and was supervised by Soungari Soro. The Korhogo sous-prefecture legislative race had been necessitated by the death of the legislator, who was from Kohotieri and during the campaign there had been some disturbances related to party activity. However, on election day the village was calm. The polling station was exceptionally well organized on the porch of a primary school, with voters lined up in an orderly fashion and operations running smoothly. Mr. Soungari was clearly in charge and two gendarmes were a good distance away from the polling station. Mr. Soungari indicated having received the GERDDES training helped him a great deal in setting up the polling station and had provided him with a better understanding of the electoral code.

### **General Observations**

All the polling stations visited faced similar standard shortcomings:

1. Inconsistency of polling station facilities.
2. Lack of polling booths and/or container for unused ballots.
3. Lack of knowledge of the electoral process by polling station supervisors who had not been trained, by party delegates and by voters.
4. The presence of the gendarmes, or police, to maintain order in polling stations.

With regard to #4, in Lataha not only were they excessively present and close in proximity to the polling station but at one point during a mid-day visit there was a gendarme was inside the polling station with his rifle in hand, instructing voters where to stand and when to proceed to the registration table. The supervisor didn't ask the gendarme to leave or to keep the rifle away from the polling station, at least not during the time observed.

At the end of the day, when the observer team returned to this same polling station for the vote count, a gendarme interrupted the supervisor to ask him exactly who was authorized to be present for counting and tabulation of results. He was clearly insinuating the observer team should not be allowed in the polling station. The supervisor told him observers were authorized to be inside the polling station and anyone else who wanted to could observe from outside. The gendarme stayed inside the polling station the whole time, with his rifle on the floor next to him.

In addition, a few of the party delegates approached the ONE Regional Coordinator to complain about some polling stations supervisors who were being overly strict in not permitting voters who had their voter registration card with them vote, because they lacked a national identity card, or some other accepted identification. The Ivorian Electoral Code addresses this issue, by allowing the

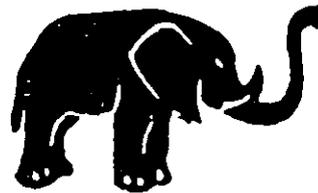
person to vote if two other voters at the polling station can verify their identity. At one other time, a party delegate informed the ONE Regional Coordinator that PDCI party representatives had visited the village of Lataha the day before and given 500 CFA to each registered villager, instructing them to vote PDCI on election day.

### Comments and Suggestions

1. Training: GERDDES trained most of the polling station supervisors operating polling stations on election day in Gagnoa, Man and Korhogo and all of those interviewed confirmed the training had proven extremely useful. However, the Prefects had named others who had not received the training. This made for an unequal application of procedures which was apparent in their performance on election day.
2. Civic Education: All polling station supervisors indicated what made their job difficult was the lack of trained co-workers as well as a general lack of knowledge of voting procedures. Voter education campaigns and more civic education is needed to address these problems.
3. Identification: Polling station workers and party representatives need identification. They should be provided with simple badges or arm bands. ONE observers wore badges showing their credentials which helped identify them to authorities and polling station workers.
4. Rules and regulations concerning the carrying of arms in and around polling stations require careful review. No firearms should be allowed within 50 meters of a polling station. If the military or police are used to control voter access to the polling stations, they must not be armed.
5. Procedures and set-up: Careful thought should be given to polling station locations in advance of election day by local authorities. Instructions should be provided to each supervisor, including a diagram of suggested polling station set-up that encourages improved traffic flow and simplifies the pollworkers tasks. Voters should be encouraged to dispose of their unused ballots in a closed receptacle or in a nylon bag hung in each polling booth.
6. Indelible ink should be distributed with instructions for proper use.

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE

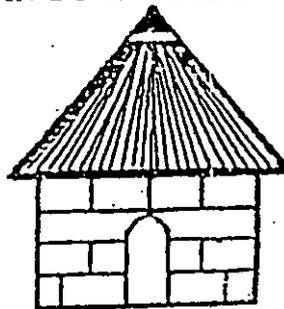
ELECTION A L'ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE  
SCRUTIN DU 29 DECEMBRE 1996



**OUSMANE COULIBALY**

CIRCONSCRIPTION ELECTORALE N° 100  
SOUS-PREFECTURE DE KORHOGO

ELECTION A L'ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE  
SCRUTIN DU 29 DECEMBRE 1996



**COULIBALY MAMADOU SANGAFOWA**

CIRCONSCRIPTION ELECTORALE N° 100  
SOUS-PREFECTURE DE KORHOGO

- l'extension de l'observation aux élections municipales,

Pour ces partielles, l'ONE a déployé une soixantaine d'observateurs repartis dans toutes les circonscriptions électorales concernées, à savoir :

- \* pour les législatives : Adzopé, Gagnoa-commune, Gagnoa-Sous-Préfecture, Guibéroua, Korhogo, Ouragahio, Séguéla,
- \* pour les municipales : Booko, Facobly, Lakota, Ouaninou.

Au terme de son observation, l'ONE a constaté avec satisfaction le bon déroulement général des opérations de vote. Il salue en particulier :

- le climat de paix qui a prévalu ;
- l'attitude coopérative du Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Intégration Nationale, des autorités politiques et administratives ;
- le souci des acteurs politiques d'éviter l'affrontement ;
- la présence des officiers électoraux ;
- le comportement civique et la compétence de la plupart des présidents des bureaux de vote ;
- la mobilisation et le comportement civique des électeurs.

L'ONE tient cependant à relever certaines faiblesses ou irrégularités constatées le jour de scrutin, qu'il serait souhaitable de corriger pour les consultations électorales à venir. Ce sont :

- la présence massive et parfois intimidante des forces de l'ordre ;
- l'identification du Président de bureau de vote et de ses assesseurs ;
- le choix des secrétaires et des scrutateurs ;
- la formation de certains membres de Bureau de vote ;
- le comportement de certains délégués des candidats ;
- la question de l'identification des électeurs dans certains bureaux de vote ;
- l'utilisation de l'encre indélébile comme moyen d'émargement.

Toutes ces constatations feront l'objet d'un rapport détaillé qui sera transmis au Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Intégration Nationale et publié.

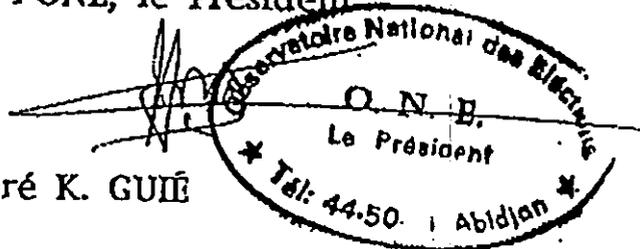
L'ONE tient à remercier :

- le Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Intégration Nationale et le Gouvernement de la République de Côte d'Ivoire pour la confiance qui lui a été accordée dans le cadre de cette mission d'observation ;
- l'Ambassade du Canada pour avoir entièrement financé la mission ;
- l'Ambassade des Etat-Unis et l'IFES pour leur soutien dans le cadre de la préparation de la mission ;
- les acteurs politiques et les populations pour leur comportement civique qui a permis le bon déroulement de ces élections partielles.

Fait à Abidjan le 31 décembre 1996.

Pour l'ONE, le Président

Honoré K. GUIÉ



## Élections partielles du 29 décembre

# LES RÉSULTATS OFFICIELS PAR BOMBET

Les élections partielles qui viennent de se dérouler ont été rendues nécessaires en raison des violences et autres perturbations qui ont émaillé les scrutins précédents et qui ont conduit à leur suspension ou à leur annulation. Ce scrutin passé, faut-il le rappeler, s'était caractérisé par la nette victoire du PDCI-RDA.

Un an après, dans un contexte politique caractérisé par des actions soutenues du Chef de l'Etat et du Gouvernement dans le sens de la promotion d'une démocratie apaisée, les élections partielles présentes se sont préparées dans le calme avec la participation de plusieurs acteurs et animateurs politiques.

— Le premier constat qui s'impose au dénouement de ce processus électoral, c'est la maturité des militants des partis politiques en lice, et des Ivoiriens en général.

— Le deuxième constat est relatif au taux de participation qui est de 51,25%, ce qui peut être considéré comme relativement satisfaisant au regard des taux moyens enregistrés généralement pour ce type d'élection.

— Le troisième constat qu'on pourrait faire est sans aucun doute la recomposition du paysage politique autour de trois partis, le P.D.C.I., le F.P.I., le R.D.R en dehors de quelques candidats sans étiquette.

Tous les autres partis politiques, dont certains s'étaient manifestés lors des précédentes consultations et que l'on était en droit d'attendre à ce rendez-vous, ont choisi pour des raisons qui leur sont propres de s'abstenir.

La lecture qu'il nous est donné de faire des derniers résultats est la suivante:

### En ce qui concerne les élections législatives

**Korhogo sous-préfecture:** est déclaré vainqueur M. Ousmane Coulibaly du PDCI-RDA avec 61,31% des voix face au candidat du R.D.R.

**Adzopé:** le P.D.C.I.-R.D.A l'emporte avec 63,28% des voix pour M. Yapo Achi Christophe face au FPI.

**Séguéla 1:** sort victorieux des urnes, M. Bakayoko Youssouf du P.D.C.I.-R.D.A avec 48,63% des voix face à un candidat R.D.R et à deux candidats sans étiquette.

Dans la région du centre-ouest, comme de nombreux observateurs politiques s'y attendaient, les circonscriptions électorales de Gagnoa sous-préfecture avec M. Dassé Henri, Guibéroua avec Brissi Troupa Joachim, Ouraghio avec M. Gbagbo Laurent, sont demeurées sous l'influence du F.P.I avec respectivement les pourcentages suivants: 61,91%; 58,12%; 74,33%.

Ce qu'il faut signaler concernant les élections législatives, c'est que sur 08 sièges à pourvoir, le P.D.C.I en a obtenu 03 (Séguéla, Korhogo et Adzopé). Le département de Gagnoa qui reste le bastion traditionnel du F.P.I remporte effectivement les 05 autres sièges.

### En ce qui se rapporte aux élections municipales:

**A Ouainou:** est sorti vainqueur, la liste Espoir conduite par M. Lanciné Bamba du P.D.C.I.-R.D.A avec 52,50% des voix face à un candidat sans étiquette.

**A Booko:** vainqueur, la liste Paix et Développement conduite par M. Vassidiki Diomandé du P.D.C.I.-R.D.A avec 56,58% des voix face au F.P.I.

**A Lakota:** emporte le scrutin, la liste Union-Développement-Solidarité conduite par M. Diarra Pelkan du P.D.C.I.-R.D.A avec 58,82% face au député Boga Dou dou du F.P.I.

**A Facoby:** vainqueur la liste Espoir et Renouveau du F.P.I conduite par M. Tehi Kouhon avec 52,33% des voix face au P.D.C.I.-R.D.A.

Ainsi, au niveau des élections municipales, le PDCI-RDA remporte les élections dans trois des quatre communes intéressées.

Quelles conclusions pouvons-nous tirer de ces résultats?

Premièrement, il faut relever que le PDCI a présenté des candidats dans toutes les onze (11) circonscriptions concernées. Ce qui confirme l'envergure nationale

de ce Parti, le FPI s'étant focalisé sur le centre-ouest, l'ouest et le sud, tandis que le RDR se limitait aux régions du nord et du nord-ouest, avec une incursion à Gagnoa-commune.

Deuxièmement, au regard des scores enregistrés par les candidats sans étiquette, l'on peut remarquer que les électeurs ont tendance à accorder leurs suffrages aux candidats investis par les partis politiques.

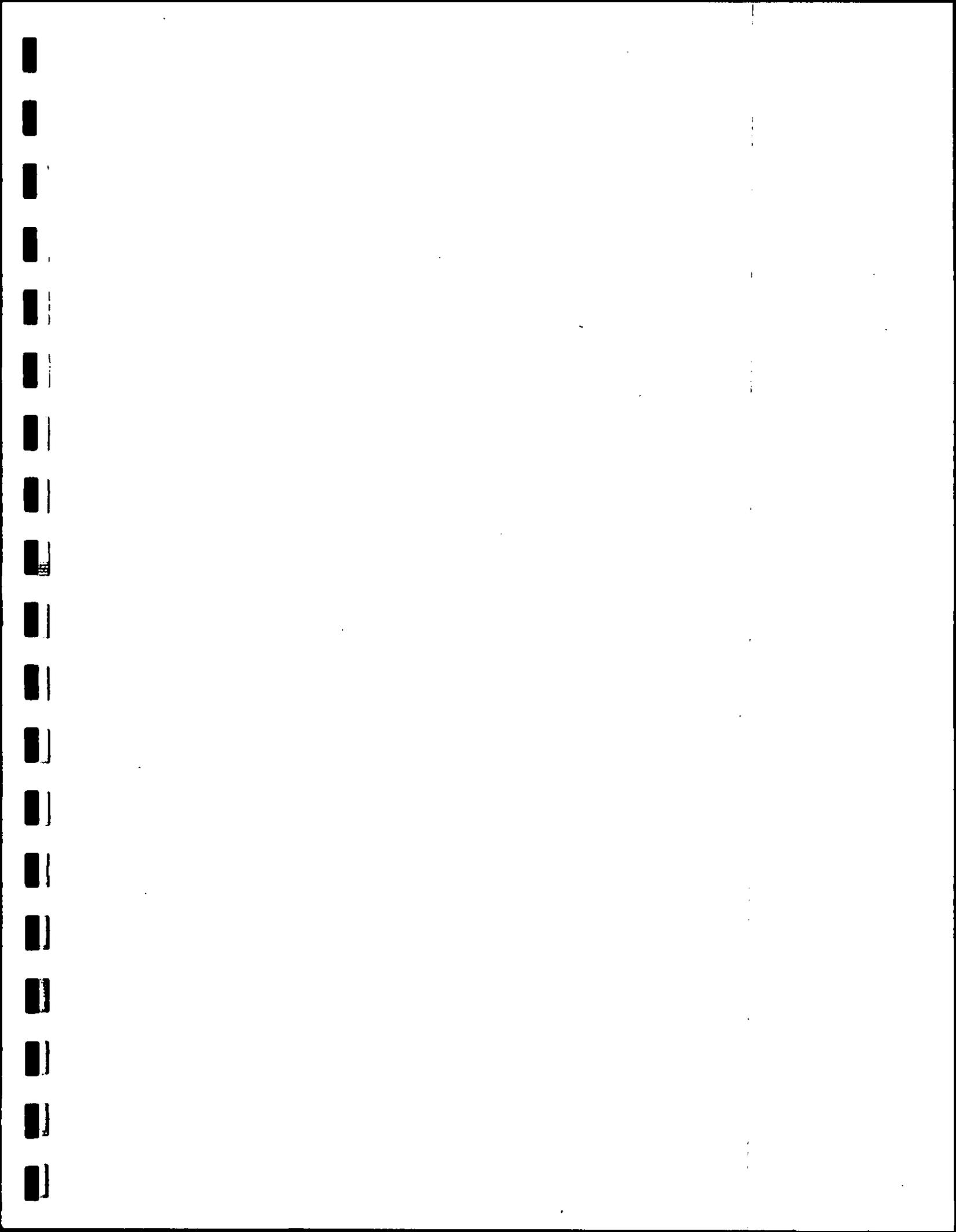
Troisièmement, concernant les circonscriptions électorales, on peut dire qu'à Korhogo, Adzopé et Séguéla, les résultats traduisent une tendance à un rééquilibrage des forces politiques.

Pour conclure, la grande leçon que l'on peut tirer de ces élections, c'est le climat qui a prévalu et qui va dans le sens de la démocratie apaisée, prônée par le Chef de l'Etat, ce qui honore notre pays. En effet, aucun incident grave n'est venu émailler ce processus électoral, aussi bien dans sa préparation que dans son déroulement.

Il faut en outre indiquer que certaines ambassades et légations étrangères se sont étroitement associées à l'observation du scrutin. Par ailleurs, ces élections partielles ont été l'occasion pour les observateurs nationaux de suivre, de bout en bout, la mise en œuvre du processus électoral et ce, depuis la formation des scrutateurs et présidents de bureaux de vote jusqu'à l'observation du scrutin proprement dit. Convient-il de le préciser, la mise en place de cet observatoire national constitue une première et le Gouvernement qui est soucieux de la consolidation de la démocratie ne peut que s'en féliciter.

C'est enfin le lieu de rendre un hommage appuyé aux autorités préfectorales et administratives, aux forces de sécurité, à la presse, aux différents acteurs politiques et à tous ceux qui, à des degrés divers, nous ont permis de relever avec succès ce défi majeur, qui est le gage de la maturité politique des Ivoiriens.

Emile Constant BOMBET





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