



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Dakar, Senegal



Exterior of Embassy Dakar

Embassy Dakar is well led and well managed. All of its sections cooperate toward agreed-upon goals and receive strong administrative support. Morale is high.

Embassy Dakar averages over 100 visitors on temporary duty per month, and it cannot house additional staff or agencies in its present facility.

Embassy Dakar's reporting and engagement in Guinea-Bissau is increasing, but this is happening without overall guidance or coordination. No secure location or policy guidance has been provided regarding the level of risk acceptable for temporary duty personnel to work in Bissau. In addition, the administrative support is insufficient.

The embassy's International Cooperative Administrative Support Services council is paying costs associated with regional positions located in Dakar. These costs need to be distributed to the post receiving the services.

The embassy's political and economic reporting is excellent. Reporting and public diplomacy activities properly focus on Senegal's Muslim population and on the issues of democracy, transparency, and governance. The economic section's workload is increasing, but the current high quality of reporting, visitor support, and program management cannot be sustained with the present level of staff.

Background



Map of Senegal

Senegal has a population of 10.6 million people and an area of 75,955 square miles, which is slightly smaller than South Dakota. Senegal has a history of moderate Islam and is the most important Francophone partner to the United States in Africa. The primary U.S. interests in Senegal are economic growth, combating terrorism, promoting mutual understanding, encouraging democracy and regional stability, and enhancing access to health and education. The embassy serves as a regional platform to support other U.S. missions in West Africa and provides coverage while the U.S. Embassy in Guinea-Bissau remains closed.

U.S.-Senegalese relations are warm and continue to deepen as the United States expands areas of cooperation and seeks additional sectors of mutual benefit. Senegal is a good partner. The Senegalese leadership is sympathetic to U.S. interests and is ready to deepen the relationship. Senegal is eager to receive critical Millennium Challenge Corporation funding and hopes to

conclude a compact in 2006 that could lead to \$1.2 billion in commercial investment in the country. Senegal carefully considers potential U.S. reactions to its foreign policy decisions, often responding favorably when the United States expresses its concerns or seeks Senegalese support, as the United States has done recently on Darfur, Sudan.

Senegal's cooperation with the United States in the struggle against international terrorism has been exemplary. This includes practical bilateral cooperation, strengthening regional organizations that combat money laundering and terrorism financing, and ratifying the UN counterterrorism conventions. Through the Office of Defense Cooperation and the Office of the Defense Attaché, the United States encourages and enables the Senegalese armed forces to remain an important regional partner in the global war on terror.

Senegal has become the world's ninth-largest contributor of peacekeepers. U.S. military-to-military cooperation is excellent, and U.S. military training and assistance in FY 2005 exceeded \$10 million.

Senegal has increased the growth of its annual gross domestic product to over six percent in recent years, reduced inflation to less than one percent annually, and increased spending on education and health to 50 percent of its 2005 budget. Nonetheless, Senegal faces severe economic and social challenges, which could become political challenges if not properly managed. Per capita income is \$540. Life expectancy is 54 years for men and 57 for women. The country's main exports are fish, peanuts, phosphates, and cotton.

Office of Inspector General

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OIG's Office of Inspections provides systematic and independent evaluations of the operations of the Department of State, its posts abroad, and related activities. Inspections cover policy implementation, resource management, and management controls. As part of the inspection, particular attention is given to consular, security, and information technology operations.

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