

AMERICAN EMBASSY'S NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW

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Today's Top Stories

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1. Handover of equipment to Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III
2. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire
3. The reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire
4. The general political atmosphere and alleged bargaining to determine the next Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly

1. Handover of equipment to Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III

"U.S. Embassy equips 15 tribunals," writes *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8). With a picture showing Ambassador Carter symbolically handing over a computer to Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio Tuesday in Abidjan, the paper reports that the US \$800,000 package is to help the government of Cote d'Ivoire equip 15 tribunals throughout the country. Ambassador Carter, the report says, hailed the Ministry of Justice for its commitment "to provide efficient and impartial justice to foster national reconciliation." The U.S. Ambassador is also reported as saying that his country will remain "an unconditional partner to Cote d'Ivoire" as part of the reconstruction of democratic institutions. "This partnership is aimed at reinforcing the state of law and the respect of human rights that will guarantee a lasting peace," Ambassador Carter is reported as saying.

In reaction, Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio said: "Thank you very much," reports *Fraternite Matin* (p.8). "This assistance from the U.S. Embassy will help us face the challenges of the rule of law and the respect of human rights, and to reintegrate the Ivorian justice system into the international judicial system."

2. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says that the discovery of human remains believed to be those of Guy-Andre Kieffer is a landmark in investigations into the case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, this was made known Tuesday by Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. "We've accelerated the procedure because since 2004 the

investigation team, which has come from France in connection with this matter, has been blocked,” Kouadio is quoted as saying.

3. The reconciliation process underway in Cote d’Ivoire

A prominent headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 1)** questions the capacity of the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Charles Konan Banny. The article in this paper (**p. 2**) suggests that nearly a year after the launching of this commission, Ivorians are yet to have a clear cut objective of a commission whose role is to reconcile them. The article also indicates that the major problem facing the commission is how to proceed in reconciling Ivorians, quoting an observer who has described as mere “folklore” activities that have been carried out so far by the commission. The paper believes that to salvage this commission, President Alassane Ouattara must come to its rescue.

Meanwhile, a front-page story in **Fraternite Matin** explains how Banny is preparing to give new momentum to the reconciliation commission which, the paper indicates, has no excuse to fail. According to the paper, Banny and his team are working on “key points” of the reconciliation process.

4. The general political atmosphere and alleged bargaining to determine the next Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly

An article in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)** suggests that President Ouattara Monday tried to defuse tension among his allies over who should take the posts of Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Assembly. According to the paper, Ouattara’s allies, including the PDCI-RDA led by former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie, and the former rebel movement have been fighting over the two positions. “Fever over the Primature,” writes **Notre Voie (p. 6)** which hints that Ouattara and Bedie are no longer speaking with the same voice on whether the current Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, should quit or not.

A front-page story in **Soir Info** indicates that President Ouattara and Bedie are set to meet soon to settle the issue regarding the post of the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly. The paper recalls that during the campaign for the second round of the November 28 presidential election, Ouattara promised to give the portfolio of the Prime Minister to his PDCI-RDA ally if he won the election.

“The confidence of Ouattara over the fate of Soro,” says a prominent headline in **L’Inter (p. 1)** which discloses that “the decision has been taken, Soro will quit his post.” According to insiders at the Presidency quoted by the paper, President Ouattara is no longer convinced of the need “to maintain Soro at his post.” The paper also suggests that Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, the facilitator in the Ivorian peace process is also not in favor of Soro maintaining his post and would prefer that the leader of the former rebel movement become the Speaker of the next parliament.

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,000
L’Intelligent d’Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000

L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000