tral African Republic (CAR) drops nine ministers and names six new ones, reducing his old 17-member Cabinet to 14. New members include Sub.-Lt. Clement-Michel Nga-gnii-Voueto, who held the justice, interior and information portfolios under former Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa, from 1971-1978.

Feb. 23 — President Omar Bongo of Gabon declares during a telephone interview with a French radio station that he will not accept President Francois Mitterrand's invitation to visit Paris until "very senior French officials" travel to Libreville to "make up for the insults" against his government.

Jan. 24 — A French pilot is killed when his fighter plane is shot down by guerrillas loyal to former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei—France's first loss since moving into Chad last August.

Feb. 4 — Cameroon's President Biya announces a major government reshuffle, increasing the number of ministers from 21 to 25, and establishes three new ministries, including one for women's affairs. He describes his new Cabinet as "the government of renewal" to reflect a theme of austerity, competency and efficiency.

Feb. 11 — Abel Goumba, a leader of the opposition Patriotic Front and former rector of Bangui University, is arrested and banished to the east of the country, according to the Paris-based defense committee for "Prisoners of Conscience in the CAR."

Feb. 28 — A Yaounde court convicts former Cameroon President Ahidjo in absentia for plotting to overthrow Biya's government and sentences him to death. On March 14, Biya commutes the sentence to life imprisonment.

March 10-13 — Portugal's President Antonio Eanes stops at Sao Tome and Principe before continuing on to Zaire (March 13-15) and Congo (March 15-17). The Portugese government has proposed stronger bilateral ties and recently extended a $2 million line of credit to help work on Sao Tome's airport.

March 18 — Cameroon's soccer team, the *Lions*, wins the Africa Nations Cup by defeating Nigeria's national team, the *Green Eagles*.

March 27 — In a Cabinet reshuffle by Gabonese President Omar Bongo five new ministries are created. The military's presence is also strengthened, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Ba Oumar is appointed to a Cabinet post.

April 6 — The Spanish oil company Hispanoil announces that natural gas has been struck off the coast of Equatorial Guinea. Hispanoil and the central African nation each have a 50% stake in the venture.

April 6-9 — Troops loyal to Cameroon's President Biya put down a coup staged by the Republican Guard. Afterwards the government decrees a state of emergency and martial law for the Yaounde area. Some 1,000 people are subsequently arrested in connection with the attempt, more than half of whom are later released.

April 16 — Zairian President Mobutu arrives in Paris for a three-day working visit. He receives a promise that French aid for 1984 will top 1983's figure of $16.1 million.

May 1 — Thirty-six people are executed at Mbalmayo, near Cameroon's capital of Yaounde, for their part in the abortive April 6 coup, according to unofficial sources. On May 16 the London-based human rights group Amnesty International says secret trials are taking place and secret executions are likely. Biya denies these allegations in November.

June 17 — The summit meeting of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes States concludes in Burundi's capital, Bujumbura. Member nations are Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda.

June 24 — At the end of a five-day congress, Chad's President Hissein Habre dissolves the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) and Frolinat and forms the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR) which he says will follow "a socialist development path that takes account of national realities."

July 1 — Burundi marks its 22nd birthday. Three weeks later, on July 24, Burundi's President Bagaza announces a general amnesty to prisoners.

July 7 — Cameroon's President Biya announces a long expected Cabinet reshuffle in which six ministers who had served in his five month-old Cabinet are dismissed.

July 28-29 — Zairians re-elect President Mobutu Sese Seko, the only candidate, to a third seven-year term.

July 29 — Burundi's five-day congress of the ruling Unity and National Progress Party (UPRONA) ends after re-electing Jean-Baptiste Bagaza party president for another five-years.

July 31 — Delegates attending the 3rd congress of the ruling Congolese Labor Party re-elect President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to another five-year term. On Aug. 7, he appoints a new prime minister, Ange-Edouard Poungui and extensively reshuffles the government.

Aug. 3 — Zaire and the United States sign a bilateral investment treaty aimed at, among other things, protecting foreign investors from nationalization without due compensation and guaranteeing most-favored nation treatment for investors.

Aug. 12 — Four anti-Habre factions: the Western Armed Forces, the Original Frolinat, the National Democratic Union and the Fundamental Frolinat, form the Rally of the Patriotic Forces (RFP), a group also hostile to the Libyan-backed opposition movement of former President Oueddei.

Aug. 24 — Mobutu revokes an order to expel some 50,000 Zambian nationals living in Zaire by Aug. 31. The order was in retaliation for Zambia's expulsion of some 1,750 Zairians earlier in August.

Aug. 27 — Formalization documents are signed by President Obiang for Equatorial Guinea's entry into the franc zone and membership in the Banque des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (BEAC), to become effective Jan. 1, 1985.

Aug. 31 — In the first presidedntial balloting under Burundi's constitution, some 99% of the votes are cast for President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, the sole candidate of the ruling National Party for Unity and Progress. Two weeks later, he announces a new Cabinet.

Sept. 17 — France and Libya anounce they will simultaneously begin pulling their troops out of Chad Sept. 25. On Oct. 12 Zaire announces it will begin pulling its some 2,000 troops out of Chad. In the ensuing months, the Chadian government insists that Libyan troops have not left northern Chad.

Oct. 3 — Gabon's President Omar Bongo visits French President Francois Mitterrand on an official state visit. Bongo states at the end, "Everything is fine between France and Gabon. We are above all friends."

Oct. 6 — Equatorial Guinea is admitted as the fifth member to the Union Douaniere & Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC). Other members are: Cameroon, CAR, Congo, and Gabon. Chad is re-admitted Dec. 19 at the UDEAC's 20th anniversary summit in Brazzaville.

Oct. 24-27 — Chad's opposing factions hold preparatory talks in Brazzaville, Congo, ending in a deadlock as both sides claim to be Chad's legitimate government.

Nov. 2 — The United Nations appeals for international aid to Chad, announcing that drought and civil war have caused famine conditions and more than 2000 deaths in recent months.

Nov. 27 — Cameroon and the United States sign a bilateral investment treaty, similar to the U.S.-Zaire treaty signed Aug. 3.

Dec. 2 — Gabonese President Omar Bongo orders the immediate release of six political prisoners to mark the 17th anniversary of his coming to power. The six are among those who appeared in court in November 1982 in connection with the distribution of a pamphlet by the banned MORENA party (Movement for National Recovery).

Dec. 8 — The Pan-African News Agency (PANA) reports that over 1,000 Zairian refugees have entered Zambia, fleeing from fighting between Zairian troops and rebels in the town of Moba.

Dec. 18 — The 10-member Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) concludes a summit meeting. The organization will become operational Jan. 1, 1985. The members are: Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire.

Dec. 31 — Fifty-three political detainees, including Abel Goumba, are freed in a New Year's amnesty granted by CAR's leader General Andre Kolingba. He also reduces the prison sentences of those involved in the 1982 attempted coup. ■