

# AMBASSADOR WILBERT LEMELLE

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### Background

Born and raised in Louisiana  
Studied for Catholic priesthood  
St. Augustine Seminary, Mississippi  
Professor, Grambling State University, Mississippi  
University of Denver, Ph.D.  
Assistant professor, Boston University

### Ford Foundation

1956-1976

New York - program officer for West Africa  
Kenya - deputy representative for East and Southern Africa  
Tunisia - responsible for development in North Africa  
New York - deputy director for Middle East and Africa Program  
International program  
Mac George Bundy  
Henry Ford, Jr.'s resignation  
Training programs  
College and university establishment in Africa and Middle East  
Potential leaders' development  
AID coordination  
CIGAR Group (International Consultative Group on Agricultural Research)  
Projects and programs

### Ambassador to Kenya and Seychelles

1976-1980

Appointment background  
President Kenyatta  
Daniel Arap Moi  
Kenyatta's funeral  
U.S.-Kenya relations  
"Kenya airlift"  
Kenya politics  
Human rights  
President Carter leadership  
Contacts with officials  
Arms sales issue  
Aircraft (military) sales  
Victoria  
Staffing  
Confrontation and later problems  
Later deterioration of relations  
Seychelles

Politics  
President Rene  
Racial background  
Port calls  
Coups threat  
U.S. port calls  
U.S. tracking station  
Peace Corps (Seychelles)

Subsequent Career

State University of New York - responsibilities  
President, Mercy College  
President, Phelps-Stokes Fund – programs

1980-present