**Program Synopsis**

**Introduction**
The Fabric of Reform examines the effects of economic reform in three African countries in the CFA franc zone (see box on p. 3) — Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali — all of which gained their independence from France in 1960. Interviews with entrepreneurs, government officials, economists, and citizens help give the viewer insight into the economic gains brought about by reform as well as the challenges these countries continue to face.

**Part One:** A New Pattern
CUE AT 3:57
This segment highlights gains made in each of the three countries as a result of economic reforms. First, it shows how Côte d'Ivoire not only increased exports but improved rural incomes after it liberalized its trade policies. Next, it explains how fiscal reforms in Cameroon encouraged entrepreneurs to cultivate green beans for export on land abandoned by bankrupt coffee plantations. Finally, this segment explores how Mali's increased grain production is a direct result of deregulation and liberalized trade policies, and how Malian villages are reinvesting their increased incomes in projects with long-lasting social and economic benefits, such as the medical center in Fana.

**Part Two:** A Tighter Weave
CUE AT 11:12
This segment describes how general economic reforms have had a major — and primarily beneficial — impact on the economies of the three countries. It shows specifically how the elimination of price controls, privatization, trade liberalization, and especially the 1994 devaluation of the CFA franc have helped these countries spur economic growth while keeping inflation under control. It also explains that although many citizens initially opposed the devaluation of the CFA franc, a majority have come to embrace it as being a necessary step to economic recovery.

**Part Three:** Old Patterns — New Designs
CUE AT 18:05
This segment shows how economic reforms are challenging the three countries to do business in new ways. It explains, for example, how Mali is now manufacturing textiles domestically instead of exporting all its raw cotton, and how Cameroon is learning to balance the economic gains of logging against its detrimental impact on human and animal habitats. Overall, the segment illustrates how traditions can be adapted to a changing world if governments provide strong leadership, sound economic policies, greater openness, and a social safety net for those initially hard hit by reforms.

**Part Four:** Tying the Threads
CUE AT 25:45
This segment summarizes how recent economic policies have set CFA franc zone countries on a path toward recovery. It cautions, however, that much remains to be done, including improving education and health care, strengthening democracy, and instituting greater credibility and openness in legal and regulatory systems.

"There are at least three things I would like to see happen in my lifetime. First, the success of structural adjustment in Africa. Second, outstanding performance by the franc zone countries following a realistic devaluation of their exchange rate, and then, on these foundations, to see Africa attain a position of leadership in the world."

— Michel Camdessus, Managing Director, IMF, Speaking at the Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1995