

KENYA

FOREIGN POLICY

The principal foci of Kenya's external relations have been the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and its relations with neighbouring states.

Kenya's dissatisfaction with the now defunct East African Community led to a decline in relations with Tanzania. This culminated in February 1977 when Kenya grounded all East African Airways aircraft and Tanzania closed their common border. The border remains closed.

Relations with Uganda under Amin were poor. Kenya's neutrality during the recent Tanzanian/Ugandan hostilities strained Kenya's relationship with the new Uganda government but Kenya's swift offer of aid helped improve the situation.

Of its other neighbouring states, Somalia is an ongoing cause for concern to the Kenyans. Somalia's military strength and claim to the eastern part of Kenya, inhabited by Somali people, has led Kenya to give some support (mostly vocal) to Ethiopia during the recent Somali/Ethiopian war, despite ideological differences. Relations with Somalia have however shown some signs of improvement.

Kenya, generally, takes a moderate position on most international issues and is respected by other African states.

COMMONWEALTH POLICY

Kenya has a long-standing interest in Commonwealth affairs and approaches its meetings in a moderate and positive fashion.

Although Kenya is not one of the "Front-Line" states, it shares the views of other African Commonwealth countries that the resolution of southern African problems is a matter of major importance.