

How was DFAIT positioned to perform in this respect?

The Department benefits from the following:

- An established knowledge-base with regards to foreign political and economic environments;
- An established knowledge-base with regards to regional security and peace keeping, and humanitarian assistance and peace building;
- Internationally respected experience in diplomacy and established networks of diplomatic relations in Africa and contributor countries;
- Established experience in dealing with, and responding to, international matters and foreign policy, and specifically international crises and participation in multinational crisis resolution initiatives, humanitarian and military;
- A management structure supporting analytic capabilities in functional and geographic areas.

The above attributes enable DFAIT to translate one department's concerns for the benefit of another, and to pitch military and humanitarian concerns into terms at once relevant to a given geopolitical context and mindful of field and international sensitivities.

How did DFAIT use and promote its bridging ability during the African Great Lakes crisis?

Witness three examples:

- DFAIT was a central player in interdepartmental decision-making. Indeed, the Department was involved in such key decisions as:
 - * structuring an operational response to the Prime Minister's announcement November 10th 1996;
 - * securing deployment - diplomatic, multinational, military, and humanitarian - and orchestrating logistics (military