

possibilities for exchanges. Both parties agreed to strengthen and to diversify cooperation with each other, especially in the area of trade. These questions will be dealt with in greater depth at the first meeting of the Canada-Zaire Bilateral Commission, slated for Ottawa this November.

In Burundi, Mr. De Bané was the guest of Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President of the Republic, to whom he delivered a personal message from Prime Minister Trudeau, and of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Lieutenant-Colonel Edouard Nzambimana. The purpose of this initial visit by a Canadian minister to Burundi was to initiate high-level contacts with the country's authorities and to consolidate the bases of our bilateral relations. The exchanges of views were beneficial and friendly and had to do essentially with the development of Canada-Burundi relations, the promotion of industrial, institutional and technical cooperation projects, support for the activities of non-governmental agencies, and various forms of development aid in Burundi.

In Rwanda, Mr. De Bané took part in inaugurating the buildings of the National University of Rwanda, Butare campus. This event took place before a friendly crowd of some 5,000, including General Juvénal Habyarimana, the President of the Republic, the members of his Cabinet, representatives of the Rwandan academic community, and a large number of Canadian development workers, as well as Reverend Father Georges-Henri Lévesque, who presided over the founding of the UNR in 1963 and was its first rector. During his visit, Mr. De Bané delivered to President Habyarimana a personal letter from Prime Minister Trudeau. On behalf of Canada, he signed a General Development Cooperation Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, and had many talks with his hosts on questions of mutual interest.

In addition to underscoring the quality of the close and friendly relations that exist between Canada and these three Central African countries, Mr. De Bané's visit to Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda provided an opportunity to establish with them a foundation for growing cooperation.