

## Foreign Relations

Relations with Belgium, the former colonial power, are generally good; occasional disagreements, which may appear serious, are normally resolved. Zaïre is an ally of the West. Relations have improved with Angola and both countries re-opened their 2 600 km common border. President Mobutu has also actively promoted reconciliation between the MPLA and the UNITA, rival forces in the Angolan conflict. Relations with Uganda, which had deteriorated markedly over the years, improved following a meeting of the two heads of state in the fall of 1989.

## Relations with Canada

Canada has good relations with Zaïre and has an important aid program in that country. It hopes to be able to diversify bilateral relations and benefit from the considerable economic potential of Zaïre.

## Aid from Canada

The Canadian development program supports Zaïre's economic recovery program. CIDA is involved in four main sectors: rural development, forestry, balance of payments and management support. To date, Canadian aid to Zaïre has totalled about C\$180 million.

## Trade with Canada

Zaïre's huge potential and the interest shown by Canadian companies in participating in development projects could help to increase trade with Zaïre. Mining is the most promising sector, followed by telecommunications. However, the current financial situation in Zaïre considerably dampens sales potential for the time being. Efforts are presently concentrated on sales of equipment to GECAMINES, a mining company. Two Canadair Challenger aircraft have been sold to Zaïre since 1988.

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