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OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAIRE, BURUNDI AND RWANDA
OF THE HONOURABLE PIERRE DE BANÉ,
MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION
OCTOBER 20-27, 1981

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, in his capacity as Adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on Francophone Affairs, paid an official visit to Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda from October 20 to 27, 1981.

In Zaire, Mr. De Bané was the official guest of Citizen Wa Syakasige, Commissioner of State for the Economy and Industry, and had talks with several ministers of the Zairean government, including Citizen Yoka Mangono, Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Citizen Nsinga Ujju Ongwakebi Untube First Commissioner of State (Prime Minister). Mr. De Bané gave Citizen Untube a personal message from Prime Minister Trudeau addressed to Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, President of the Republic of Zaire, who was out of the country.

Mr. De Bané received a warm, enthusiastic welcome during his meetings with the members of the Zairean government and in many contacts with the people of Kinshasa. In addition to attending a State dinner and signing an agreement on the second phase of project SPIAF (Permanent Forest Inventory and Management Service), Mr. De Bané again encouraged his hosts on Canada's behalf for the efforts of the Zairean government to stabilize public finances and to raise the standard of living of the population. The Canadian minister also observed that the similarities between the two countries, such as the immensity of their territories, their abundance of natural resources and their participation in la Francophonie internationale offered increasing