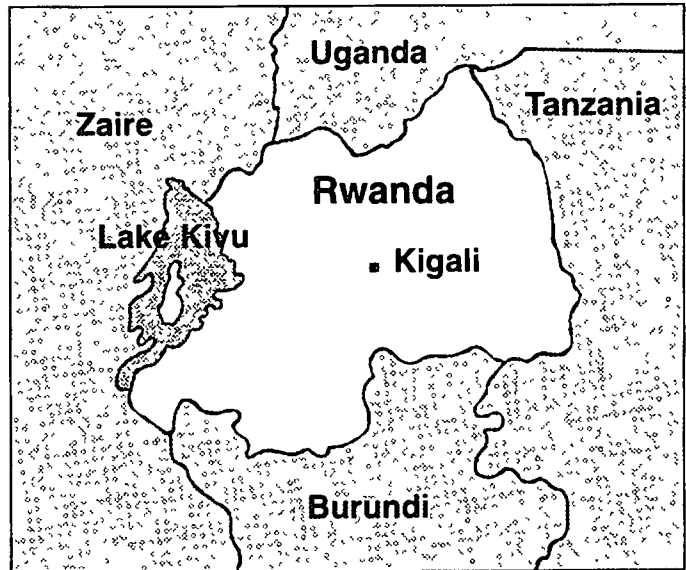




CANADA AND THE SITUATION IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

Canada's Relations with Rwanda and Burundi

- Canada has been involved in Rwanda and Burundi since their independence from Belgium in the early 1960s. Aid programs have formed a major component of bilateral relations.
- Rwanda and Burundi both have embassies in Ottawa. Canada has an Embassy Office in Kigali, Rwanda, and a Consulate in Bujumbura, Burundi, staffed by an Honorary Consul. Canada's High Commissioner in Nairobi, Kenya, is also accredited as Ambassador to Rwanda and Burundi.
- Operations at the Embassy Office in Kigali, which had been suspended when the Canadian staff was evacuated in April, have resumed. Canada's High Commission in Nairobi continues to report on developments in the two countries.
- Canadians of Rwandan and Burundian origin together number about 2000, with Rwandan-Canadians forming the somewhat larger community.



Canada's Policy on the Current Conflict

- Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart, Major-General Roméo Dallaire, the former Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Ambassador Bernard Dussault, Canada's special emissary, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in central Africa attended a forum on Central Africa on September 22.
- On May 6, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet called for a special emergency session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. That session, held May 24-25, appointed a Special Rapporteur to develop a United Nations human rights monitoring program for Rwanda, to be implemented as part of the broader UN involvement there.
- On July 21, the Government announced the appointment of Bernard Dussault as Canada's special envoy for Central Africa. His mandate is to advise the Government and act as liaison between Canada, the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), international organizations, governments in the region and local authorities. Since his appointment, Mr. Dussault has been to the region twice.

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