

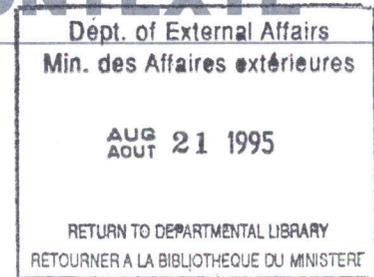
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CONTEXT



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CANADA AND RWANDA

Canada's Relations with Rwanda

- Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1962 and Canada has had diplomatic ties with Rwanda since 1967. Aid programs have formed a major component of bilateral relations.
- Rwanda has an embassy in Ottawa. Canada's High Commissioner in Nairobi, Kenya, who is also accredited as Ambassador to Rwanda, represents Canada and reports on developments in that country.
- Operations at the Canadian embassy office in Kigali, suspended when the Canadian staff was evacuated in April 1994, resumed in August. The office is currently managed by a senior official of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



Canada's Policy on the Political Situation in Rwanda

- The Canadian government's strategy for political and development assistance to Rwanda is based on three elements: repatriation of refugees, reconstruction and political reconciliation. These efforts are designed to encourage the confidence and participation of all Rwandans in the re-building of their country.
- Canada actively supported the Arusha peace process during the Rwandan civil war and continues to promote the principles of the Arusha Accords as a sound basis for national reconciliation in Rwanda.
- Canada has been fully engaged in preventive diplomacy in both Rwanda and Burundi. Ambassador Bernard Dussault, who was appointed Special Envoy for Central Africa on July 21, 1994, has undertaken several missions to governments of the region and is in regular contact with the Organization of African Unity, involved UN agencies and donor governments. Ambassador Dussault represented Canada on the International Commission of Inquiry following the April 22, 1995, massacre at the Kibeho displaced persons' camp.
- Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart led the Canadian delegation to the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, February 15-17, 1995. The Conference was called to try to resolve the refugee problem, which is contributing to the region's instability. It adopted an action plan on the roles and responsibilities of the countries of origin, host countries and the international community.

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