

equal rights for all, but the problem lies in the effective application of the rights of women: this is the result of many obstacles such as discriminatory practices, customs and legal provisions.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada continues to support the democratic process issuing from the NSC, in concert with its French, Belgian and American partners. It opposed having a Francophone Summit held in Zaire, and at the most recent Summit, in Mauritius, the Canadian representative stated that the Francophone countries should be quick to criticize countries like Zaire which obstruct democratic development. Visa applications are studied carefully, on a case-by-case basis. Canada closed its Kinshasa embassy in May 1993 for budgetary and security reasons, but this action can also be seen as a sign of discontent with the lack of progress toward democracy. We suspended our bilateral aid in October 1991, but continue to provide humanitarian aid via NGOs. Canada has expressed its concerns to the Zairian Ambassador on a number of occasions.

Canada has taken note of the emergence of the Kengo government, and wishes it every success in its attempts to set the public finances in order and to ensure respect for human rights. It has begun a dialogue with the new Prime Minister concerning the Rwandan crisis. Canada, however, reserves the right to judge the new government by its acts.