

People's Republic of the Congo

Date of Independence:	August 17, 1960
Capital:	Brazzaville
Population:	1,768,000
Head of State and Head of Government:	Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso
Economy:	Exporter of petroleum, wood, diamonds and cocoa. Declining agricultural sector.

Canada/Congo Relations: Canada's relations with the Congo are cordial but are limited to occasional visits and, at present, a single co-operation project that is close to completion: the realignment of the Congo-Ocean railway and provision of rolling stock. We do not have extensive trade relations with the Congo. Recent activity has involved railway development, civil aviation, forestry, energy and agriculture.

His Excellency Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso: Born in 1943. Professional soldier trained in France. Became Minister of National Defence in 1975, and first vice-president of the party's Military Committee in 1977. Appointed Head of State by the Central Committee of the Parti congolais du travail in 1979. Re-elected for five years on July 30, 1984.