



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 84

No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 24, 1980

PRESS RELEASE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE  
STATE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
RWANDESE REPUBLIC,  
HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL JUVÉNAL HABYARIMANA

At the invitation of His Excellency the Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, Governor General of Canada, His Excellency General Juvénal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic, paid an official visit to Canada from September 21 to 24, 1980. The President was accompanied by his wife and a large ministerial delegation.

During his stay in Canada, the Head of State of the Rwandese Republic had talks with various Canadian dignitaries. These included His Excellency the Governor General who hosted a state dinner in honour of the President on September 23; the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who hosted a dinner at his residence; the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, who also held a luncheon in honour of the Rwandese delegation on September 24; and the Interim President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson.

The Rector of the University of Ottawa, Father Roger Guindon, received the President and his retinue at a luncheon at the University of Ottawa on September 23.

On September 22 the President visited Quebec City where he was received by officials of the Government of Quebec.

The President's visit provided an opportunity to acknowledge the particularly warm and friendly relations between Rwanda and Canada. The talks were conducted in a cordial and co-operative spirit and the two countries were in general agreement on a broad range of issues.

Satisfaction with the constructive development of bilateral relations was expressed by the Head of State of Rwanda and the Head of the Canadian Government. The Head of the Rwandese State paid tribute to the Canadian Government and people for their generosity and for the support given by Canada to Rwanda in particular and to the least-developed nations in general.

With regard to co-operation between the two countries, Canada made known its decision to continue and, as resources become available, to increase its co-operation in the development of Rwanda. Canada will give priority to development projects which further the actions already being carried out. Co-operation between Canada and Rwanda is evidenced particularly by Canada's contribution to the National University of Rwanda, to development of the marshlands in the valley of the Mutara to make them suitable for agriculture, to the carrying out of telecommunications projects in order to link the chief towns with the capital, Kigali, as well as to geophysical exploration in order to ascertain more fully the mining potential of Rwanda.

Supported by a CIDA grant, the National University of Rwanda has played a leading role in the education of Rwandese executives since it was founded in 1963 by Father Georges-Henri Lévesque; many Canadians have had the opportunity to teach there, and to develop close and productive ties with the people of Rwanda.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced during his meeting with the President the shipment of one million dollars' worth of powdered milk, to alleviate the shortage of this commodity in Rwanda.

On international issues, Rwanda and Canada agreed about the necessity of a greater effort on the part of the most-developed nations to assist the developing countries, and expressed the hope that the North-South dialogue would result in a system of international economic relations that would respond better to the needs of the countries of the Third World.

It was also pointed out that "La Francophonie internationale" and its institutions constitute a useful framework for exchanges and dialogue between countries that are entirely or partially French-speaking.

The Head of State of Rwanda and the Prime Minister of Canada expressed their pleasure that Zimbabwe had attained sovereignty, and condemned the system of apartheid and the human rights violations in South Africa. They supported the United Nations' plan for Namibia's independence.

On behalf of his wife and of his delegation, His Excellency, President Juvénal Habyarimana, thanked the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and through them the Canadian people for the very special, cordial welcome he had received.