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VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE CHARLES LAPOINTE
MINISTER OF STATE (EXTERNAL RELATIONS)
TO ZAÏRE
JULY 18 TO 21, 1983

On July 19, following a two-day visit to Kinshasa during which he met with the First State Commissioner of Zaïre, Citizen Kengo Wa Dongo, the State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and the State Commissioner for Economy, Industry and External Trade, the Honourable Charles Lapointe and the Secretary of State for International Cooperation of Zaïre signed eight development assistance agreements worth approximately \$25 million. The projects concerned will be undertaken over the next three years.

Canada in collaboration with the World Bank, will contribute \$15 million to a cattle breeding project in Ituri, whose main objective is to improve cattle breeding techniques in the north-east region of Zaïre and to provide veterinary medicines. A second agreement of \$5.5 million is for food aid which will be provided by Canada next year. The other agreements concern financial support for the Counterpart-fund Secretariat, the marketing of plant fibres in the Bandundu region, the creation of a centre for the adaptation of wood-energy techniques and supplementary support to the state company Forescom and to the Bunia Abattoir.

Mr. Lapointe left Kinshasa July 20 for Nioki in the Bandundu region where he inaugurated the new Forescom sawmill. The inauguration is part of the Canadian follow-up program for the state company for wood transformation (Forescom) which involves a financial, administrative and technical reorganization of the firm and the replacement and refurbishing of its equipment. Canada has spent \$17,600,000 on this project since 1980.

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Mr. Lapointe also gave a speech at a luncheon organized by the National Association of Zafrian Business Enterprises.

On July 21, the Minister went to Bunia, in north-east Zaire to inaugurate that town's abattoir and continued on to Burundi for an official visit from July 22 - 23.