

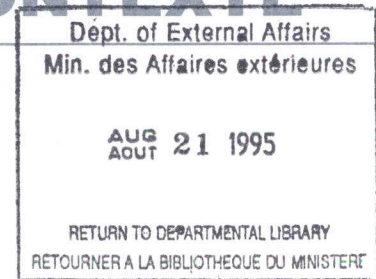
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CONTEXT



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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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- Canada encourages the establishment of the rule of law in Rwanda and the rehabilitation of the country's judicial structure. We also support the United Nations' International Tribunal for Rwanda, which will investigate, prosecute and judge persons accused of crimes against humanity in that country. Mrs. Stewart announced a \$1-million dollar contribution to the Tribunal on May 25, 1995.

Peacekeeping

- Canada has participated in both United Nations peacekeeping missions in the area: the UN Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) and the subsequent larger United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).
- Canada has provided senior officers to serve as UNAMIR force commander; the first was Major-General Roméo Dallaire. Major-General Guy Tousignant assumed the post on August 20, 1994.
- Over the last year, Canada has provided UNAMIR with:
 - a 20-person team of specialists and the equipment necessary to restore international operations at the Kigali airport;
 - a 350-person military communications unit;
 - a logistics unit of 80 soldiers;
 - a 40-member UNAMIR headquarters support unit.
- Since July 1995, a composite mission support group comprising 100 personnel (including headquarters staff) has served with UNAMIR.
- The UN Security Council has extended UNAMIR's mandate to December 8, 1995.

Humanitarian and Development Assistance

- CIDA's contributions to humanitarian emergency assistance for the region in 1994-1995 total over \$37 million. This amount has been distributed among Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Red Cross and UN agencies, particularly the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program.
- Early humanitarian efforts focussed on refugees outside Rwanda; they are now being shifted to programs within the country. CIDA has provided support for Rwanda's reconstruction by contributing \$4.5 million toward payment of the country's debt arrears to international financial institutions, \$5 million to restore electricity and water systems in Kigali, and \$500 000 for local small-scale development initiatives.
- CIDA has also allocated \$500 000 for projects promoting human rights and democratic development, and \$500 000 to the UN Development Program for street children and unaccompanied teens. CIDA has also contributed \$100 000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.
- CIDA began its second phase of bilateral programming for Rwanda in March 1995. The judicial system and social rehabilitation are the main areas of intervention. About 10 projects valued at some \$21 million overall will be developed and implemented in Rwanda during the 1995-1998 period.

- Canadian Forces aircraft were initially sent to participate in the evacuation of foreigners from Rwanda and later carried vast quantities of humanitarian relief cargo. From April until September 1994, a Canadian Forces Hercules aircraft airlifted humanitarian supplies and equipment provided by Canadian NGOs and by international organizations, and flew personnel on behalf of international agencies.
- From June to October 1994, Canada supplied a 218-person Canadian Forces medical unit to assist with the emergency health needs of Rwandan refugees. Engineers attached to that unit operated two water purification units supplied by Canada.
- Individual Canadians have responded generously to appeals from NGOs; more than \$16 million has been raised in private donations. Many Canadians are working for international agencies and NGOs in Rwanda and neighbouring countries.

Consular Assistance

- Approximately 200 Canadian citizens were evacuated from Rwanda during the crisis in April 1994; approximately 60 Canadians, mostly NGO aid workers, have gradually returned to that country.
- Four Canadians were killed during the crisis in 1994 and one in the crisis earlier this year.
- As the possibility of violence remains a serious concern, Canadians continue to be advised not to travel to Rwanda.
- Communication with emergency co-ordinators is effected through a radio system frequently tested by the Canadian embassy office in Kigali.

Immigration Measures

- After violence broke out in Rwanda in April 1994, the visa office in Nairobi facilitated the admission to Canada of Rwandan citizens who had close links to Canada and who were affected by the civil unrest.
- As international organizations promote the repatriation of Rwandan refugees rather than their resettlement in a third country, no special program has been set up for these refugees. However, the visa office in Nairobi continues to process individual applications for government-assisted as well as privately sponsored refugees on an ongoing basis.

