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VISIT TO CANADA OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. EDOUARD NZAMBIMANA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
(MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 1982)

His Excellency Mr. Edouard Nzambimana, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burundi, visited Canada from May 30 to June 2, 1982, at the invitation of the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Canada's Minister of State for Foreign Relations.

During his visit, the Burundian Minister talked with the Honourable Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of State for Foreign Relations, and the Honourable Serge Joyal, Minister of State. He also met with senior officials of the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Agency and Petro-Canada International.

On June 1, Mr. Nzambimana visited Montreal, where the Canadian Institute of African Affairs gave a dinner in his honour. In Montreal he also met with officials of certain non-governmental organizations and with representatives of the Burundian community.

Fresh impetus was given to Canada-Burundi relations by Mr. Nzambimana's visit. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation, and were marked by a considerable convergence of views on both sides.

In the realm of cooperation between the two countries, Canada expressed its desire to strengthen development aid to Burundi. The Canadian authorities outlined the main directions the \$3 million cooperation programme would take. Much of the available funds would be used for technical assistance, including fellowships awarded in various fields. It was decided that the transfer mechanisms would be set up after consultations between the various Canadian participants and the Burundian authorities.

The other part of the funds will be used to finance projects concerned with institutional and industrial cooperation, non-governmental organizations and mission-administered funds.

As for oil exploration, Petro-Canada International pledged to closely examine the reports from certain sources indicating the possibility of oil in the subsoil of Burundi, and to take further action where warranted.

In regard to international issues, the Canadian and Burundian parties discussed the situations in eastern Africa, the western Sahara and southern Africa. The Burundian Minister repeatedly expressed his appreciation for Canada's continued efforts to settle the Namibian problem. He was reassured that it was Canada's wish for Namibia to obtain its independence as soon as possible through the provisions associated with Security Council Resolution 435.

On behalf of his delegation, Mr. Nzambimana thanked the Honourable Pierre De Bané and the various Canadian personalities whom he had met for the warm and friendly reception extended to him.