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CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION IN GUINEA

Francis Fox, Minister for International Trade, today signed a project agreement with H.E. Chef de Bataillon Abdourahamane KABA, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Guinea. This project agreement, for a project financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will permit Guinea to acquire Canadian goods and services for a total value of \$21.6 million, including a DASH-7 aircraft from de Havilland Canada Ltd.

Canada recognized Guinea some twenty years ago, but a Canadian Embassy was opened in Conakry only in 1983. For many years now, Canadian companies such as Alcan and Noranda have participated in the development of the mining sector in Guinea, and this participation in joint ventures with the Guinean state provides the bulk of Guinea's exports of bauxite to Canada. Moreover, a growing number of Canadian companies wish to participate in the development of large scale projects in different sectors, notably those of transportation, energy, communications, mining and construction, where Canadian capabilities are recognized worldwide.

In 1981 Guinea became a country of concentration for CIDA's bilateral development programme. The civil aviation sector is one of two priority areas for CIDA's activity in this country. The civil

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aviation project provides one aircraft, aviation equipment and parts, technical assistance and training as well as rehabilitating airfields in the interior of the country. The project seeks to open up socio-economic development possibilities in the interior of Guinea.

During his visit to Canada, from August 23 to 28, 1984, Chef de Bataillon Kaba will visit Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. In Ottawa, the Guinean Minister met with senior officials of CIDA, the Export Development Corporation and Transport Canada. In Montreal, in addition to his discussions with Minister Fox, the Guinean Minister met with several representatives of Canadian companies which are active in Guinea or interested in participating in projects in that country. The Guinean Minister will also have discussions in Toronto with senior officials of de Havilland Canada Ltd. and Canadian Overseas Airlines. Chef de Bataillon Kaba is accompanied by a delegation of four officials from his ministry and from the state corporation, Air Guinea.

Minister Fox stated, "By the signature of this agreement, I am happy to associate myself with the development efforts of Guinea. Canada has capabilities which can respond to Guinean needs. Even more important however, I have noted a growing interest on the part of Canadian businessmen and industrialists who wish to work with Guineans in confronting the challenge of development of which Minister Kaba has informed me".