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TEXT OF CANADA/ZAIRE JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAIRE
FROM NOVEMBER 9 - 13, 1977
OF THE HONOURABLE JEAN-PIERRE GOYER,
MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES
AND ADVISER FOR FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRES
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(Translation)

At the invitation of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire, the Minister of Supply and Services of the Government of Canada and Adviser of the Secretary of State for External Affairs on Francophone Affairs, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, paid an official visit to Zaire from November 9-13, 1977. During his visit he was received, in the absence of the President-founder of the RPM and President of the Republic, General Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, by the First Commissioner of State, Citizen Mpinga Kasenda, by the Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete, and by some of the members of the Executive Council. During his visit, Minister Goyer, accompanied by his delegation, laid a wreath on the grave of Citizen President, Mama Mobutu Sese Seko.

To emphasize the importance of the contribution of the Zairian people to Francophonie, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer underlined the interest in preserving common cultural values through mutual co-operation established on the principles of equality and sovereignty between partners. Mr. Goyer mentioned the plan of a summit of heads of Francophone states. The two parties agreed that such meetings would favour the promotion of mutual understanding and international co-operation. The Canadian Minister expressed his satisfaction with the recent decision of the Zairian authorities to join the "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique" of French-speaking countries.

The Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, and the Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete, reviewed various issues related to the political situation in Africa. Among others, they recalled the role of the United Nations in Africa and, in particular, the conflicts between the peoples of Southern Africa. In that context the Executive Council congratulated the Canadian Government for the active part it has taken in the negotiations aimed at finding a solution of the Namibian problem.

The two Ministers also agreed that it was important for industrialized countries to ensure adequate transfer of technology to developing countries. Similarly they underlined the importance for developing countries to set up basic scientific research facilities and technological processes adapted to their own conditions. In that context the two parties underlined the importance of consulting one another, exchanging information and co-operating, particularly in the field of forestry, energy and agriculture.

The two Ministers acknowledged the reciprocal desire of the two governments to promote trade relations between the countries and agreed to recommend to their respective governments an increase in commercial exchanges by all appropriate means including specialized missions.

In the field of bilateral aid, Minister Goyer reaffirmed the determination of the Canadian Government to be associated with development projects in priority sectors identified by the Executive Council, i.e., forestry, agriculture and hydro-electric energy. In that connection, the Minister of Supply and Services of Canada, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, and the Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete, signed a general agreement for development co-operation and several specific agreements related to it, i.e.:

- a loan agreement concerning "FORESCOM"
- a special agreement related to technical assistance to "FORESCOM"
- an amendment to article one of the special agreement on SPIAF (Service permanent d'inventaire et d'aménagement forestier) for increased Canadian participation
- a special agreement on a project for animal husbandry in the Ituri region
- a special agreement on the training of mechanics for the Department of Roads
- a special agreement on the implementation of a pre-feasibility study of integrated development in the central basin of Zaire

-- a special agreement on technical assistance for the Departments of Environment and Agriculture by the assignment of eight Canadian experts.

For its part, Canada has given its agreement in principle to the implementation of projects for the training of craftsmen in the field of forestry and marketing of wood products, and the granting of food aid. It also agreed to pursue a study on the possible construction of a high voltage electrical sub-station at Inga-Shaba to supply energy to the towns of Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi.

Both Ministers expressed their desire that experts of both countries meet on a regular basis, alternatively in Canada and in Zaire in order to evaluate the progress made in co-operation.

At the end of his official visit, the Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, expressed on behalf of his delegation his deep appreciation to the Executive Council and the people of Zaire for their warm and friendly welcome.

The discussions, which took place in a climate of frank and cordial understanding, will contribute to a strengthening of relations between the two countries.

Agreed in Kinshasa November 13, 1977. Signed by the Minister of Supply and Services, Jean-Pierre Goyer, acting on behalf of the Government of Canada, and by the State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Uamba-Di-Lutete, acting on behalf of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire.