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COMMUNIQUÉ AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT TO
CANADA OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. N'FAMARA KEITA,
MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
KONKOURÉ PROJECT, POPULAR AND REVOLUTIONARY
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, today announced the conclusion of the visit of His Excellency Mr. N'Famara Keita, Minister of Energy with responsibility for the Konkouré project, Popular and Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. Mr. Keita was in Canada from July 11 to 21, 1981.

During his visit, His Excellency Mr. Keita talked with various Canadian leaders, including the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, the Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism, and with senior officials of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

His Excellency Mr. Keita visited Montreal, where he met with businessmen and representatives of consulting engineering firms active in Guinea. He also travelled to James Bay to visit the LG3 hydro-electric project sites there. In Quebec City, His Excellency Mr. Keita talked with Mr. Yves Duhaime, Minister of Energy and Resources, Mr. Claude Morin, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and with senior officials of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. He also visited the Quebec Institute of Electrical Research at Varennes.

His Excellency Mr. Keita's visit underscored the extremely friendly relations that exist between Guinea and Canada, especially since the visit of Mr. De Bané to Guinea

in June. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and co-operation, characterized by a notable convergence of viewpoints on both sides.

His Excellency Mr. Keita discussed with his Canadian hosts the high priority attached by the Guinean authorities to the Konkouré project, an integrated venture consisting of a hydro-electric dam to be built on the Konkouré River, and an aluminum complex. Construction of the complex would take about five years, and the total cost of the two projects was estimated to be \$2 billion US. The hydro plant would produce 750 megawatts. One-half of the energy produced would be used to supply general development needs of Guinea; the other half would supply the 150,000-tonne annual capacity aluminum plant.

Canada expressed a keen interest in the project, at both the governmental and private corporation levels. The Canadian authorities stressed the importance they attached to the energy and agricultural sectors in aid to development programmes. The Canadian International Development Agency will follow this project with particular interest.

In the realm of general co-operation between the two countries, both parties confirmed the decision made in Conakry at the time of the Honourable Pierre De Bané's visit, and Canada will accordingly send a mission of experts to Guinea in the fall. The purpose of this mission will be to select projects of mutual interest, mainly in the areas of energy, rural development, mining and geology. In the context of rural development, Canada will pay special attention to the urgent problems affecting the food situation in Guinea in the wake of a major caterpillar epidemic. Both parties expressed their determination to pursue and expand the economic co-operation that exists between them, in the area of aid to development as well as commercial, industrial and cultural relations.

Before leaving Canada, His Excellency Mr. N'Famara Keita expressed his satisfaction and thanks to the Canadian authorities for the warm welcome he received and was particularly pleased with the results of his mission as he reviewed it with Mr. De Bané, who echoed his sentiments.