

Canadian Foreign Intelligence History Project

DND DHH Finding Aid 98/2 - UN African Great Lakes Multinational Force Fonds

**Finding Aid to the
United Nations African Great Lakes
Multinational Force funds
(98/2)**

**Prepared 4 March 2011
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United Nations African Great Lakes Multinational Force fonds. – 24 cm of textual records. – 11 photographs: col; 20.5 x 14.5 cm or smaller. – 1996-1997.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of material documenting the Canadian-led African Great lakes Multinational Force humanitarian mission to Rwandan refugees in Zaire during 1996-1997. Includes a Chronology of significant events of the Multinational Force during 1996-1997, Canadian Forces operations updates, messages, intelligence reports, statements, newspaper clippings, press releases, articles, print-outd from the internet and various other documents. The textual material is arranged in alphabetical order by title.

Administrative History

The Canadian-led African Great Lakes Multinational Force, consisting of 354 personnel, assisted in the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Rwandan refugees in Zaire and facilitated their return to Rwanda. On 9 November 1996, as a result of Security Council Resolution 1078 and a Canadian decision to aid the refugees, The Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (DCDS) issued a warning order for a potential humanitarian mission in eastern Zaire, the mission to be named Operation ASSURANCE. The response was planned to consist of the Disaster Assistance Response Team with one rifle company for security, three CC-130 Hercules, an airlift control element and supporting personnel. The DCDS order for the operation was issued on 15 November with a reconnaissance team, supported by one Hercules, arriving in Kigali on the 17th to determine what the requirements were for the mission.

One more Hercules transporting equipment arrived in Kigali on the 17th, and two Hercules in Nairobi, Kenya. A rented Russian Antonov AN-124 as well as other CF transport aircraft arrived in the days that followed. On 30 November, the order was given to deploy forward and commence operations when ready. Between 30 November and 30 December, the three Hercules assigned to Op ASSURANCE made 32 flights – four to Mwanza and seven to Kigoma in Tanzania, and 21 to Kigali in Rwanda. In addition, three Hercules were enroute to Op ASSURANCE each day bringing in supplies, although this was reduced to two after 22 December. The Antonov flew shuttle runs between Trenton and Africa until 23 December. In total, 354 persons served in Africa on Op ASSURANCE.

With the Security Council decision of 13 December to end the mission, members of the Canadian Forces began to return to Canada, the first group arriving on 17 December. By 21 December, there were only 44 Canadians left in theatre. On 29 December, the order was issued that Op ASSURANCE was to terminate on 31 December. All remaining personnel left on that date.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Fonds received in June 1997 from Claude Beaugard who served with the African Great Lakes Multinational Force.

Classification

Box 2 consists of Classified Files

Other Notes

- The floppy disk and computer disk have been withdrawn from circulation.
- The computer disk consists of files regarding “Une force “multinationale” organisée et dirigée par le Canada” (Montréal, 1997). Textual copies can be found in 97/21 Historical Report No. 4 (4 copies).

Language Note

There are some documents in French.

File List

Box	File	Contents	Dates	Classification
1	1	Canadian Forces Current Operations Updates / Canadian Forces Operations Updates / Op Assurance Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes some documents in French 	1996-1997	Unclassified
2	1-2	Chronology of significant events Canadian-led Multinational Force – Eastern Zaire 9 Nov 96 – 1 Jan 97	1996-1997	Secret
2	3	Director General Public Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes media request agenda, notes, list of journalists requesting an interview with Gen Baril and Troop Contributors' meeting sign in register 	1996	Protected "B"
1	2	Media Clips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes newspaper clippings and articles Some articles are in French 	1996	Unclassified
1	3	Rapport de mission, Force multinationale pour l'est du Zaire [16 novembre – 21 décembre 1996]	8 janvier 1997	Unclassified
2	4-6	Reference File (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes messages, intelligence reports, statements and other documents. Includes the following documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Forces Current Operations Updates / Opérations des Forces Canadiennes Mise à jour Canadian Forces Participation in the Multi-National Force in the Great Lakes Region of Africa Military Briefing 28 November 1996 	1996-1997	Secret
1	4-5	Reference File (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press releases, messages, printouts from internet, information sheets, articles and other documents 	1996	Unclassified
1	6-7	Reference File (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printouts from internet, articles, backgrounder information, presentation, messages and other documents. Includes the following document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Profile Zaire 1996-97 	1996	Unclassified
2	7	Reference File (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes deployment instruction 01, operation order 01, theatre deployment order 01, terms of reference for Senior Liaison Officer Kigali and information 	1996-1997	Confidential

Box	File	Contents	Dates	Classification
		sheets re operation		
1	8	Varia / Bureau Gen Baril <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes information services directory, collection plan decision brief, notes, newspaper clippings, minutes to meeting and other documents Includes the following document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Op Assurance – Zaire contributor summary 	1996	Unclassified
1	9	Photographs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 photographs: col; 20.5 x 14.5 cm or smaller [no captions] 	[1996]	Unclassified