

*Background Guide*  
*Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation 2005*

---

# Republic of Congo

*Chair: Tom Trapnell '05*  
*Director: Lauren Pflepsen '07*

International Relations Council  
Princeton University

Dear Delegates:

Welcome to the Garden State, welcome to PICSIM, and most importantly, welcome to the Republic of Congo. We are very excited about this committee and we hope that you will enjoy all that is in store. Before you arrive, we hope that you will take the time to read this background guide and do some further investigation of your own. Now, time to introduce ourselves, your fearless Chairs for the weekend. We first worked together in the Republic of Uzbekistan committee at Princeton's college Model UN conference last spring. We also co-chaired the Balance of Power: East Asia in 1900 Committee at Princeton's high school conference this fall.

As propriety dictates, ladies first, so without further ado, my name is Lauren Pflapsen, and I am a pre-med sophomore from Rockville, Maryland. I participated in Model UN all throughout high school and during my first year at Princeton. I also serve as an Athletic Chair for my residential college's College Council and am on the Student Health Advisory Board. During this past summer, I interned for a marine biology company in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Hi, I'm Tom Trapnell, your other chair. I'm a senior from Virginia Beach, although I went to prep school up in Boston. Now, I'm majoring in history and getting a certificate in Russian studies. When I'm not doing absurd amounts of classwork, playing intramural basketball, or wasting time, you can usually find me either working for IRC (the club bringing you this fine conference) or doing fundraising for Princeton's Alumni Giving office. I spent most of last summer interning in Moscow.

Now that we've introduced ourselves, we'd just like to wish you good luck and good times at PICSIM 2005!

Sincerely,  
Tom Trapnell and Lauren Pflapsen

# ***Republic of Congo***

## **History**

### **Colonial Beginnings**

Congo was originally a kingdom in Central Africa which was then incorporated into the French Empire in the 1880s. Brazzaville, Congo's current national capital, was the administrative center of French Equatorial Africa which extended up to the Sahara desert in Chad. During World War II, France's African colonies remained loyal to Free France, and Brazzaville still has symbolic significance as the site of the 1944 conference at which, under General Charles de Gaulle, France granted the inhabitants of its African colonies citizenship rights and parliamentary representation. However, attempts to treat Africa as an extension of France through decentralized authority proved a short-lived transition to full independence, which Congo secured on August 15th 1960.

### **Marxist Self-Government**

Congo's first president, Abbé Fulbert Youlou, resigned in 1963 after a failed crackdown on trade unions. His successor, Alphonse Massamba-Débat, formed the Marxist-Leninist Mouvement national de la révolution (MNR), which adopted an anti-Western foreign policy and followed Soviet-style central planning before being overthrown in a military coup by Captain Marien Ngouabi in September 1968. The MNR's former youth wing took over the government, renaming itself the Parti congolais du travail (PCT), and this party was to dominate political life for the next two decades. Mr Ngouabi was assassinated in 1977. His successor, Colonel Jacques Joachim Yhombi-Opango, a Kouyou from the north, made overtures to the West, provoking his replacement by the more hardline Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, also a northerner, but from the M'Bochi ethnic group. Mr Sassou-Nguesso pursued Marxist policies under a one-party state for the next 12 years.

### **Political Instability and Civil War**

As a wave of popular pressure swept across eastern Europe in 1989, ousting Congo's overseas communist allies, pro-democracy street demonstrations spread throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Congo's regime was forced to allow freedom of speech and to legalize opposition parties. A democratic, multiparty constitution was adopted by referendum in March 1992. In the subsequent parliamentary election, the PCT was overtaken by two parties drawing support from the more populous south, the Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale (UPADS) and the Mouvement congolais pour la démocratie et le développement intégral (MCDDI). In the presidential election in 1992 the UPADS leader, Pascal Lissouba, was elected president in a second-round run-off against the MCDDI leader, Bernard Kolélas; Mr Sassou-Nguesso came a poor third in the first round. However, Congo's leading politicians had little faith in the new democratic institutions, and the loyalty of the army, which had long been Mr Sassou-Nguesso's personal power base, remained uncertain. Soon Brazzaville saw the appearance of new

private armies, each affiliated with a main political party, and the division of the city into militia strongholds.

Lissouba called fresh elections twice in 1993. On each occasion the UPADS, allied with smaller parties, scored a controversial victory, with other parties contesting the results. In October 1993 Brazzaville erupted into a brutal conflict between the army and the “Zulu” militia backing Mr Lissouba, on one side, and the “Ninja” militia, supporting Mr Kolélas and the MCDDI, and the “Cobras” (the militia of the PCT), on the other. The fighting caused at least 2,000 deaths and extensive damage. In January 1995, politicians finally managed to get all Congo’s factions to agree to a ceasefire and form a cooperative government.

### **The Return of Sassou-Nguesso**

After his electoral defeat, Sassou-Nguesso spent a lot of time with his private militia, as well as visiting France and making friends with politicians there. He returned to run in the 1997 elections, but civil war resulted instead when Lissouba’s militia attacked Sassou-Nguesso’s headquarters. Unfortunately for Lissouba, he had made enemies with Angola due to his links to rebel groups in that country. As a result, Angolan forces intervened in Congo’s civil war and secured a victory for Sassou-Nguesso.

Civil war continued shortly after Sassou-Nguesso was sworn in in 1997. Government forces fought against the Ninja militias. A ceasefire agreement that included amnesties for rebels finally brought conflict to an end in 1999; however, the political opposition represented by the Ninjas still had its leaders in exile and so the ceasefire was little more than a negotiated surrender in favor of Sassou-Nguesso’s regime. After winning re-election with 89% of the vote in 2002, civil war broke out again but rebel factions were suppressed with great government brutality.

## **Current Political System**

### **“Imperial” Presidency**

The constitution gives the president extensive powers and a seven-year mandate, renewable once. There are two chambers of parliament, the National Assembly and the Senate (neither of which has power to dismiss the executive). Under the 1992 constitution, the president was elected for a maximum of two five-year terms and there were checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches.

The legislature is called the National Assembly. It is 89% controlled by the PCT and various smaller parties which are loyal to Sassou-Nguesso or have been won over to his side with promises of government appointments and other benefits for its members.

The judiciary is not very independent, however. It routinely hands out death sentences against Sassou-Nguesso’s enemies, including exiled opposition leaders.

## **Party Politics: Vibrant but One-Sided**

The ruling PCT's natural support base is narrow, confined to the thinly populated Cuvette region in the north (the home of Mr Sassou-Nguesso's M'Bochi ethnic group), neighbouring parts of Plateaux region and the northern districts of Brazzaville, such as Ouenze and Talangai, where many migrants from northern rural areas have settled. The more populous south is generally a stronghold of the opposition. Nibolek in the center-south and—formerly at least—the Mfilou district of Brazzaville have traditionally been the home territory of Mr Lissouba and his UPADS party. The second important opposition strongholds are in the Pool region and south-western parts of Brazzaville, particularly Bacongo and Makélékélé, which have been loyal to Mr Kolélas and his party, Mouvement national pour la libération du Congo.

Despite all this variety of political parties, the PCT is really the only party with any degree of governmental authority. It has successfully co-opted most “opposition” parties. The southern half of the country is generally seen as opposing the President and his coterie, but this has yet to translate into political representation for its interests.

## **Foreign Relations**

### **Angola -- Regional Powerhouse**

Angola has exerted a strong influence in Congo since it intervened militarily in the civil war in 1997 in support of Mr Sassou-Nguesso, helping to propel him to power. Angolan intervention was motivated by links between the former government of Mr Lissouba and the Angolan rebel movement, UNITA, which had established bases and smuggling routes through Pointe-Noire. The separatist groups in Angola's important oil enclave of Cabinda have also had links inside Congo, which borders the territory. Angola maintained an extensive security and intelligence presence in Congo on which Mr Sassou-Nguesso was to some degree dependent. It now claims to have withdrawn all of its forces from Congo. However, Angola continues to play an important deterrent role, as the government's opponents are aware that it can easily intervene again if Mr Sassou-Nguesso's hold on power is threatened. Its other main objectives in the country are to keep an eye on the 20,000 or so Cabindan refugees, most of whom live in Point-Noire.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo -- The Shifty Neighbor**

Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, lies just across the river from Brazzaville and the two capitals have a tradition of providing asylum for political figures fleeing from one Congo into the other. There have also been strains regarding the presence of nearly 100,000 refugees from the DRC in the north of Congo. Laurent Kabila, the former president of the DRC, didn't get along very well with Sassou-Nguesso on a personal level, either, but Sassou-Nguesso and the new president Joseph Kabila have a better relationship. Congo is now fairly assured that the DRC is not sponsoring rebel movements within Congolese territory.

Under pressure from Angola to co-ordinate security efforts, all three countries have been co-operating in a series of tripartite security committees: border security is chaired by the DRC; the movement of people and goods is chaired by Congo (Brazzaville); and police training and security by Angola.

### **Gabon – All in the Family**

President Sassou-Nguesso's daughter is married to Gabon's President Bongo. Naturally, this makes for close relations (such as military assistance in times of Congolese internal turmoil) – unless, of course, Gabon's president and First Lady start having marital problems.

### **France – The Power behind the Throne**

Relations with France are crucial. It is the only Western country to have backed Mr Sassou-Nguesso's government openly, accepting him as the legitimate ruler of Congo after his victory in the civil war in 1997. France is also known to have helped Mr Sassou-Nguesso's forces clandestinely during the war, and relations are underpinned by French commercial interests in the oil sector. France is keen to stabilize the government, and has been cool towards the political claims of Mr Kolélas and Mr Lissouba. However, there are limits to France's support, and it has urged the government to co-operate on issues of economic transparency and clean government where this is necessary for wider support from the EU and other donors.

### **The Military**

Mr Sassou-Nguesso has sought to restructure the military and to integrate former members of the Cobra militia. It is a condition of the December 1999 ceasefire agreement that the opposition Cocoye and Ninja fighters should be assimilated into the army, although so far this has taken place mostly among the Cobras. The government has stockpiled weapons and maintained alternative paramilitary groups, aside from the army, such as the Cobras and the Comus (see Political forces) based in the Ministry of the Interior. Foreign mercenaries, mostly from France but also including aircrews from the former Eastern bloc, have played an important role in strengthening the capacity of the Cobras. The government has also relied on troops from Chad and even on Hutu Interahamwe fighters, who were involved in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and were recruited from refugees north of Brazzaville. However, it is now co-operating with international efforts to extradite Rwandan war criminals to the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at Arusha, Tanzania. Much of the heavy equipment used by the pre-war army was of Soviet origin, remnants of an alliance with Moscow in the 1980s. Large quantities of mainly Russian and east European weapons have been imported by both sides in recent years. The navy is largely inoperative. A presidential guard is being formed.

## **Humanitarian Crises and Health Problems**

### **HIV/AIDS**

According to UNAIDS (the international body coordinating the fight against AIDS), the adult rate of HIV infection in Congo was 7.8% in 2002. However, a UN study put the rate at 10-12% in 2001, when HIV/AIDS was the main cause of death for people aged between 15 and 49. Massive population displacement, armed conflict and sexual violence by soldiers have also contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS—soldiers with HIV occupy over 20% of the country's hospital beds. Effective public health and HIV/AIDS prevention programs mostly broke down during the war. Foreign agencies operating in the public health sector, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, are attempting to resurrect efforts to promote simple preventive measures. Current national HIV/AIDS strategies are primarily based on the promotion of simple preventative methods. However, some use of retroviral drugs has begun.

### **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**

The social disruption caused by the 1997-1999 civil war led to humanitarian disasters in many areas of the south, particularly in Pool and the Nibolek regions, where many urban dwellers had been displaced to the forests and countryside. In 1999 this displacement reached the proportions of a serious humanitarian crisis, although it was one of the least reported or funded in Africa. The UN estimated that the number of internally displaced people had reached 810,000, or 35% of the population. The humanitarian situation stabilized in 2000, following the ceasefire, and settlement patterns began to normalize somewhat. However, rural areas of the country remain isolated, and without adequate transportation, market access or basic social services. Disruption resumed with the outbreak of fighting in Pool in March 2002, displacing an estimated 80,000 people, although other parts of the country remained unaffected. Pool has since stabilized, although the situation remains delicate as the area lacks a functioning infrastructure and adequate security: conditions which are hindering the operations of humanitarian organizations. As a result, only 50% of the displaced had returned to their places of origin by late 2003, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

It was also estimated that there were more than 121,000 refugees from conflicts in neighboring countries resided in Congo, according to information from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of this number, 90,000 are from the DRC, having fled across the Oubangui and Congo rivers to enter the north of the country during 2000 and early 2001. There are about 20,000 Angolans (from Cabinda) in Pointe-Noire and 11,000 Rwandans north of Brazzaville, including some who took part in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In 2002 the Congolese authorities began to transfer some of those facing charges in connection with the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in Tanzania. In June 2003 an agreement was also reached between Congo, Rwanda and the UNHCR to repatriate about 6,500 Rwandan refugees living in Congo since May 1996. In 2003 the UNHCR repatriated Congolese who had found

shelter in neighboring DRC and Gabon, and is confident that the remainder will be repatriated, voluntarily, in 2004.

## **Economy**

### **Oil, Agriculture and a lot of Civil Servants**

The oil industry is the mainstay of the economy, accounting for 95% of export earnings and 44% of GDP in 2000. Forestry and agriculture are the other main productive sectors of the economy. About 60% of the population earns a livelihood from, or has links to, the informal agricultural sector. Public service companies have traditionally been the foundation of formal-sector activity in Brazzaville. When Congo became independent it inherited a government structure and administrative apparatus that had originally been designed for the whole of colonial French Central Africa, and was far too large for its reduced responsibilities. This helped to solidify the strong bias towards urban and bureaucratic interests in the ensuing decades of state socialism, and serious attempts to trim the government structure were not made until the mid-1990s. The informal sector provides most employment in urban areas, and has assumed greater importance since formal business and administrative services were badly damaged during the war in 1997-99. The war caused further market fragmentation and much of the capital's food supply is now imported.

Congo's small population and large oil resources have produced a relatively high level of GDP per head compared with most other Sub-Saharan African countries. However, this apparent wealth is narrowly based, and there are few links to the wider economy and little impact on employment and incomes from the capital-intensive oil sector. Poor infrastructure and public services, as well as weak social indicators in health, education, nutrition and other indices of social well-being, attest to the general poverty of the country. These conditions have been considerably worsened by the civil war.





<http://geography.about.com/library/cia/blccongo.htm>

### Quick Fun Facts about the Congo:

- **Do NOT confuse the Republic of Congo with the Democratic Republic of Congo.** Thanks to Laurent Kabila and the national name-change he gave to the nation formerly known as Zaire, we now have the distinction of being the nation in the world most easily confused with the one right next door.
- Although the Congo is about the size of New Mexico, most of its land consists of uninhabitable rainforest. The **population (2.99 million) is heavily concentrated in south-west of the country near its two major urban areas: Brazzaville (the capital) and Pointe-Noire (the major port).** While these urban areas are doing pretty well, rural Congo has gone into serious decline and depends on government assistance for survival.
- **84% of the Congo's export earnings come from oil.** 70% of this oil money goes to Elf-Aquitaine, the French partly-state-owned company. The rest comes mainly from timber and various other odds and ends like diamonds, cement, sugar, and coffee.
- Until May 2003, the government of the Congo was under attack from a rebel group called the **Ninjas**. See [www.realultimatepower.net](http://www.realultimatepower.net) for details (just kidding).
- **French is the official language** of the Congo, but most of the people speak Lingala, Monokutuba, and Kikongo.

- **The Congo is home to numerous ethnic groups:** Kongo (48%), Sangha (20%), M'Bochi (12%), Teke (17%), European (3%, at least until the next Air France plane takes off).
- **Government structure: President Denis Sassou-Nguesso is in charge.** Both the president and the bicameral legislature (Senate and National Assembly) are elected by "popular vote." Sassou won 89.4% of the "popular vote" the last time he asked anybody's opinion (in March 2002); his party, the Democratic and Patriotic Forces (FDP) controls the senate with 56 out of 66 seats, while enjoying an absolute majority in the National Assembly as well.
- **Much of the Congo's border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains undefined,** since it's mainly impenetrable jungle that nobody wants anyway.

## Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about Congolese History:

### August 1960 The Congo becomes formally independent from France

**August 1963** The Congo's first president, Fulbert Youlou, is overthrown in a 3-day-long uprising led by labor unions. He is replaced by a military provisional government which then installs Alphonse Massamba-Debat as president. The government goes on to become heavily Marxist-Leninist in ideology and policy.

**August 1968** Massamba-Debat is overthrown in a military coup led by Captain Marien Ngouabi. Ngouabi makes himself president on New Year's Eve, 1968, and rules until....

**March 16 1977** President Ngouabi is assassinated. To this day, nobody is quite sure why. A provisional Military Committee of the Party takes over, led by General Joachim Yhomby-Opango. He should have found something better to do with his time though, for reasons we shall soon see....

**February 5, 1979** Yhomby-Opango is not only removed from office, but deprived of all powers, ranks, and personal possessions (as well as, of course, arrested). He is replaced by former Defense Minister **DENIS SASSOU-NGUESSO**.

**1992-1999** Sassou declares the Congo a multi-party democracy and goes on to lose the first election to Pascal Lissouba. Lissouba celebrates by dissolving the legislature and starting a civil war. Government troops battle with Sassou's personal militia off and on until October 1997, when Sassou's buddies in Angola invade and crush Lissouba. Sassou spends two more years fighting a wide assortment of rebel groups, but by December 1999 peace accords have been signed with most of them.

**March 2002** Sassou gets himself re-elected for the next 7 years.

## **Committee Positions**

### **President**

This post is filled by the co-chairs Tom and Lauren, so if you're reading this, President is not a position you'll be allowed to fill. Sorry. Just to let you know what you're missing out on, the Congolese president's job definition makes him both the Head of Government and the Head of State. In short, he is in full control of all aspects of domestic and foreign policy.

The President's most important goal is to keep himself in control of the country. As part of this mission, he leads the suppression of alternative political forces, makes sure that the oil revenue from his country's rich reserves all finds its way into the government's pockets, and does his best to maintain friendly ties with his two greatest personal supporters: France and Angola. He also uses the FDP to control the legislature.

### **Minister of the Presidency in Charge of National Defense**

The Congolese army isn't in bad shape. Things were better before 1989 when the Congo, as a Marxist-Leninist state, was the recipient of generous military aid from the USSR, East Germany, and Cuba. However, you still have 32,000 soldiers to work with, as well as a budget of \$68.6 million (2.8% of national GDP).

You wouldn't have much to worry about if it weren't for the other Congo, which has consistently shown itself incapable of getting its act together. The DRC has international conflicts with Rwanda and internal wars with rebel groups with sometimes are and sometimes aren't affiliated with the Rwandan security forces. The border between the two Congos isn't officially delimited for most of its extent, either. If DRC soldiers, the Rwandan army, or rebels of some kind start spilling over into your country, you just might have to delimit it for them.

### **Minister of the Presidency in Charge of the Presidential Cabinet & State Control**

President Sassou-Nguesso likes his state strictly controlled, so you'd better come prepared to knock some heads together. Sassou has created his one-party state and forced all opposition leaders into exile, but you can never rule out the possibility that they'll try exercising some kind of covert influence inside the Congo itself. More urgently, the Congo has a long history (see above section) of rebel movements. Sometimes these break down into North-South rivalries, while sometimes they just come out of nowhere (think Ninjas).

Another aspect of internal control you'll need to deal with is the 60,000 or so internally displaced persons who have built up over the last several years due to Congo's civil wars, coups, various uprisings, etc.

On an unrelated note: it's not just opposition political forces that are responsible for criminality in the Congo. In January 2001, a major network of illegal oil sales was uncovered which reached all the way up to the highest levels of government. So, you'd better keep an eye on the other ministers sitting across the conference table from you – who knows what they're up to on the side!

### **Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Women's Affairs**

What is it with these ridiculously long titles for ministerial posts? How are you supposed to worry about agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and women's affairs all at the same time?! While the writer of this background guide is not sure what the real President of the Congo would expect of you, the co-chairs will mainly expect you to concern yourself with making sure that the citizens of the Congo get enough food. Only 0.51% of the Congo's territory is arable land, while a whole 70% of the population is concentrated in Brazzaville. Since people can't eat oil (especially since the government wouldn't give them any even if it were edible), you need to make sure that mining, oil drilling, and forestry don't destroy any chance the Congo has to feed itself.

### **Minister of Civil Service and State Reform**

According to a recent IMF report, the Republic of Congo is one of the most over-bureaucratized countries in the world. Thanks in large part to the Marxist roots of government ideology, the government payroll in 1993 accounted for 20% of GDP – not including the army! See a minister whose job looks redundant? Downsizing is the word of the day – get that person fired and the IMF will thank you!

Be careful whom you alienate with paycuts or job eliminations, however – you never know who might decide that *your* job isn't necessary, either. Additionally, since so much of the Congolese economy is run by parastatal firms, calling for too many reforms might lead to strikes in the transportation, forestry or energy sectors.

### **Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism**

Forget culture and the arts – the Congo needs more tourists! We aren't exactly a hot spot right now, mainly because people keep confusing us with the corrupt, dangerous, unfriendly guys next door. You need to do your best using both the media and your power within the government to project an image of the Republic of Congo as a happy, friendly, fun place where your chances of getting kidnapped by AK-toting guerillas are at an absolute minimum. Next up: Fodor's Republic of Congo 2005!

### **Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget**

The IMF-recommended reforms of the mid-1990s caused some economic discomfort, but by now things are starting to run pretty smoothly. The Congo actually has a nice little trade surplus running for it; \$1.64 billion as of 2003.

President Sassou-Nguesso's cabinet structure divides up economic responsibility between several ministers who are responsible specifically for energy, oil, and forestry. Your job is to coordinate the desires of each of these ministers to ensure that one aspect of the economy doesn't benefit to the exclusion of all others. The Congo has profitable industries in cement, sugar, beer, soap, and cigarettes in addition to the oil and forestry that everyone is always talking about; you need to make sure that both domestic and foreign investment finds its way into these other sectors.

You also need to help keep the IMF happy and attract their desirable loans. If the government doesn't uphold the rule of law to keep foreign industries safe and if the government's corruption and excessively large payrolls are sustained, the Congo will start having some rather pressing economic difficulties. Which brings me to my final part of the job description: you are the minister ultimately responsible for the state budget. Tread carefully making recommendations with regards to the military however.

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Relations with Francophone Countries**

The longest title yet! The United States Department of State believes that you are one of the most important figures in the Congolese government, and who am I to argue with them?

Like the Minister of Defense, your job isn't as easy as it was while the Communist club was still in effect. Now that your country is supposedly a democracy (and now that the USSR and East Germany no longer exist), the Congo is even more dependent on France as its major European friend. The basis of this relationship centers around Elf-Aquitaine, responsible for bringing in most of the oil money. France also helps out with various cultural and educational initiatives (whatever those are).

Your other major traditional source of international support is Angola. While Angola clearly has problems of its own, they came running when your President wanted to take the government back over a few years ago.

With both Angola and France, you need to continue to cultivate ties to keep up the economic and military support – but without letting them get so close that they start to endanger the Congo's sovereignty.

### **Minister of Forestry and Environment**

Forestry *and* environment? Talk about conflict of interest! Your main task is to keep the Congo's economy from forgetting all about the rich rainforests in its northern regions as it invests more and more to develop its oil industry.

**Minister of Health and Population**

AIDS, enough said?! Come up with a plan to effectively deal with the massive outbreaks of AIDS and cholera that plague millions in your country. Life expectancy in the Republic of Congo is approximately 50 years and in order to establish yourself on the world scene and for the economy to improve, this number must be elevated.

**Minister of Energy**

Unfortunately, Congo's extensive natural gas reserves have largely been under-utilized because of its poorly organized infrastructure. Hydropower has also been under-exploited. Rural inhabitants tend to rely on wood burning fuel. The poorly organized electrical system has forced you to rely on your enemy, the Democratic Republic of Congo, for much of your energy reserves. Find a way to tap into the resources that you have and spend your money developing your own energy system rather than continuing to contribute to the economy of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Minster of Petroleum Reserves**

Much of your oil reserves are controlled by foreign investors. Perhaps you could find a way to gain better control over your own oil reserves and increase revenue for your own government while still attracting these foreign investors.

**Minster of Commerce**

Start selling more of your oil to China and the United States already! Take advantage of the current market for oil and make some much needed money for your dear homeland.

**Minister of Transportation**

You have over 12,800 km of highways, BUT over 11,500 km of these highways are unpaved. Also, in 32 of your 36 airports, the runways are not paved. Therefore, transportation is a major problem in inclement weather and roads need constant maintenance. A sound, efficient infrastructure is essential for a successful economy, so get working or create a specialized work force to do it for you (think FDR's New Deal in the Great Depression).