

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## 1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo has no nuclear power program, its uranium resources have been used by other countries pursuing nuclear weapons programs. During the cold war, large parts of the United States' uranium supply were imported from the Belgian Congo. Under Belgian colonial rule, the Shinkolobwe mine provided uranium for bombs dropped by the US on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/congo/>

### Research Reactors

Operational: 1

Shut down: 1

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rddb/>

### Power Reactors- 0

### Uranium Mines

Shinkolobwe (Shaba province)- decommissioned, though still used for cobalt and copper compounds mining.

Since 1997, 6000 miners enter the former Shinkolobwe mine site each day without authorization. The original mine has been flooded and cemented, though these illegal miners have excavated a huge open pit next to the original mine. While most of the miners are interested in cobalt, uranium could also be extracted from the ore. In the absence of control over possible uranium extraction, the DR Congo has faced significant international pressure to regain control over the mine site. In January 2004, President Joseph Kabila decided to interdict access to the mine site, yet with no apparent results. In July 2004, at least eight miners digging the former Shinkolobwe mine illegally were killed when the mine collapsed. <http://www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/udec.html#SHINKOLOBWE>

Congo has been repeatedly implicated in the illegal transfer and transport of radioactive materials. In March 2004, Congolese authorities seized radioactive shipments of uranium smuggled into the country illegally, bypassing international regulations and violating international conventions. <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/24428/story.htm>

## 2. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

### Research Centers

Commissariat des Sciences Nucleaires, Kinshasa

Commissariat general a l'energie atomique, Kinshasa

[http://www.iaea.org/inis/ws/research\\_institutes/congo.html](http://www.iaea.org/inis/ws/research_institutes/congo.html)

### Nuclear Cooperation

*North Korea, Iraq:* Reports have surfaced that have implicated North Korea and Iraq in schemes to re-open Shinkolobwe to obtain uranium, but these remain unconfirmed. In August 1999 it was reported that the DR Congo was suspected of trying to re-open the Shinkolobwe uranium mine with help from North Korea. Mining engineers from North Korea arrived in 1999 but were asked to leave under pressure from the US. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/congo/>

## 3. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

### Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 28 September 2004

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 4 August 1970

Outer Space Treaty, not yet deposited  
Treaty of Pelindaba, 4 November 1996

DRC ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol 9 April 2003.

#### **4. POSITIONS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

*Disarmament:* “Many delegations before mine expressed serious preoccupations about the progress of disarmament and the threat of weapons of massive destruction to humanity, 25 years after the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. They have also noted the necessity to again start work in the Conference on Disarmament, the only multilateral framework for negotiations as regards disarmament which, for the fifth consecutive year, still did not adopt its program of work. We...say clearly that the objectives of disarmament in general are far from being reached.... In an international context, with increasing threats to international peace and security, adhesion to the international disarmament instruments appears vital for all.” (unofficial translation)- **Statement by Mr. Luc Joseph Okio, Minister Counsellor, to the 58th session of the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 15 October 2003.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com03/genstate03/drc.pdf>