

[Redacted]

KASONGO Mutuale
(Phonetic: kaSONGgo)

ZAIRE

RICEF

Ambassador to the United States (since October 1977)

Addressed as:
Mr. Ambassador



(1974)

Kasongo Mutuale is an administrator who entered the Zairian political scene through the Belgian colonial service. Several times since independence (1960) he has been close to the cliques within the Zairian Government who hold power, but he has never attracted either a following or the special political favor of President Mobutu Sese Seko (though he has worked closely with the President). Thus, he has never been considered a power in his own right. Kasongo has had considerable exposure to foreign affairs through assignments in the Department of Foreign Affairs and service with the UN Secretariat (1964-65) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (1966-69). He is well informed, particularly on African issues.

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Since his appointment Kasongo has gone out of his way to acquaint himself with US domestic affairs and has developed useful contacts in Congress, the executive branch and the press.

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Kasongo, 50, is married and has at least eight children.

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He speaks French and English.

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CR M 81-13955
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