

French cooperation minister holds talks with Ugandan president

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KAMPALA, May 16 (AFP) - French Cooperation and Development Minister Marcel Debarge left Uganda late Friday after a one day visit during which he held talks with President Yoweri Museveni.

The talks centred on trade and development, a state house spokeswoman said.

Debarge told journalists at Entebbe airport shortly before departure that although his visit had no fixed agenda, it was meant to create "a friendly atmosphere for solving the problems" in the region.

Diplomats here said talks between Debarge and Museveni also touched on ethnic conflict in Rwanda.

Debarge had earlier visited Rwanda and Burundi.

Since rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front invaded the tiny east African nation from Uganda in October 1990, authorities in Kigali have repeatedly accused Kampala of backing the insurrection.

Many of the rebels are deserters from the Ugandan army. They come from Rwanda's minority Tutsi tribe, tens of thousands of whom have lived in exile since an uprising by the majority Hutu tribe put an end to Tutsi feudal rule in 1959.

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