

# Mobutu proposes world refugee conference

AFP, March 12, 1995

COPENHAGEN, March 12 (AFP) - Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko proposed holding a world refugee conference during an address here Sunday to the UN Summit for Social Development.

Saying the international community "urgently" needed to address the problem, Mobutu said he hoped a conference could be held "in the near future" on refugees and displaced persons.

"More than all other excluded people, refugees best translate the central themes of this conference," Mobutu said of the Copenhagen summit dedicated to finding ways to eradicate poverty.

In an apparent reference to neighbouring Rwanda, Mobutu said that his own country was already "sheltering three million refugees" from last year's Rwandan civil war.

vdr/cdw/bm AFP AFP