

**July 26, 2003**

**CONGO: CABINET HOLDS FIRST MEETING** Congo's new power-sharing government held its first cabinet meeting in a step toward reuniting the country after five years of conflict. President Joseph Kabila led the meeting as head of the new government, which includes four vice presidents and 36 ministers — 16 of them from rebel ranks. The new administration was officially inaugurated on July 17 but the first cabinet meeting, initially scheduled for last Saturday, had to be postponed because rebel ministers objected to taking an oath of allegiance to Mr. Kabila. Under a resolution reached Thursday, the ministers agreed to swear allegiance to the Congolese government instead, the BBC reported. (Reuters)

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