

## SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH AFRICA AID PROGRAM

In the fall of 1960 the Canadian Government undertook, subject to parliamentary approval, to contribute \$10.5 million to a Special Commonwealth Africa Aid Program over a three year period beginning April 1, 1961. The program, known as SCAAP, arose from discussions at the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in 1960. Roughly speaking SCAAP is a counterpart in Africa of the Colombo Plan in Asia, although very early in its existence the Colombo Plan was extended to include non-Commonwealth countries whereas SCAAP is entirely a Commonwealth scheme. The main donor countries are Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, although some of the newer Asian members, particularly India and Pakistan, have been able to provide limited amounts of technical assistance in fields where they have experienced and specialized knowledge. All of the Commonwealth areas of Africa, both independent countries and dependent territories, qualify for assistance under SCAAP.

It has been the Canadian practice to date to concentrate assistance on the independent Commonwealth countries of Africa. Only limited amounts of assistance have been given to the smaller dependent territories. As is shown in the following paragraphs which describe the programs in individual countries, the greatest part of Canadian SCAAP funds has been used for Nigeria and Ghana, with Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda also receiving significant amounts of aid.

At the commencement of SCAAP, the African countries made it clear that one of the most important requirements for the development of their countries was assistance in the field of education. Their need was for trained manpower. Accordingly, a large proportion of the Canadian aid effort has been in the field of education. During 1962-63, a total of 89 Canadian secondary school teachers, teacher-trainers and university professors were serving in Commonwealth Africa. Over the same period there were 145 students in Canada under the auspices of SCAAP as compared to 84 the year before. Canada has also supplied educational equipment to a number of countries. Two major educational projects have now been started—the construction of a Trades Training Centre in Ghana and a Boys' Secondary School in Sierra Leone; these will combine capital assistance in the construction of the institutions with technical assistance, through the provision of Canadian staff and a training program in Canada for African teachers.

Canada has also provided assistance in other fields to SCAPP countries. A number of Canadian advisers or experts have been working with Africans in such fields as agriculture, fisheries, mineral development, pest control and statistics. The largest single capital assistance project is an aerial survey and topographic mapping project in Nigeria at a cost to Canada of \$1.85 million. In addition, Canada is carrying out a forest inventory in Kenya and has provided a variety of types of vehicles and equipment to Ghana, Tanganyika and Uganda.

*Basutoland*

In 1961-62 Canada agreed to a request from the Basutoland Government to provide some of the staff for Pius XII University College. This college is open to Africans in the southern part of the continent and Canadian missionaries have been instrumental in its development. Three Canadian instructors in chemistry, zoology and co-operatives were maintained at the college from SCAAP funds during 1962-63. Eleven students from Basutoland were brought to Canada during the same period.

*Gambia*

One Canadian technical teacher was sent to Gambia in 1961 to help the development of a technical school. His service continued during the past year and a teacher trainer was also assigned to Gambia during 1962-63.