

# Nigeria

**S**HORTLY after the civil war in Nigeria ended, Prime Minister Trudeau sent a message to General Gowon, the Commander-in-Chief and Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria. The Prime Minister repeated the Canadian Government's earlier offers to assist Nigeria in the great tasks it faced of rebuilding and rehabilitating the areas affected by the war. The full text of the message is as follows:

"In these momentous days, I share with you a feeling of relief that the long struggle is over. The opportunity to build a great nation out of its diverse parts is again yours and I wish you well in what will be a challenging task. The Canadian Government and people watch developments in your country closely and sympathetically.

"The attention of our people is naturally drawn to the civilians and others who have suffered as a result of the conflict which is now mercifully ended. We have taken to heart your declarations of reconciliation and I expect that our members of the International Observer Team which you so wisely convoked will confirm observance of your Government's directives. Our High Commissioner has been instructed to indicate our willingness to provide at the shortest notice more Canadian observers should you agree this is desirable . . . .

"As our High Commissioner has informed your associates, we are willing to help in the immediate relief situation in various ways, including air-transport facilities and medical supplies. A compact team of Canadian officials is being sent to assist our High Commissioner in assessing how best we can help, and Major-General Arthur Wrinch, the much-respected head of the Canadian Red Cross, is coming to Lagos also to provide us with direct advice, on the basis of consultation with your officials, as to how we can best be of assistance at this stage.

"The task of reconciliation and reconstruction will not be easy. As we have stated before, we are willing to assist in ways you consider appropriate. My officials are dealing with yours on the immediate problems of relief and rehabilitation. But our interest goes beyond the immediate into the broad and bright future Nigeria will have in the community of Africa and of the world. We value our relations highly and look toward intensified co-operation in many fields between Nigeria and Canada."

So far this year, the Government of Canada has provided \$1.7 million to assist with the relief problem in Nigeria, in addition to the \$3 million provided earlier. Included among these latest contributions was a grant of \$500,000 to the Nigerian Red Cross and a grant of \$200,000 to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). In addition, a large shipment of drugs for the Nigerian Red Cross was assembled with the help of the Canadian Red Cross and dispatched to Lagos by air.

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