



Constructing a dam in Niger.

Work also began on a \$75 million regional project to modernize 22 airports on 13 Caribbean islands and improve their security operations. Jamaica received \$13 million in food aid as balance-of-payments support during 1984-85. Four million dollars in emergency food aid was provided to Peru and another \$500,000 was provided to Bolivia.

All over the world — in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa — development projects are improving the lives of hundreds of millions of people, and Canada is proud to play a part in it.

But it is the enormity of the African famine crisis which has made the man and woman in the street more aware of the need for foreign aid.

Africa has one of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. It contains 26 of the world's 36 least developed countries and as a whole its people have the highest death rates in the world, the lowest life expectancies, and they are continually exposed to disease, poor sanitation and malnutrition.

The drought that has rocked the African continent for the past four years has also tugged the heart-strings of ordinary people.

In fact, soon after Canadians became aware of the extent and gravity of the famine, the following letter appeared on the desk of Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark.

"Enclosed please find a personal cheque for \$125 to be contributed toward and for the starving children of Ethiopia. I trust this money will go for food and not for arms.

...I will not pretend that this is not a sacrifice for me as I am presently a full-time student at the University of Alberta with three teenagers at home. I simply told my children that Christmas may not be as elaborate this year but we will have a clear conscience that we did what we could to contribute..."

That letter was the first of many which highlighted the concern of Canadians for less advantaged peoples in the world. Canadians worked hard and gave generously to help alleviate the famine, now they are helping Africans with their own economic recovery program.

'Our purpose is to enlarge freedom...'

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, recently reaffirmed Canada's commitment to NATO and NORAD, and he explained Canada's role in key areas of international affairs.

Clark outlined his views in an article that appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*. This extract is taken from that article.

We are proud of our role as an international peacekeeper, a moderate and reasonable country. But moderation is a means, not an end. Our purpose is to enlarge freedom. We prefer to do that by advocating peaceful settlement of disputes, by fighting poverty and famine, and by promoting respect for human rights.

But we have also always been prepared to defend our values, by force of arms if necessary. The determination and gallantry of Canadians in two world wars and in Korea are as much a part of our history as diplomacy and development. There is nothing neutral in Canada's nature or tradition.

Geography is not the paramount reason we belong in NATO or NORAD. Freedom is. Those alliances, with all their imperfections, defend a system of free societies and — by maintaining strength in the face of Soviet strength — help keep the peace.

Played a key role

We are in NATO because we belong there, just as we belong in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and in the fields of Asia and Africa teaching agricultural reform.

Indeed, Canada played a key role in the invention of NATO, which both asserts our commitment to freedom and provides the means for ensuring a



CF-104 and two CF-18, fighters based in southern Germany.