

The Francophone Summit in Paris gave the Prime Minister Brian Mulroney an opportunity to meet many of his African colleagues and to discuss subjects of common interest. The meeting had been carefully prepared during a tour by the Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations, through Niger, Gabon and Senegal, and another by His Excellency Mr. Lucien Bouchard, the Prime Minister's personal representative and Canadian Ambassador to France. Mr. Bouchard had visited Tunisia, Zaire, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast in January 1985 to present the Canadian concept for the Heads of State Summit. The Summit made possible the discussion of co-operation projects as well as various political matters such as the abolition of *apartheid* in South Africa. A Canadian resolution on the latter issue similar to one passed earlier at the Commonwealth Summit was adopted by the Heads of State.

In the Maghreb, bilateral Commissions with Algeria (April 1985) and Tunisia (October 1985) opened the way for an examination of Canada's relations with these countries and plans for future activities. A general administrative arrangement with Algeria concluded in March 1986 should help in the implementation of technical and scientific co-operation projects between the two countries.

Politically, the Canadian government expressed regret on October 1 for the Israeli attack that resulted in numerous casualties in the southern suburb of Tunis.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations, visited Gabon, Senegal and Niger from January 7 to 17, 1986. The visit had a twofold purpose: to hold consultations with the authorities of these countries prior to the Francophone Summit in Paris, and to chair the Bilateral Commissions established to assess Canada's political, economic and trade relations with these countries. Various development co-operation and trade agreements were signed during the visit.

In August 1985 Canada received a visit from Citizen Njoli Balanga, State Commissioner for the Environment in Zaire. In November, the Honourable Martial Asselin represented the Canadian government at the official ceremonies commemorating the 20th anniversary of the revolution in Zaire. This visit was followed by the March 1986 visit of Citizen Mokolo Wa Mpombo, State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation.

The second meeting of the Bilateral Commission with Cameroon took place in Ottawa from May 6 to 8, 1985. This meeting coincided with the official visit of His Excellency Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua, Foreign Minister of Cameroon. It was followed immediately by the Canada-Cameroon Economic Days organized by Cameroon in various towns and cities of Canada. Five Cameroon government Ministers participated.

Other important visitors to Canada included Mr. Gouara Lassou, Foreign Minister of Chad in June 1985, and Mr. Bocar Diallo, the Senegalese Secretary of State for Fisheries in September 1985.

In October 1985 the first Canadian Ambassador resident in Gabon presented his letters of credence to President Omar Bongo. In April 1985, the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe accredited His Excellency Mr. Joaquin Rafael Branco, its first Ambassador to Canada.

Anglophone Africa

In Anglophone Africa, the year was characterized by the persistence of severe drought in several areas and by heightened tensions within South Africa and in the relations between South Africa and its neighbours.

Canada continued to assist to drought-stricken areas by providing food aid and other forms of assistance to the affected countries. The Honourable David MacDonald, Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator for African Famine, visited Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Sudan to demonstrate Canada's continued interest in the victims of famine and to promote a greater co-ordination of Canadian efforts in these countries.

Continued tension in and around Ethiopia complicated but did not prevent the delivery of important amounts of Canadian humanitarian relief assistance.

In West Africa, Canada continued its efforts in the context of Ghana's economic rehabilitation plan. The installation of a new government in Nigeria under President Babangida did not change Canada's relations with Nigeria significantly.

In East Africa, President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya intensified his diplomatic efforts for the resolution of the civil war in Uganda. At year's end, after the accession to power of President Museveni, prospects for renewed peace and security in Uganda were indeed better than they have been for many years. Traditionally close relations between Tanzania and Canada were demonstrated again by the official visit to Ottawa of President Julius Nyerere shortly before the date on which he had decided to step down as head of state. He was succeeded by President Mwinyi.

During the course of the year, ministers in various portfolios (Energy, External Trade, Works and Communications, Relief and Rehabilitation, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Industry) visited Canada from Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Swaziland. In July 1985, the Honourable Walter McLean, Secretary of State, led the Canadian Delegation at the UN Conference on the Status of Women in Nairobi and also made goodwill visits to Tunisia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Nigeria. The Secretary-General of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) paid a useful visit to Ottawa in December 1985 to prepare for the annual meeting of SADCC, held in Harare in January 1986. The Canadian delegation to the SADCC meeting was led by Senator Duff Roblin, who reiterated Canada's commitment to helping the Front Line States in their efforts to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa. Senator Roblin also made an official visit to Malawi on that occasion.

Trade

In spite of the economic and financial difficulties that continued to plague a number of African countries in 1985-1986 and the increased competition on this market, commodity exchanges between Canada and Africa again exceeded \$2.5 billion, 55 per cent of which was in Canadian exports. Canada also provided Africa with some \$300 million in consulting services. During 1985, Canada's main trading partners in Africa were Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Libya, Tunisia and Nigeria.

The Department continued its efforts to increase the awareness of trade possibilities in Africa among Canadian businesses. It also endeavoured to increase African awareness