

The first grants were made for a health centre in Rhodesia, an adult literacy project in South Africa, and for educational, agricultural, and medical supplies in Angola and Mozambique.

At the other end of the continent, a major upheaval took place in Ethiopia with the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie. In between, few of the independent countries of Africa escaped being adversely affected by world-wide inflation, increased energy costs, or drought conditions.

The Canadian Government sees its programs of development assistance to the independent countries of Africa in part as demonstrating its opposition to racial injustice. Canada's bilateral assistance to Africa as a whole totalled over \$160 million in 1974. In Commonwealth Africa the program was valued at over \$90 million. Some of the projects embarked upon were a \$22-million railways upgrading and development plan in Malawi, and a \$5 million contribution to a road which will decrease Botswana's dependence on South Africa. As the debt problem which plagued Ghana for years was resolved, Canada was able to resume its program of assistance with that Commonwealth country. In addition, a special \$230 million program of emergency assistance to the Sahel and other drought-affected areas of Africa was begun. The Government also began looking at ways to counter the disastrous effects of the energy crisis on those African countries hardest hit.

Assistance program for the Sahel

Canada continued to maintain good relations with Francophone Africa in 1974.

The special program undertaken by the Canadian Government to help relieve drought in the Sahelian region of West Africa was designed to form, over a period of five years, the central core around which would be grouped a high proportion of Canada's main activities in Francophone Africa. It was intended that the program,



*Harnessing the ground-water resources in Mali in the drought-stricken Sahel region has been a primary relief task undertaken through Canadian aid.
Photo Dr. Povey, IDRC.*