
Relief for drought victims

Canada is providing \$8 million for emergency food aid to help five northwestern African countries, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Chad and Gambia, recover from last year's severe drought.

In announcing the grant, Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said 8,000 tonnes of Canadian wheat would be going to Mauritania and that Senegal and Mali would each receive 5,000 tonnes of Canadian corn. Costs for the purchasing, transportation, handling, bagging and distribution of the wheat and corn will be \$1.9 million and \$2.1 million respectively.

A further \$3.5 million will be used to purchase, transport, handle, bag and distribute the 13,000 tonnes of sorghum assigned to Gambia (3,000 tonnes), Senegal (5,000 tonnes) and Chad (5,000 tonnes). Sorghum, not grown in Canada, will be bought on Third World markets.

More than a dozen other countries have responded with goods and funds to an appeal made by the Interstate Committee for the Fight Against Drought in the Sahel. The area has a history of drought and famine and in the past few years Canada has given \$66.67 million to help alleviate this problem.

Canada/Brazil committee meets

The following is the text of a joint communiqué issued by the Governments of Canada and Brazil on May 1:

The Canada-Brazil Joint Economic Committee met for the second time, in Brasilia from April 25 to 27. During the meeting the two delegations reviewed the evolution of Canada-Brazil bilateral relations, identified opportunities to expand trade and industrial co-operation and pursued the mutual objective of closer technical, scientific and technological co-operation.

There was a valuable exchange of views on the current world economic situation and on the multilateral trade negotiations taking place in Geneva. In this context, the committee noted the common position of the two governments on the need for better multilateral co-operation to improve the balance of international trade as well as the importance of achieving satisfactory agreement on both tariff and codes of conduct relat-

ing to non-tariff measures. They took note of the importance attached by their governments to the provisions of the Tokyo declaration relating to additional benefits and differential treatment applicable to developing countries.

The delegations exchanged information on the current economic, agricultural, mining and energy situation in each country, outlining their governments' national policies in these areas. They agreed to a Canadian proposal that both countries would examine their industrial capabilities to identify opportunities for expanded trade and industrial co-operation. Officials would then put forward recommendations to the next meeting of the Joint Economic Committee.

It was decided that the working group on agriculture would hold its first meeting in September at a time and place convenient to both parties.

Mining and energy

In reviewing the mining and energy sectors, the meeting decided that consultations should continue, to increase constructive co-operation in these important areas. The Brazilian delegation expressed satisfaction at current exchanges in these sectors, noting the forthcoming trip to Canada of a group from Petrobras, which will visit Canadian suppliers of services and equipment for the exploration and extraction of off-shore oil. The Canadians referred to the participation this year of their companies and governments in Energy '78 and in off-shore Brazil.

After a detailed review of developments in bilateral commercial relations, the committee concluded that there was ample scope for a significant improvement in trade between Canada and Brazil and agreed to continue efforts to this end. They will intensify as well their search for opportunities for closer industrial co-operation. They also discussed in a constructive way existing trade constraints that hamper certain Brazilian exports to Canada and the Brazilian delegation expressed the hope that these can be alleviated at an early date. The Canadian delegation noted with satisfaction that there had been some easing in Brazil's import restrictions since the first meeting of the Joint Committee, and expressed its hope that Brazil would soon adopt a more liberal import regime.

Both parties noted their governments' satisfaction with the second Canada-Brazil national program for technical co-

operation, 1977/81, under which 17 out of the program's 23 projects have already been initiated. Looking to the future, they explored new forms of industrial and other co-operation, some of which might be supported by the Canadian International Development Agency and by other Canadian and Brazilian government programs. The expertise and resources of the private sectors of both countries should be involved in this through joint ventures, the exchange of technical and consultancy services, and other co-operative efforts.

The delegations agreed that the Joint Committee had fully demonstrated its value as a forum for the discussion of both bilateral and international relations and as a vehicle for identifying opportunities for co-operation in trade, industrial and other economic fields. They noted that the committee's role in these important matters had been confirmed by Foreign Minister Silveira and Secretary of State for External Affairs Jamieson when the latter visited Brazil last year.

Criminal law (Cont'd. from P. 2)

on sexual offences generally. I look forward to the recommendations which will be contained in this paper and I trust that these proposals will be available in sufficient time for their consideration and incorporation into the bills we have introduced today," Mr. Basford said.

The amendments to the 1975 Criminal Code, which impose a restriction on attacking the victim's past sexual conduct unless a judge specifically finds that cross-examination in this area is required for a just determination of the case, will continue in force.

In this connection Mr. Basford stated, "I have been particularly worried about publicity as it affects both victims and accused in the area of sexual offences. In 1975, the Criminal Code was amended to limit the right of cross-examination of a complainant in a rape case. The effect of this amendment is still being studied. It is hoped that the work of the Law Reform Commission will allow further recommendations to be made in the area of the past sexual conduct of complainants and the degree of publicity to be permitted relating to both complainants and accused, since in certain instances this publicity can have very damaging effects, and serves no public purpose."