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defined projects must be implemented, in a context which is often difficult, beset by overwhelming logistical problems. When visiting Africa, I have always been impressed by the courage and generosity of hundreds of Canadians who have chosen to work in this field. This human dimension of development seems splendid to me, for it represents a privileged area of cultural exchanges by means of which we come to know and appreciate one another, while at the same time working together to build tomorrow's Africa.

Our aid program is thus not simply a matter of dollars and cents, but a tangible reality. It means a polytechnic school in Senegal, a railroad in Malawi, a dam in Tunisia, an aqueduct system in Ethiopia, grain crops in Tanzania, an access road in Niger. Hundreds of economic and social infrastructures have been established within the framework of Canado-African co-operation. Over the years, we have learnt to match the most pressing needs of African countries with our own abilities, and we have decided that henceforth, our efforts should be concentrated in the sectors of rural development, energy and human resources. Obviously, this does not exclude action in other areas such as transport, telecommunications and health, when such projects have vital importance and we are in a position to ensure their successful completion.

The human dimension of development, which I mentioned just now, has led us to look closely at the conditions under which projects are carried out. We have seen that a project's chances of success depend on several factors, including good long-term planning, competent management, thorough knowledge of the environment, and consistency of effort. These facts have prompted us to concentrate aid in a limited number of countries, so that efficiency and cost effectiveness are more reliably assured. Most countries in which we concentrate our development aid are in the low-income bracket.

This need to concentrate aid in a limited number of countries has given rise to a serious problem. We are somewhat torn between our wish to manage our aid program efficiently and our wish to assist the people of all disadvantaged countries. In other words, we would like to assist everyone everywhere, but we know that we can produce worthwhile results only by working conscientiously in a limited number of locations at any one time. We are dealing with this problem by introducing more flexible aid instruments, through non-governmental and international organizations and agencies competent to carry out eminently useful projects which we finance generously, without increasing our own staff. We have also increased the level of funds available to our missions for directly financing basic development projects. However, this represents a continuing problem, one to which we are trying to find a satisfactory solution.

#### Economic relations

Our economic relations with Africa have expanded rapidly. For trade, the statistics are as follows: in 1980, total exchanges exceeded \$1.7 billion, or double the figure

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