

sent to Africa. The victims of the landslide in Morocco, the victims of famine in Uganda and Ethiopia, and the refugees in Zaire or Somalia are examples of people who have received such assistance from us.

Moreover, nearly half of CIDA's budget is allocated to multi-lateral assistance through UN agencies, bodies like the International Monetary Fund or various regional banks, not counting the various programs for French-speaking and Commonwealth countries. Africa also receives a large part of the money Canada pays directly to such international organizations as the International Monetary Fund and various regional banks. To those must be added the large number of non-governmental organizations that receive a major part of the funds for their projects directly from the Canadian government, not to mention those that conduct research on development questions. The International Development Research Centre works to adapt science and technology to the needs of the developing countries. Among the thousands of projects it has financed since it was founded in 1971, a large proportion has been connected with the agriculture and food sectors.

Given this range of tools and activities, and in the light of Canada's economic situation, I will not conceal from you the fact that the present government of Canada plans to review all its activities to see whether they can be made more effective.

It is with those facts in mind that I have taken up my mandate as Minister for External Relations. I assure you that it is my firm intention to do everything possible to further strengthen the ties between Canada and Africa. I and my Cabinet colleagues intend to make certain that the resources we deploy for that purpose will reflect the desires of our respective peoples and also be the most appropriate means of achieving those objectives. I am undertaking my duties without any preconceived notions; I am certain that in the coming months I will have the opportunity to review both the design and the choice of the main tools of our foreign policy respecting Africa.

To that end, there are a number of premises we are already aware of that are unlikely to change in the short or medium terms.

By that I mean, for example, the fact that the Canadian people as a whole have always been, and continue to be, favourably inclined towards development assistance programs, while wanting to be certain that the assistance is truly going to those who need it and that the projects are cost-beneficial in terms of development, in the social sense of the term.

Secondly, bilateral relations always develop according to a certain cultural affinity. Our attraction for Africa is certainly based in part on the fact that we share a common trait: the same "mother countries". Our membership in the Commonwealth has certainly taught us to understand English-speaking Africa better; the French language and culture have brought us closer to Francophone Africa, and have led us to play an important role in the ACCT. In addition, we feel that it is in our own interest to project Canada's bicultural character abroad.

Thirdly, along with bilateral relations, Canadians attach considerable importance to the multilateral institutions. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr Clark, stated that fact again when speaking to the UN; he suggested a number of ways to make that world