

economic ties, contributing toward the maintenance of African peace and security (without interference in domestic affairs), and improving the quality of life and the environment. All these governmental objectives are facilitated by the support of NGOs throughout Francophonie. And receiving countries appreciate Canadian aid offered without "ulterior motives or constraints". With Canadian export trade with francophone Africa increasing from \$10 million in 1960, to almost \$40 million in 1970, to the 1980 figure of \$627 million, Mr. De Bané noted that all factors, both economic and cultural, pointed toward a growing spirit of co-operation and mutual assistance among La Francophonie.

Law of the Sea Conference

The Eleventh Session of the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference resumed in New York from March 8 to April 30, with the Canadian delegation under the direction of J. Alan Beesley, Canada's Ambassador to the Conference. Canada recognizes the importance of achieving a comprehensive and universal Law of the Sea Convention, and hopes that this Session will see the successful conclusion of negotiations.

Caribbean Basin Initiative

Meeting in New York, March 14-15, representatives of Colombia, Mexico, the U.S., Venezuela and Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, discussed the Caribbean Basin Initiative as a common expression of political will to stimulate economic and social development in the

area through bilateral programs of co-operation without military considerations or political pre-conditions.

Canada had already announced increases in the levels of development assistance to be provided for the region, reflecting concern for the conditions of poverty and economic dislocation underlying current social change and political instability. President Reagan's proposal for a comprehensive economic program to increase trade, investment and financial assistance would receive Canada's firm support.

Visit of Secretary General of ACTC

The newly-elected Secretary General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, Mr. François Owono-Nguema, paid an official visit to Canada March 28 to April 3, meeting His Excellency the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Relations, the Hon. Pierre De Bané. He was to discuss in detail future perspectives and organizational programmes, and was also to visit New Brunswick and Quebec, whose provincial governments have the status of participatory members in the Agency.

UN Forces

Canadian troops participated in their 37th rotation to Cyprus between March 24 and April 3. The 3rd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery of Shilo, Manitoba, replaced the 2nd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment in continuing Canada's portion of the U.N. peacekeeping role in Cyprus.

Policy

FOREIGN POLICY

Relations with Latin America criticized

The Council on Hemispheric Relations, a private research group, called Canada's policy on Central America superficial, inconsistent, devoid of moral content and largely irrelevant in a statement issued at the end of March. The *Globe and Mail* (March 30) quoted portions of the Council's statement, concluding that the "detailed critique had almost nothing good to say about Canada's behavior in the region."

In an interview from Washington, Council Director Larry Birns described Canada as "a source of unutilized potential" in Latin America that was needed now "to redress the inadequacies" of the U.S. Administration's policies. (*Globe and Mail*, March 30)

The Council, founded to monitor inter-American affairs, has recently expanded to include Canada's relations with Latin America. Birns said in the *Globe and Mail* interview. Eight chairs are to be added to the Council's 28-member board of trustees for Canadians. Four members have already been invited to join: New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent; the Hon. Flora MacDonald (PC Kingston and the Islands); John Foster (Chairman of the inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America); Lynn Williams (international secretary-treasurer of the United Steelworkers of America).

Afghanistan Day

In a statement issued by the Secretary of State for External Affairs marking the observance of Afghanistan Day March 21, Canada restated its condemnation of the