

CANADA-ZAMBIA RELATIONS

Canada's relations with Zambia have always been friendly. The warmth in our relations has been a result, in part, of the position Canada has taken on southern African questions and our willingness to assist in Zambia's economic and development needs. Canada has been supportive of President Kaunda's peace initiatives in the region and Prime Minister Mulroney and President Kaunda worked closely together at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Nassau (October 1985) and London (August 1986) to forge the Commonwealth position on South Africa.

CIDA maintains a substantial assistance programme in Zambia. Disbursements for the year 1985/86 reached the sum of \$18 million bringing the total since 1971 to \$162.8 million. CIDA's bilateral aid was initially directed towards Zambia's transportation and training needs. As Zambia's economic problems worsened in the mid-70s, this emphasis on technical assistance gave way to capital projects and lines-of-credit designed to ease Zambia's difficult balance-of-payments situation.

In 1982-83, CIDA reassessed its Zambia program and determined sectoral priorities for the 1983-84 to 1988-89 period. Canada is assisting Zambia's efforts to diversify its economy - now dependent on copper - and also supports Zambian efforts to increase agricultural production and provide infrastructure and increased services to rural areas. Agriculture and rural development account for 75% of bilateral expenditures on current and planned projects.

Canada's High Commission in Zambia funds 29 projects, mainly in education and training. Special Programs contributions totaled almost \$480,000 in 1984-85 and covered some 20 organizations with development projects in Zambia.

Canadian exports to Zambia were \$5.4 million in 1985 and for the first nine months of 1986, Canadian exports exceeded \$9 million; the total export for 1986 should reach approximately \$12 million. Although these figures reflect a high component of bilateral aid, Canadian companies have been successful recently in obtaining portions of World Bank financed projects in the health and road construction sectors.

Approximately 450 Canadians, mainly CIDA cooperants and members of NGO's and missionary orders, live and work in Zambia. There are 48 Zambian students enrolled at Canadian universities.