

FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

Canada strengthened its relations with Francophone Africa through visits from two heads of state, two prime ministers and several other senior officials. They were assured of continuing support for democratization, human rights and the environment. The Canadian government welcomed the success of the elections process in Gabon, Ivory Coast, Benin, Algeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Cap Verde. Disturbances affected the internal situations of Rwanda, Mali, Niger and Togo. Canada held bilateral consultations with Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Rwanda.

The Prime Minister of Benin, visiting Canada in November, discussed renewal and democratization in his country. In June, the Prime Minister of Burundi and the Foreign Minister of Rwanda focused on their respective policies of inter-ethnic reconciliation. Political reform was the main concern of the Foreign Minister of Zaire during his visit in December.

Elections Canada led missions to Benin, Burkina Faso and Zaire to oversee elections in those countries.

In October, the Canadian Bar Association received a mission from the Republic of Guinea seeking advice on the development of that country's constitution.

In April, the Honourable Ed Broadbent, President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, travelled to Ivory Coast, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. His visit, and those made by Elections Canada, attested to the importance Canada ascribes to the political development of Africa.

Canada contributed to the operation of the African Development Bank, and was host to its President, Mr. Babacar N'Diaye. During a visit to Canada by the President of the Central African Republic, a Canadian company received a major forestry contract funded by the World Bank.

Canada was active in the Conference on the Protection of the Mediterranean Environment in Tunis in March, organized under La Francophonie.

ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

Canada's relations with Anglophone Africa (the 19 non-Francophone countries of Sub-Saharan Africa) continued to emphasize developmental issues and cooperation in international organizations, complemented by active support for the resolution of conflicts and for democratization.

The state visit to Canada in September by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe recognized Canada's contribution to the economic development of Zimbabwe and other Southern African countries, both bilaterally and through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. During his appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, President Mugabe announced Zimbabwe's decision to maintain a multiparty system and to significantly liberalize its economy. The parties exchanged views regarding the regional implications of the ongoing civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, and developments within South Africa.

In May, the Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Abuja, Nigeria, for a meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa. Consultations were held on Canada-Nigeria bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern.

The tragic civil war in Liberia prompted Canada to mount a humanitarian response to assist Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries and to encourage the efforts of the Economic Commission of West African States to establish a cease-fire and an interim administration acceptable to all parties.

In the Horn of Africa, the Somalian civil war caused the collapse of the national government when the various factions were unable to agree on a successor to the administration.

In the Sudan, the civil war continued and the Sudanese government impeded international relief efforts for the seven million people at risk. Canada actively pressed for the reinstatement of Operation Lifeline Sudan and an effective relief effort.

Canada participated in the international effort to provide humanitarian assistance to seven million people in Ethiopia. Canadian diplomats supported negotiations to end the civil war, and to install a transitional broadly based government leading to a multiparty democratic election in 1992.

SOUTHERN AFRICA TASK FORCE

Canadian foreign policy continues to focus on the international effort to end apartheid in South Africa.

Early in May 1990, the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African government held their first talks at Groote Schuur about removing the obstacles to negotiations.

In June, ANC Vice-President Nelson Mandela was welcomed by thousands of Canadians at giant rallies in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. In an