

tries and recipient African governments, as well as transit countries.

- Technical and financial assistance for transporting, stocking and distributing food aid to drought and famine victims.
- Financial support for the Special Emergency Fund for African Famine and Drought Relief, created in November, 1984 by the OAU.
- Appropriate technology transfer and local technological development.

• **International Partnership**

Another message that came out of the National Conference was a need for Canada to continue to heed responsible African leadership's clarion call for a new international partnership. In his speech, David MacDonald pointed out that: the first signs of an important collaboration for the future were to be seen in the statements of the OAU and the Bonn Summit Experts Group. The Special Session of the United Nations lay ahead, and it was crucial for countries like Canada to seize the moment.

"This is a unique opportunity to forge a long-term commitment and collaboration that can make our determination that there be no more famine a reality."

Along with governments, NGOs could also play an effective role in the international scene. Edgar Pisani, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations' General Assembly's Special Session on Africa, said NGOs internationally have three roles to play: the first is to help with the creation of non-governmental organizations in African countries. But, there are essential differences between voluntary organizations in North America and those in Africa.

"One must realize that in Africa, the states are weak and because they are weak, they tend to use their political capabilities to strengthen the state, sometimes at the expense of the civil society. The NGOs were born as a means of counterbalancing this tendency, and this was a political revolution of undoubted significance."

The second role of the local NGOs would be to remain in close contact with all of African society, to be the purveyors of technology, of know-how, of self-accountability. But they must be careful not to take the place of those who should be responsi-