

lobby for increased food assistance. However, he added, "I think that the immediate priority of Canada has to relate to our own contribution," but the request to act as mediator would be taken "very seriously" (*The Citizen*, November 5).

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark made the announcement of Canada's assistance program to the African regions experiencing famine in the Commons November 16. Mr. Clark stated that the government "was taking its lead" from the "concern demonstrated" by Canadians. Recognizing that famine was not restricted to Ethiopia (where the majority of media attention had been directed), the government established "a \$50 million special fund for Africa." Mr. Clark noted that while parts of the fund would be used to match funds raised by Canadians, "specific matching formulas [would] be worked out in consultations between the voluntary sector" and the Emergency Coordinator. Immediate measures included an additional CIDA grant of \$3.5 million in humanitarian aid to Ethiopia, as well as an additional ten to fifteen tons of grain. In long-term development assistance, said Mr. Clark, the government would also be extending a water supply program. Two further projects, approved by CIDA and administered in conjunction with "international agricultural research institutes," would involve bean and wheat production improvement (valued at \$6.9 million over five years). Mr. Clark stated that Canada "should encourage better coordination among donor countries" in the distribution of aid in the form of "goods, humanitarian aid and logistical support." Canada would work closely, said Mr. Clark, with agencies and organizations both at home and abroad both to "monitor the African situation and maximize relief efforts."

When questioned by Jean Lapierre (Lib., Shefford) as to sources of funding for the \$50 million, Mr. Clark responded that \$28 million had come from the cancellation of cuts previously announced by the former Liberal government (from monies earmarked for Overseas Development Assistance). As well, roughly \$13 million derived from "savings flowing from the cuts announced recently by the Minister of Finance" (the majority of which had been directed toward the External Affairs envelope). The remainder came from money committed to international financial institutions, but which would be unused and surplus for the present year.

## FRANCE

### Visit of Prime Minister

Preceding French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius's visit to Canada November 7-10, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was interviewed by Agence France-Presse and spoke about an improvement in Canada-France relations, especially with regard to the province of Quebec. Bilateral relations in the past had often been colored by diplomatic conflicts over the status of Quebec — reaching their worst point with President Charles de Gaulle's 1967 comment "Vive le Québec libre." Mr. Mulroney stated that the Conservative federal government, while seeking a "national reconciliation" with Quebec, would at the same time endeavor to establish with France a more "fraternal spirit."

Acknowledging previous "parish quarrels" with France, the Prime Minister stated that Canada had attained a greater degree of "understanding and maturity with regard to France and with regard to La Francophonie in general." The meeting with Mr. Fabius would be utilized to enrich the cultural and commercial ties between the two countries, added Mr. Mulroney. "It's a question of attitude," he said, "and I have the intention of eliminating to the greatest extent possible the impediments to normal and reasoned communication" (*Le Devoir*, November 5).

While in Ottawa, Mr. Fabius met with the leaders of the three political parties, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Parliamentarians, and the Canada-France Businessmen's Committee. At an official dinner hosted by the Mulroneys, Mr. Fabius was told by the Prime Minister that Canada welcomed overtures by France to "undertake initiatives" with groups both within and outside of Quebec. Mr. Mulroney added that Canadian federalism, "far from being an obstacle to the legitimate Quebec-Paris dialogue, will enhance and strengthen it." Mr. Fabius responded that while Quebec remained the first concern of France-Canada relations, his nation's ambition "is more vast and is aimed at all Canadians." His "Vive le Canada" may have been a gesture to the new Government, an attempt to erase the memory of de Gaulle's earlier words. Both leaders cited several areas for the possible strengthening of economic ties, including space and oceanography (mentioned by Mr. Fabius), as well as science and technology, and communications (noted by Mr. Mulroney) (*La Presse, Globe and Mail*, November 8).

Prior to the departure of Mr. Fabius for Quebec City, Prime Minister Mulroney expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved in the talks with his counterpart. He noted opportunities for closer economic and industrial cooperation, particularly in the fields of "technological change, structural adjustments, increased productivity and job creation." Along with the new Canadian government's commitment to the "expansion of bilingualism and the promotion of the French fact," Mr. Mulroney indicated his intention to pursue with France an expansion of cultural exchanges. Mention was also made of the creation of a joint France-Canada award, to be first presented in 1985, for the recognition of cultural co-productions. Science and technology, including the sectors of aerospace, information processing and biotechnology, had received the attention of the two Prime Ministers, and Mr. Mulroney announced the signing of an agreement between Petro-Canada and the Institut français du pétrole. The agreement provides for scientific and technical cooperation, he said, and would secure for the Canadian company "access to an important French research and development capacity which will have significant application to oil and gas production in the Canadian frontier." Mr. Fabius spoke of his certainty with regard to Canada's continued support for NATO, its commitment to non-interference in Latin America, and its support for international efforts to convince the US administration to lower its deficit in the face of continued high interest rates (PMO press release, November 8, *Le Devoir*, November 9).

While in Quebec, Mr. Fabius called for stronger technological, cultural and economic ties between that