

bond between the people of Canada and the peoples of Africa, and the support of the government of Canada for the historic effort which you are leading for concerted international action to address Africa's emergency needs.

Canadians and their government are acutely aware of the intense suffering of millions of Africans. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, and myself have travelled to Ethiopia to get a first hand impression of what needed to be done. A specially appointed Canadian Coordinator for the African Famine, David Macdonald, part of my delegation here, has since returned to Ethiopia, visited Mauritania, Mali and Niger to understand the situation in the Sahel and has just recently come back from the Sudan. Mr. Macdonald will present in the near future his report on the African crisis. This report will be studied immediately by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons of which the Chairman, Dr. William Winegard, is participating at this conference as a member of my delegation. These fact finding missions, as well as the recent visits to Ottawa by you, Mr. President, and by your Director for Emergency Operations in Africa, Mr. Brad Morse, have underscored the impact the Africa famine has on the Canadian people and the government's agenda.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Brian Mulroney, has asked me to convey publicly our profound sympathy and solidarity with the African peoples and their governments in this dark hour. Canada has had strong and multiple ties with African countries since their accession to independence. These relations have grown through years of mutual development cooperation and through belief in common values. The Canadian government can only reiterate its undiminished and renewed commitment to work in harmony with the international community to meet this present challenge.

Mr. President,

Though the magnitude of the crisis is enormous, though the challenge frightening, despair and defeatism cannot and must not overwhelm us. The solutions are not and will not be easy. Our immediate priority now is to save lives, but lasting solutions must be found in long term development. Both require renewed commitment and a will to overcome. We must continue to take the necessary steps to respond to the emergency crisis which we face.