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MAN-SOMETAL OBTAINS A \$33 MILLION CONTRACT

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), and Mrs. Eva Côté, Member of Parliament for Rimouski, announced today that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has granted \$33 million to the Senegal River Improvement Authority (OMVS). In response to a call for tenders in Canada, the Man-Sométal consortium has been awarded a contract to manufacture hydraulic equipment for dams. The consortium consists of a number of companies, the main ones being Marine Industrie, Sométal and the Man Company.

Canada's intention to participate in the funding of the project was announced in 1978 by Prime Minister Trudeau, making Canada one of thirteen sources of funding for the initial stages of construction.

The present project includes the construction of two dams: one at Diéma, Mali, to be completed in 1986, and another at Manantali, Mali, targeted for completion in 1988. The contract obtained by Man-Sométal is for the Manantali project.

According to Mr. Lapointe, this project clearly shows how various interests in the Canadian government can be combined into a single project. On one hand, the project will lead to some very significant development in one of the world's poorest regions, which is a priority objective of CIDA. On the other, it will bring some very important commercial benefits, in the short term, by creating some 65 jobs in Rimouski and in the long term, by affording Canadian companies an opportunity to penetrate the African market.

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