

I Regional Activities

Africa and the Middle East

Africa is a complex continent. It is the richest in natural beauty and population diversity, yet the poorest in natural and human resources. It contains 18 of the 25 countries designated by the United Nations as the world's least developed. Yet at its southern extremity is one of the world's most technologically-advanced countries, and in the north there is great wealth from petroleum reserves. Africa contains more than 40 independent states, but it also contains the largest areas in the world still under colonial rule. It provides moving examples of human serenity, wisdom and co-operation, but is also the scene of bitter, inhuman tragedies and violence, as well as of a potentially-explosive confrontation between the white ruling minorities and the black majorities in the south.

As in previous years, Canadian activity in Africa was concentrated largely on development-assistance programs, on working for peaceful change and on assistance to the victims of injustice and oppression. These aims were pursued through Canada's bilateral relations with the countries of the continent and through the various institutions of the Commonwealth, La Francophonie and the United Nations.

Commonwealth Africa

A major subject of concern remained the continuing dispute over the future of Rhodesia. In January 1973, the situation was aggravated when the Rhodesian Government closed its border with Zambia, cutting off that country's major route to the sea. Though Rhodesia later rescinded this action, Zambia has kept its borders closed, having undertaken a fundamental reorientation of its traditional transport and supply-routes from the south (through Rhodesia and Mozambique) to the north (through Tanzania).

This diversion of Zambian trade occasioned new demands on the cargo-handling capacity of Tanzanian ports and the Zambian and East African railway system. In response to urgent requests, Canada untied a loan for \$1 million to permit cargo-handling equipment to be constructed in East Africa, with Canadian materials. In addition, an \$8-million package of emergency aid was allocated to the Zambian transport sector (including associated outlets through East African harbours), of which \$5 million was used for railway rolling-stock. In December, a further \$1-million loan agreement was concluded for the construction of more rolling-stock for the Zambian Railway.

Through these and other measures in aid of independent African countries bordering on the minority-controlled territories of southern Africa, the Canadian Government has made its policy clear. Canada has unequivocally supported the goal of a democratic majority rule in Rhodesia and, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, has main-

tained sanctions against the illegal Salisbury regime. Canada continued its participation in the Commonwealth Scholarship Fund for Rhodesian Africans, as well as its contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Education and Training Program for Southern Africa (UNETPSA).

The tension in southern Africa was at least partly to blame for a tragic incident on the Zambia-Rhodesia border. In May, two Canadian tourists visiting the Rhodesian side of Victoria Falls were shot and killed by Zambian troops. Differing views on what happened cast a shadow over Canadian-Zambian relations. In November, however, as a result of the efforts of the Canadian Government, the Zambian Government offered an *ex gratia* payment of \$50,000 to the family of each of the victims — an indication of Zambia's sense of moral responsibility and regret for the deaths.

In pursuit of its efforts to achieve social justice through peaceful change, Canada has continued to condemn the South African Government's *apartheid* policies. Canada has supported the continuing efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Council for Namibia in the dispute over the right of the people of Namibia (South West Africa) to self-determination. Its concern for the rights of the indigenous peoples of Portugal's African territories was made known to the Portuguese Foreign Minister at the NATO ministerial meeting in December. Further, Canada maintained its policy of refusing to sell Portugal arms or military equipment that might be used in Africa. Moreover, it was