

The OAU has proposed the idea of joint responsibility in which assistance would be tied to tangible evidence of a determined desire to bring about necessary adjustment. Canada welcomes this approach and commits itself to support African countries in their efforts. The level of resources that we shall commit to African development will continue to be substantial, and will be provided with increased flexibility. In that regard, since April 1, following a decision made by the Prime Minister of Canada, our official development assistance program is now implemented entirely through grants.

The OAU recognizes that priority must be given to agricultural development; that policies must be adopted which will create the environment needed for development; that agricultural research must be encouraged; and that exceptional measures must be taken to assist women and population groups primarily responsible for agricultural development. For our part, we will make these the top priorities in our cooperative activities in Africa.

The OAU has underscored the importance of continuing the struggle against drought and desertification, improving public investment policies and encouraging the private sector: these are factors that we too consider essential to recovery.

By strengthening management institutions, by reforming monetary and financial policies, by introducing demographic policies, and by recognizing characteristics peculiar to each region, the OAU feels that essential elements of a solution can be found. How can we help but share this point of view?

We are heartened to hear the OAU address the need for us jointly to improve the effectiveness of our development cooperation, especially with respect to program support, evaluation of technical assistance, and aid coordination.

African countries seek an international economic environment supportive of growth, the elimination of protectionism, and pursuit of trade and agricultural policies favourable to developing countries. Canada supports these objectives. We will continue to support the strengthening of growth oriented policies through the IMF and the World Bank. We are committed to dealing with trade problems in a new negotiation within GATT. We are ready to