

CANADIAN ACTION

Canada played a leading role in implementing the settlement plan it had helped to devise. We advanced 80 per cent of our \$15 million UNTAG assessment to get the operation off to a fast start. Over 500 Canadian Forces personnel served in UNTAG in two rotations, later joined by 100 Royal Canadian Mounted Police members, 50 election supervisors from the federal and provincial electoral institutions and the national political parties, and 12 fingerprint and computer experts. The government established a diplomatic observer mission in Windhoek, while our UN mission remained active in the search for solutions on the Security Council. Four Parliamentary observers went to Namibia in September, as well as a Commonwealth team with a Canadian member, and a number of independent NGO observers throughout the process. Some \$3.9 million of development and humanitarian aid was provided, including \$2 million for the UN refugee repatriation, and 4000 ballot boxes were supplied for the elections.

Namibia's independence was marked in the House of Commons and across Canada, while an all-party Parliamentary delegation travelled to Windhoek for the celebrations. The government has announced the opening of a High Commission, the lifting of all economic sanctions, the normalization of trade promotion and financial activities, and the exemption of Namibians from visitor visas. Relations were set off to a good start with visits by both Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Minister for External Relations and International Development Monique Landry.

Canadian development assistance in the first year of independence will reach 4 to 5 million dollars, led by \$1 million each for immunization through UNICEF and for Commonwealth technical assistance. Bilateral aid will be concentrated in the agriculture, health and education sectors in northern Namibia, and will be delivered mainly through Canadian and local NGOs. Given Namibia's security needs, Canada has agreed to provide police training assistance through the Commonwealth, and modest military training.

Canada has supported the early reintegration of Walvis Bay into Namibia at the UN Security Council and elsewhere. We have urged both parties to hold early and productive negotiations on the issue.