

Africa 2000 — A New Canadian Initiative in Africa

In October 1984 as Canadians first became aware of the extent of the famine in Ethiopia, initially through BBC films, a freighter entered the Ethiopian port of Assab with 35,000 metric tons of wheat sent by the Canadian government. Canada has long had a program of assistance in Ethiopia as elsewhere in Africa and so had responded to Ethiopia's first appeal six months earlier. By November 1984, the Minister for External Affairs, Joe Clark, had named a special coordinator for emergency assistance to drought stricken parts of Africa.

Many Canadians, as in the UK, have given generously of time, skills and money to assist in this time of crisis, raising well over \$60 million (Cdn) in voluntary donations. Like the Canadian government and African leaders themselves, however, they recognized that more lasting solutions are needed. Moreover, there was an explicit recognition by donor and African governments that changes in both domestic policies and aid programs were necessary, as they had been proven lacking.

At the 1985 Organization of African Unity Heads of State meeting, African leaders prepared a priority

program for economic recovery that was accepted in principle at the Special Session on Africa of the United Nations General Assembly this past May. The OAU program includes affirmation by African states to give priority to agricultural development, to fighting drought and desertification and to improve conditions and prices for the small farmer. Most significantly they are committed to finance themselves some 70% of the £87 billion economic recovery program.

Canada's Minister of External Relations, Mme. Monique Vezina, announced at the Special Session that Canada would initiate a new program of assistance — Africa 2000 — totalling \$150 million (£75 million) over the next fifteen years. In part, this program is designed to complement our already broad range of programs in Africa (see table below). Africa 2000 comprises three new elements:

- A stronger partnership between the government, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and business with over \$75 million earmarked for joint financing of projects with NGO's. A special unit will be established to assist voluntary organizations achieve the objective to have more than 2000 small projects in place in less than two years.

- Canada will place highest priority to agriculture, reforestation and food security. Also special attention will be given to the role of women in development and \$20 million of the funds earmarked for projects involving women.

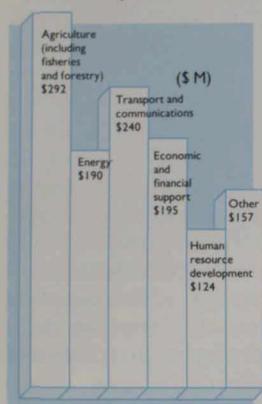
- Canada has proposed that the UNDP investigate the establishment of a special facility to support African NGO's and local groups to combat environmental problems through social forestry and self-help projects. \$20 million has been reserved for this program.

These commitments will bring to over \$900 million (£450 million) Canadian government support to African development programs in Fiscal Year 1986-1987 alone.

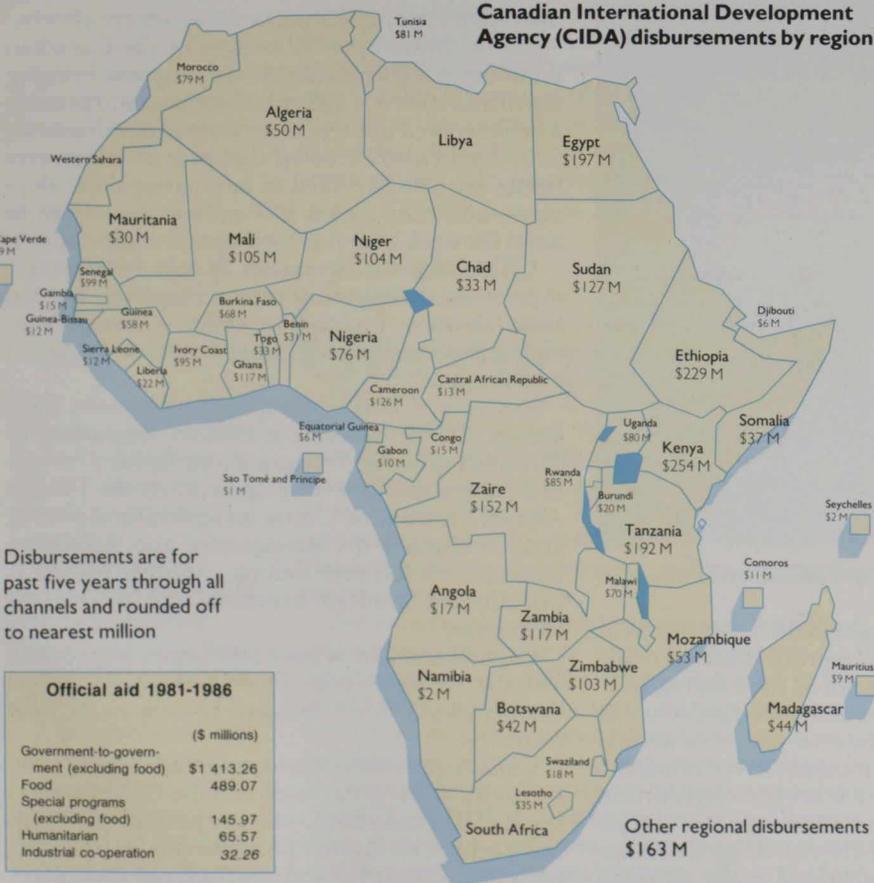
In her speech to the UNGA Special Session for Africa, the Minister also announced Canada's willingness to extend a moratorium on repayments of aid loans from sub-Saharan countries for five years, with a possible extension to 15 years. This moratorium which would be extended on a case by case basis, could involve loans of \$700 million and total debt relief of \$250 million over 15 years.

The crisis which we witnessed in Africa in the last several years has underlined the need for both recipient and donor governments to examine policies and priorities and to initiate new measures. Canada recognizes Africa's leadership in this and has announced the new policies above as part of our program to support Africa's economic recovery. ♣

Government-to-government aid by sector



Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) disbursements by region



Disbursements are for past five years through all channels and rounded off to nearest million

Global Aid and Development

Over the past year, Canada provided \$2.1 billion (over £1 billion) in official development assistance to the Third World. It was the largest aid expenditure ever, representing an increase of fourteen percent over the previous year.

To some the figure will be looked upon as cold,

hard cash, but to thousands throughout the world it gave both hope and new opportunities.

Look at these facts:

...When a severe cyclone struck Bangladesh tens of thousands of people were saved because a dam,