

La Francophonie

Ministerial Visit

In preparation for the upcoming (February 17-19) Francophone Summit in Paris, External Relations Minister Monique Vézina visited several francophone African nations January 7-17. The Minister met with delegated authorities on the Summit in Gabon, Senegal and Niger. While focusing on the Summit, Ms. Vézina also chaired bilateral commissions on political, economic and trade relations with the three countries. The Canadian delegation visited several cooperative projects initiated by the Canadian International Development Agency and met with Canadian business representatives operating in the region. In addition to attending the bilateral commissions in Gabon and Senegal, Ms. Vézina signed a cooperative agreement with Niger for Canadian involvement in the country's development — particularly the Sahel and projects of food self-sufficiency (External Affairs communiqué, January 7).

SADCC

Annual Meeting

A Canadian delegation, headed by Senator Duff Roblin, attended the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Harare, Zimbabwe, January 30-31. SADCC, composed of nine African nations (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) either bordering or in close proximity to South Africa, was established in 1980 to foster regional integration and reduce dependence on South Africa. Canada,

having supported SADCC since its inception, attached great importance to the conference as a means of promoting peaceful change in the region, particularly with regard to the end of apartheid in South Africa and independence for Namibia. At the annual meeting, Canada reaffirmed its intention to commit \$120 million over five years for the implementation of development projects (External Affairs communiqué, January 23).

UN

Chemical Weapons Initiative

In a letter delivered to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in early December, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced the results of a Canadian study on proposed procedures for dealing with cases of alleged use of either chemical or biological weapons. The *Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons* represented the findings of a group of Canadian scientists and officials and marked an important step in the development of procedures for determining violations of existing international Conventions on chemical weaponry. The manual was designed to be used by UN experts called upon to investigate future allegations of chemical weaponry use and established a "comprehensive and known set of procedures," stated the Minister. Timely on-site investigations would thereby be facilitated, ensuring that findings were as "conclusive, convincing and as impartial" as possible. Canada regarded the handbook as a contribution to the ongoing negotiations in the formulation of a "comprehensive prohibition" of chemical weapons (UN Canadian delegation communiqué, December 4).