

Visit of President of Rwanda

General Juvénal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic, paid an official visit to Canada September 21-24 at the invitation of Governor-General Edward Schreyer. The President was accompanied by his wife and a ministerial delegation.

During his stay in Canada, President Habyarimana attended a state dinner in his honour hosted by the Governor General and a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at his residence. Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan held a luncheon in honour of the Rwandese delegation on September 24. The President also met with the interim President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Margaret Catley-Carlson.

On September 22, President Habyarimana visited Quebec City where he was received by Quebec government officials.

Bilateral relations

Prime Minister Trudeau and President Habyarimana expressed satisfaction with the constructive development of bilateral relations. The President paid tribute to the Canadian government and people for their generosity and for the support given by Canada to Rwanda, in particular, and to the least-developed nations in general.

With regard to co-operation between the two countries, Canada indicated that it would continue to increase its co-operation in Rwanda's development as resources become available. Canada will give priority to augmenting development projects already under way. Co-operation between Canada and Rwanda is evidenced by Canada's contribution to the National University of Rwanda; to development of the marshlands in the valley of the Mutara to make them suitable for agriculture; to the carrying out of telecommunications projects in order to link the chief towns with the capital, Kigali; as well as to geophysical exploration in order to determine the mining potential of Rwanda.

Supported by a CIDA grant, the National University of Rwanda has played a leading role in the education of Rwandese people since it was founded in 1963 by Father Georges-Henri Lévesque; many Canadians have had the opportunity to teach there, and to develop close and productive ties with the people of



General Juvénal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda (left) is met at the airport by Governor-General Edward Schreyer and Mrs. Schreyer.

Rwanda.

Dr. MacGuigan announced during his meeting with the President that Canada would provide \$1-million worth of powdered milk, to alleviate a shortage of this commodity in Rwanda.

On international issues, Rwanda and Canada agreed on the necessity for a greater effort on the part of the most-developed nations to assist the developing countries, and expressed the hope

that the North-South dialogue would result in a system of international economic relations that would respond better to the needs of the countries of the Third World.

It was also pointed out that "La Francophonie internationale" and its institutions constitute a useful framework for exchanges and dialogue between countries that are entirely or partially French-speaking.

Aid to the Sahel

Canada will contribute \$1.5 million to the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (PISC), Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced September 19. The announcement was made during the visit to Canada of Joao Pereira Silva, Minister of Rural Development in the Cape Verde Islands and Co-ordinator of the PISC.

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) contribution, which will be spread out over two years, will provide the PISC Executive Secretariat with Canadian specialists who will work with the Sahelians in developing and implementing a rehabilitation strategy. In addition, the agency will contribute to the operating budget of the Secretariat and will finance an international symposium on the protection of

plant life.

During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Silva met with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs Louis Duclos, to discuss Canadian expertise in the formulation of programs in such high-priority sectors as cereal production, well-drilling, fisheries development and reforestation.

In 1977 CIDA gave support to the PISC with a contribution of \$1 million to a project called "institutional support of the PISC". This second contribution by CIDA demonstrates the agency's confidence in a new type of international co-operation on a regional basis which has already proven successful as a result of support by outside organizations.

CIDA's Sahel program is concentrated in four main areas: self-sufficiency in food, protection of the environment, improvement of highways and access to the sea, and balance-of-payments assistance.