

CANADA-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

Canada established relations with Zimbabwe when it gained independence in 1980. Over the last six years the two governments have developed close ties. The relationship also involves their respective nationals - some eight hundred Canadians live and work in Zimbabwe, while forty-nine Zimbabweans currently study in Canada. Canadian missionaries have long been active in the country and two of Prime Minister Mugabe's sisters have been associated with Canadian universities, (Mount St. Vincent and St. Francis Xavier).

Prime Minister Mulroney visited Canada in September 1983 and since then there have been Canadian visits to Zimbabwe by Senator Duff Roblin in February 1985 and 1986, then Secretary of State, Walter MacLean in July 1985 and Madame Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations in October, 1986.

Prime Minister Mulroney and Prime Minister Mugabe worked closely together at both the Nassau and London Commonwealth Summit Meetings in the formulation and acceptance of economic measures to be applied against South Africa.

Canada's development assistance program to Zimbabwe dates back to a \$50 million pledge made at the 1981 Conference on Reconstruction and Development (ZIMCORD). Annual disbursements of bilateral aid to Zimbabwe in 1985/86 reached \$15 million. Canada's major projects in Zimbabwe have included a development line of credit (DLOC) to provide capital goods needed in the rural sector, aerial and aeromagnetic surveys of the country, a private-sector DLOC of \$15 million for spare parts and raw materials and a technical vocational education project. Ten Canadian non-government organizations, including the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), CUSO and the YMCA/YWCA have received CIDA support for their work in Zimbabwe. Canada is also a contributor through SADCC to several regional projects of direct benefit to Zimbabwe.

In 1985, Canada exported \$11.3 million worth of goods (primarily wheat, synthetic rubber and plastic materials and paper) to Zimbabwe. We imported \$5.2 million of goods including raw sugar, tea and non metallic minerals.