

The program outlined the purposes of Forum Africa, interviewed the organizers and described the current situation in Africa. British Columbia's remarkable, generous response to the emergency was reflected through interviews with representatives of NGOs, trade unions and churches.

The next day, in nine B.C. communities -- Fort St. John, Kamloops, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Prince George, Terrace, Victoria, North Vancouver and Vancouver -- groups met to discuss the issues. Whitehorse, which had seen a large turnout for a meeting addressed by David MacDonald on the Thursday night, had a well-attended and lively Saturday workshop.

Participants included NGO representatives, students, academics and the general public. Several communities combined Forum Africa with other activities. In Terrace, raffles, church collections, a dance and a bread and water banquet were organized to raise funds. Victoria held a walkathon before the discussions and Douglas College organized films and fund raising activities during the week.

Reports from discussion groups were phoned in to the KNOWLEDGE Network in the late afternoon. These were recorded for a second one-hour television program Saturday evening when David MacDonald was joined by David Cadman, of the UN Association, Betty Plewes of CUSO, and Charles Bassett of CIDA. During the program, the panel had a chance to respond to each report. Twenty minutes from the end of the broadcast phone lines were opened, and the panel was inundated with calls from British Columbia and the Yukon.

Recommendations from the groups focussed on issues which were repeated throughout the country. In addition, emphasis was placed on the need for an agency to coordinate relief and recovery programs, the establishment of a "peace corps" of skilled Canadians and the need for a public education and information system to provide regular information on international crisis situations, progress and problems. Whitehorse and North Vancouver announced their plans to establish a "partnership" with African communities. Finally, a number of communities planned to maintain the networks established through Forum Africa for the purposes of education, fund-raising and cooperative action.

Northwest Territories

Forum Africa in the Northwest Territories was originally scheduled for early December. However, this conflicted with municipal elections and the date was moved forward to coincide with B.C. and the Yukon. First contacts were made only a month before this date and Forum Africa materials were distributed to NGOs, churches and schools.