

## Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan

Generally speaking, SCAAP is the counterpart in Africa of the Colombo Plan in Asia. The Colombo Plan, however, was extended to include non-Commonwealth countries, whereas SCAAP is exclusively a Commonwealth scheme. The major donors are Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1960, the Canadian Government undertook to make grant aid available to Commonwealth Africa at the rate of \$3.5 million annually over a three-year period beginning April 1, 1961. This assistance was increased to \$6.5 million in the fiscal year 1964-65 and to \$9.5 million in 1965-66. During the year under review, Canada began to provide special development-loan assistance to SCAAP countries. The first such loan was signed November 1, 1965, making available to Nigeria \$3.5 million for the purchase of cable for a telecommunications project.

A high priority has been assigned by African countries to educational and technical assistance and Canadian programmes have concentrated on these sectors. Figures compiled for the 1965-66 academic year show that 581 Commonwealth African students were being trained in Canada and 312 teachers and 115 technical advisers were on External Aid assignment in Africa.

### Basutoland

During 1965, Canada undertook to provide library shelving for the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. A total of 38 students have been brought to Canada for study, 27 of them in the year under review. Canada has sent four teachers and five technical advisers to serve in Basutoland.

### Bechuanaland

Seven students from Bechuanaland have been trained in Canada, four of them during 1965-66. Under the technical assistance programme, three teachers and two advisers have been sent from Canada to serve in Bechuanaland.

### The Gambia

Ten students from The Gambia were studying in Canada in 1965-66 out of a total of 13 brought to Canada since the programme began in 1961-62. Two teachers were sent to The Gambia.

### Ghana

The Trades-Training Centre at Accra was on the point of official opening as the 1965-66 fiscal year came to an end. Canada contributed \$1,155,000 towards the construction, equipping and staffing of the Centre, which will accommodate 400 students.

Canada is engaged in an irrigation and land-reclamation scheme in the Northern Region to bring dry savannah lands under cultivation. A team of agricultural experts from the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration undertook a feasibility study, and PFRA specialists are now working in Ghana to implement the project at a Canadian cost of \$650,000.