

financial contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the Canadian Council of Churches for their emergency relief operations in Lebanon. Canada's support for Lebanon was also marked by the decision, announced in July, to provide \$5 million to assist in reconstruction efforts, when circumstances on the ground permitted.

As for the Arab-Israeli dispute, efforts to move toward the negotiating table were unsuccessful. Canada, through diplomatic and political dialogue, continued to support the objective of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement which would both ensure Israel's well-being and security as an independent state in the Middle East and provide for realization of the right of the Palestinians to participate fully in negotiations to determine their future and have a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Iran-Iraq war remained stalemated, despite continued high casualties on both sides and the use, confirmed by a United Nations Special Task Force, of chemical weapons. Canada joined with many nations in protesting this development. The conflict threatened to spread to the Gulf, where attacks on neutral shipping by the belligerents became increasingly frequent. Canada made *démarches* to both belligerents, urging a cessation of hostilities and negotiations toward peace. Increasing internal problems in the Sudan threatened to make difficult the implementation of Canadian aid projects in the south of that country.

Africa

In English-speaking Africa the year was characterized above all by the persistence of severe drought in several areas, and by unexpected changes in the politics of Southern Africa.

Canada responded to the former with increased food aid allocations and a renewed emphasis on the already important agricultural sector in its bilateral development assistance programs in the affected areas. As a member of the Western Contact Group on Namibia, Canada called repeatedly for South Africa to withdraw from southern Angola, a process which actually began in January 1984. The final outcome and the implications for Namibia's eventual independence were still unclear at the year's end in March.

Also in Southern Africa, and despite intermittent unrest in areas of his own newly independent country, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe was able to make a landmark official visit to Canada which took him not only to Ottawa, but also to Nova Scotia, Montreal, Toronto and Regina. Canada maintained its support in 1983-84 for the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference by announcing a \$125-million, five-year planning figure at the Lusaka Conference in February. At the same time, Canadian authorities followed closely the controversy in South Africa over new constitutional arrangements which enfranchised the Asian and coloured communities but continued to exclude the black majority from their rightful participation in government.

In West Africa, the Minister of State for External Relations completed a major bilateral visit to Nigeria where, later in the year, national elections were followed by a military coup, ending Nigeria's four-year return to civilian rule. Ghana, for its part, showed new signs of economic stability, observed during a visit by the minister in February.

In East Africa, resolution of the defunct East African Community's assets-and-liabilities problem diminished tensions in

the region, re-opened the Kenya-Tanzania border, and resolved a minor complication in Canada's relations with three of its oldest and closest African partners. The Kenyan and Zambian Presidents were both re-elected. In the Horn of Africa, continued fighting and tensions in and around Ethiopia complicated but did not prevent the delivery of important amounts of Canadian humanitarian relief assistance.

During the course of the year, ministers of various portfolios (finance, communications, energy, education, foreign affairs) visited Canada from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Mauritius. The President of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) paid an especially useful visit to Ottawa in February.

Canada continued to strengthen its ties with French-speaking African countries and to promote its political and economic interests while participating actively in development efforts in the region. High-level exchange visits made it possible to give new impetus to existing programs and to broaden the areas of co-operation. In particular, meetings of bilateral commissions with Senegal, Mali, Gabon and Zaire provided opportunities to review relations with those countries and to draw up plans for the future.

A number of Canadian ministers visited various French-speaking African countries, including Burundi, Cameroun, Guinea, Mali, Tunisia and Zaire. These occasions enabled Canada to intensify activities in those countries, in the areas of both commercial relations and development assistance, and to continue political dialogue on subjects of common interest.

Two important state visits took place in 1983 when Canada received the President of the Ivory Coast and the President of Senegal. Also visiting Canada were the foreign ministers of Gabon, Mali, Cameroun, Upper Volta and Djibouti, and sectoral ministers from various other countries, including Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Madagascar.

From the economic point of view the general situation of French-speaking Africa did not improve. Drought continued in the Sahel, and began to affect some coastal countries. The petroleum-exporting countries faced stagnation in prices and demand, and the others experienced a growing energy crisis. The indebtedness of the countries in the area, including the relatively more prosperous ones, reached alarming proportions, and a number had to establish serious austerity measures to support their economies. Elsewhere, the agricultural situation continued to deteriorate, and food shortages multiplied.

Politically, the situation in Chad worsened with the return of the Libyan presence in the north of the country and the arrival of troops from France and Zaire, which took up positions between the 15th and 16th parallels to protect the Ndjamena government. In the Western Sahara, the warring parties were not able to agree on the terms of a ceasefire that would permit a referendum to be held. In Upper Volta, a new *coup d'état* brought to power a government determined to make profound changes to the country's social, economic and political structure. In several countries nearby, strikes and skirmishes exposed deep-rooted tensions caused by the precarious economic and political situation.

Canada continued to support development efforts in the region by providing bilateral aid in 1983-84 of some \$123 million, much of which was allocated to rural development and energy programs and to balance-of-payments support.