

provincial and municipal governments that felt compelled to help; trade unions, cooperatives, local groups, schools and universities spontaneously organized collections of funds and offered their assistance. More than \$60 million was collected from the general public. Our volunteer organizations involved in international cooperation spontaneously formed an Africa Emergency Assistance committee. So widespread was this grass-roots reaction that our government appointed a special coordinator to harmonize the activities of all the groups and organizations wishing to assist Africa.

Later I shall refer to the lessons that we drew from this experience.

Mr. Chairman, I have briefly outlined the Canadian response to the African crisis. I would be remiss if I failed to mention how the Africans themselves reacted to the situation. The Governments and peoples of Africa were far from inactive. Quite the contrary. The emergency assistance was administered and financed in the first instance by none other than the Africans themselves. The whole of Africa, as soon as the rains resumed, increased its grain production to 55 million tonnes, a 34% growth over 1984. Countries like Ivory Coast, Togo and Zimbabwe shared their food surpluses with fellow Africans in other countries. And need I say anything about the extraordinary example of solidarity that the African countries have always shown the international community in receiving and assisting refugees?

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Canada attaches considerable importance to the fact that African Governments themselves have taken the lead in turning toward lasting solutions. They have provided their own analysis of the fundamental problems. Our own analysis leads us to identify many, if not most of the same principle elements relating to the causes of the crisis.