

are meeting our objectives, do we always choose those that best contribute to the advancement of the recipient countries? Are our aid credits in the various countries being distributed fairly and in accordance with our interests? How should we approach the question of recurring costs? The field of development aid is in a constant state of change. The same applies to our trade programs, in which our interests must be harmonized with the needs of countries and their capacity for indebtedness, while reconciling our policy as an exporting country with our North-South policies.

Political dialogue is another key aspect of Canada's role in Africa. It provides much of the framework for the orderly operation of our co-operation programs and the promotion of our commercial interests. Thus, during my visits, much time is spent reviewing our aid program and supporting the projects of the businessmen and women who go with me. But there is much more than this. I have already spoken of the obvious importance of Africa in Canadian policy concerning North-South questions and the strengthening of international institutions. Canada is equally engaged in various questions of security which directly affect the African continent: Namibia is a major example. Canada provides substantial aid to refugees and other victims of local conflicts. My meetings with African ministers and heads of state bring an essential dimension to the development of our policy, by allowing for a greater understanding of the problems and greater co-ordination in matters of common interest.

This dialogue, apart from its content, has an intrinsic value. The African countries value personal exchanges and are concerned with integrating political and economic aspects with their foreign relations. In forming closer political links with the African countries, we are learning much from them in the areas that interest us mutually, but we are also contributing towards strengthening the role of Africa on the international scene. I am convinced that in doing this, Canada is also contributing to the stability of African institutions, and I feel that our example is also helping them to further democratize their institutions and especially to enhance respect for human rights, which is one of the main elements of our foreign policy.

To summarize, let me say that Canada has decided to play an active part in Africa because it is in her interest to do so and because Canada has confidence in Africa. Thank you.

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