

## Aid program for Honduras

Canada and Honduras have signed two new agreements in development co-operation, Martial Asselin, Minister of State responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency, announced recently.

The agreements are within the framework of Canada's \$28-million aid program with Honduras, the largest in Central America, and cover aspects of technical assistance and a line of credit.

The bulk of the program — \$18-million worth — is aimed at helping Honduras develop its rich forest resources. This includes a no-interest, \$12-million line of credit to enable the state-owned Honduran Forest Development Corporation (COHDEFOR) to purchase Canadian equipment. COHDEFOR resells the equipment to small and medium-sized enterprises and co-operatives on a credit basis. Interest from the credit is used to fund reforestation and rural services. The corporation is also receiving technical assistance and training under a \$2.9-million CIDA grant.

Honduras expects to create 4,000 jobs and develop a number of villages in the vast Olancho forest area.

Other projects in the forestry sector include a \$2-million grant for an inventory of the country's hardwood forests and a \$1.2-million grant to finance a fire protection program in co-operation with the New Brunswick government.

## International co-operation for assistance to Africa

Six countries including Canada have been meeting in Paris, at the initiative of the French Government, to lay the groundwork for co-ordinating their resources for joint projects in Africa.

The goal of the meetings, held under the Concerted Action for Development in Africa (CADA), is to strengthen economic assistance effort in sub-Saharan Africa.

Representatives of Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Britain and the United States said they were prepared to consider widening the circle of donor countries to include other members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The six countries, conscious of Africa's need for substantial assistance from the

international community, intend to pay particular attention to projects of a regional character. These, for example, relate to the opening up of land-locked regions, the development of agricultural resources or the effects of natural disasters such as drought or tropical disease. Efforts are necessary in these areas since national or international programs provide only partial assistance.

Representatives considered it indispensable that this CADA activity be undertaken in collaboration with the Africans concerned at the continental, regional or national level, so that the projects, which are chosen for joint action, are consistent with existing international and national programs.

## Federal conservation program cuts energy costs

The Federal Government's internal energy conservation program, "Save 10" has reduced its energy bill by \$36.5 million during fiscal year 1978-79, bringing the savings for the three years since its introduction to approximately \$100 million, Federal Energy Minister Ray Hnatyshyn has announced.

Despite increases in the number of Government-owned buildings and expanded departmental programs, preliminary statistics indicate the Government has reduced its energy consumption by more than 10 per cent. For the first time, this reduction meets the primary objective of the "Save 10" program, which is to reduce annual energy consumption by 10 per cent relative to that used in 1975-76.

Conservation measures adopted by participating departments include reduced lighting and heating levels during working hours and improved heating plant efficiency. In addition, the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems are systematically checked and turned off when the buildings are not in use. Four departments alone saved the energy equivalent of more than one-and-a-half million barrels of oil during 1978-79.

The Federal Government's energy consumption accounts for about 1 per cent of all the energy consumed in Canada. Approximately 60 per cent of that amount is used for heating offices, residences, and other general accommodations. The remainder is used for transportation and program support.

## Canada-Senegal bilateral relations commission set up

The Canadian and Senegalese governments have signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a Canada-Senegal bilateral commission.

This commission, whose purpose will be to promote Canadian-Senegalese relations, will serve as an advisory body on the state of relations between the two countries and will set overall objectives for stimulating bilateral relations.

The establishment of a Canada-Cameroun bilateral commission last July and the recent establishment of a bilateral commission in Abidjan reaffirmed that the Canadian Government considers Canada's relations with Africa a fundamental aspect of its foreign policy.

In Dakar recently, Martial Asselin, Minister responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency announced a \$19-million contribution by Canada to continue its support for the development of the polytechnic school in Thiès, Senegal.

This five-year program, undertaken by Canada as part of an overall ten-year plan, will enable the Senegalese to eventually operate the school themselves and will help the school serve regional needs.

The aim of this program, to be achieved by 1989, is to replace Canadian development workers with qualified Senegalese personnel and establish a scholarly tradition in Senegal.

The third stage of the project will involve financing training sessions in Canada for the Senegalese personnel who will replace the Canadian team. Scholarships will be awarded at the master's and doctoral levels to train teachers who will become Senegalese government employees and teach at the school. In addition, scholarships will be awarded at the college level to technicians who will work in the school's laboratories. Practical training sessions will also be established.

Canada will finance 100 scholarships each year from 1980 to 1985 for students from African countries studying at the school in Thiès.

Canada's current assistance programs in Senegal focus on alleviating food shortages through activities in rural development and participating in the development of economic infrastructures and the diversification of the economy through energy-related projects.