

**GRANT TO THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN STUDIES
IN SUPPORT OF A SYMPOSIUM ON CONFLICT MEDIATION IN AFRICA**

FINAL REPORT

**SUBMITTED TO THE POLICY DIVISION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

CAAS applied to the Department of Foreign Affairs, requesting support for particular sessions to be convened during the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of African Studies, namely a plenary session on the subject of preventive diplomacy, and other sessions concerned with the resolution of political conflict in Africa. As described in the award agreement, the project was to be focused on "discussion of experiences of the failures of conventional conflict resolution and diplomacy and the form anticipatory or preventive diplomacy and conflict mediation might take."

The theme of political crisis and mediation was in fact a very major preoccupation of the entire conference, held in Montréal, 1-5 May, 1996. The grant from DFAIT has been used to support two major sessions, a Plenary Forum on "Preventive Diplomacy: Resolving African Conflict Before the Fact", and a public Roundtable on "(Re)viewing Conflict: Genocide & Justice in Africa". In my view, these two sessions represented high points of the conference. Moreover, at least thirteen other sessions were concerned with the same complex of issues or on crises in particular regions or countries in Africa; we invite you to examine the conference program enclosed here for more details on these sessions. Major plenary sessions, and many other regular sessions, were presented in simultaneous translation.

In this report, we present the following:

- A description of the conference theme, "Crisis and Renaissance";
- List of all sessions relevant to conflict and mediation;
- The aims of the two major sessions supported by DFAIT;
- Brief summary of the proceedings of those two sessions;
- A description of the Canadian Association of African Studies.
- A copy of the conference program.