

Independent French-Speaking African States

Since the *francophone* Africa program began in 1961, Canada's assistance to the area has totalled \$153.7 million, \$23.8 million of it in the fiscal year 1968-69 and \$34.14 million in 1969-70. In 1970-71, \$64.2 million was allocated to the area.

Assistance was committed by the Chevrier Mission in 1968 to some 49 projects, many of which have now been completed, and a new set of projects is being developed. A major project for the 1970-71 allocations is the construction of the Route de l'Unité, a major highway linking the principal centres of Niger, financed by a \$13-million loan.

Latin America

Canada has made available \$10 million yearly since 1964 in "soft" development loans for Latin America. These funds are administered on behalf of Canada by the Inter-American Development Bank, which develops proposals for Canadian loan funds among its member countries. The Bank assesses these proposals before submitting them to CIDA for final approval.

With the approval in the past fiscal year of four loan agreements, the cumulative allocation of \$68 million for Latin America has been fully committed; there are 14 loans, of which half are for pre-investment studies by Canadian experts to determine the economic and technical feasibility of potential projects. Energy resources are being developed with loans of \$9 million for a steam-power plant in the city of Belém in Brazil and \$16.7 million for a 340,000-kilowatt hydro-electric project in Colombia. Improvements to the port of Acajutla in El Salvador, an important shipping centre for the Central American Common Market, have been supported by loans totalling about \$5.2 million.

In November 1968, CIDA took part in a ministerial mission to Latin America designed to take a fresh look at Canada's relations with the countries of that region. As a follow-up to the mission, a special task force on Latin America, with representatives from several government departments and agencies, including CIDA, was established to examine in greater depth the initial observations and suggestions of the mission, and to submit recommendations to the Government on the possible nature and scope of Canada's future relations with Latin American countries.

A program of bilateral development assistance, mainly technical, has been launched and country review teams are visiting Colombia, Peru, Brazil and the Central American republics to study areas of technical assistance where Canadian capabilities can be used.

Export Development Corporation

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) became operative in October 1969, replacing the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. Designed mainly to improve Canada's ability to sell abroad, it also provides a useful form of capital assistance for many developing countries and contributes to international development by extending Canadian financial resources, thus making more Canadian goods and services available to developing countries.