

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.

The OAU has proposed the idea of joint responsibility in which assistance would be tied to tangible evidence of a determined desire to bring about necessary adjustment. Canada welcomes this approach and commits itself to support African countries in their efforts. The level of resources that we shall commit to African development will continue to be substantial, and will be provided with increased flexibility. In that regard, since April 1, following a decision made by the Prime Minister of Canada, our official development assistance program is now implemented entirely through grants.

The OAU recognizes that priority must be given to agricultural development; that policies must be adopted which will create the environment needed for development; that agricultural research must be encouraged. For our