

II GENERAL THEMES

Our discussions with African leaders confirmed that Canada and the governments of the five countries that I visited view the major problems facing the world at large and particularly Africa within common, or at the very least convergent, perspectives. This was the more remarkable since these discussions were unusually candid. I am of course not disclosing any conversations held in confidence with my hosts but nevertheless shall draw on public statements as well as adding my own impressions and conclusions. Neither party attempted to hedge on any of the issues discussed, to blunt the salient points of our policies or to conceal the several differences of appreciation and emphasis that naturally arose from different, if overlapping, national interests. If the means we favoured were occasionally different, a number of our goals were substantially the same; and the understanding we found of Canadian policy is a tribute to the effectiveness of the diplomats accredited in our respective capitals.

Our discussions are summarized under four general headings. But the House should note that these exchanges of views ranged further afield to encompass, in particular, the work then going on in Geneva on the reform of the Law of the Sea. We took the opportunity to clarify a number of Canadian positions on this issue, particularly in the few areas where