

standable that North-South questions should be prominent in our bilateral relations with them.

In sum, Canada is an important economic and political partner in Africa, and owing to our community of interests in the areas I have just mentioned, the Canadian presence is seen by the African countries to be mutually beneficial. Canada performs its role by way of programs, especially in development aid and trade. Both are complemented by a deepening political dialogue.

The development aid program is undoubtedly the most visible of all. Our African friends often tell us that our co-operation is second to none in terms of generosity and quality, and after visiting many of our projects, I know we have reason to be proud. Whether it be a dam in Tunisia, a technical school in Senegal, wheat in Tanzania, an aqueduct system in Ethiopia, a highway in Niger, or transmission lines in Egypt, not to mention dispensaries, wells and market gardens in hundreds of villages, Canada's activities contribute effectively toward improving the lives of Africans and providing their governments with tools for development.

Over the past 20 years, Canada has provided bilateral financing of over \$2 billion for development projects in Africa. Our present funding amounts to some \$300 million a year, to which must be added the amounts channelled through the international agencies and non-government organizations. Ever sensitive to the priority needs of the recipient countries, Canada, today, is placing emphasis on rural development, especially increased food production, an area in which we have recognized expertise, and on the training of human resources. Development is long-term work, but the results already achieved provide ample confirmation of the usefulness of our activities.

Canada has also succeeded in establishing solid and significant trade links with a growing number of African countries. In 1981 our exports to Africa were \$1.5 billion, and our imports over \$1.2 billion. As our businessmen come to learn about Africa and its equipment and machinery needs, our sales in goods and services are multiplying. Canadians are also investing more and more in joint stock companies with Africans. Today a considerable number of Canadian firms and consulting engineering companies are operating in Africa, where they have found a receptive and flourishing market, despite the distance and the keen competition from other countries. A continent under construction and a continent of the future, Africa is destined to become a privileged partner for Canada, thanks to the pioneer work done by all the businessmen whom I have often met while staying in various African countries.

The enthusiasm I feel when I think of what we have accomplished in Africa does not make me forget the difficulties we are finding in making our programs work there. For example, we are always looking for ways to improve the effectiveness of our development aid. Although our projects are being better planned and managed, and

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