

serving as host for the Francophone Summit in Quebec and handling the visits, exchanges and follow-up activities related to this major international gathering.

In addition, a number of African ministers paid official visits to Canada during the year. Sani Bako, the Foreign Minister of Niger, and Guy Landry Hazoume, the Foreign Minister of Benin visited in May 1987. In April Banona Sidibe, the Guinean Minister of Facilities and Town Planning, was received in Ottawa. Alexandre Sanibat, the Gabonese Minister of National Education, visited in May 1987; Mr. Gassama, the Minister of Culture of Senegal, in June. In November Michael Kima Tabong, the Minister of Mining and Energy of Cameroon, came to expand political and trade dialogue. He was preceded in July by the Cameroonian Secretary of State for Information and Culture, who visited Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa. A delegation from Gabon which included Jean-Pierre Lembaimba-Lepando, the Minister of Finance and the Budget, Pascal Nze, the Minister of Planning and the Economy, and Divin Divergni Di Ndinge, the Minister of Energy and Water Resources, visited Canada in October for the signing of a rural electrification and water supply contract. They were followed by Ali Ben Bongo, the Senior Personal Representative of the Gabonese President.

Other visitors included, in September, Kasdi Merbah, the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Yed Angoran, the Ivory Coast Minister of Mining and, in February 1988, Mohamed Laensar, the Moroccan Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. A visit was also paid by Martin Dohou Azonhiho, the Ivory Coast Minister of Rural Development, in June 1987, by Captain Henri Zongo, then Minister of Economic Promotion in Burkina Faso, in July, and by Cyprien Mponimba, the new Burundian Minister of External Relations and Co-operation in October. He was received by Monique Landry, Canada's Minister for External Relations, to whom he gave an account of recent political events in Burundi.

On the Canadian side, in August 1987, Joe Clark made an official visit to Ivory Coast, where he met with President Houphouet Boigny, the elder statesman of sub-Saharan Africa, for an exchange of views on the major questions in anticipation of the Francophone Summit scheduled for Quebec City. On a number of occasions, Mme. Landry visited various countries in the region. She met with senior political authorities in 1987 during bilateral consultations with Mali, and paid official visits to Cameroon, Zaire and Rwanda. In the context of preparations for the Quebec City Summit she visited Gabon in June, Burundi in July and, in the same month, Algeria, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and visited Tunisia afterwards. Consultations with Rwanda were held in Ottawa in March 1988, giving an opportunity to examine bilateral relations and set future goals.

Visits were also made in October by André Bourbeau, the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs, to Tunisia and Morocco, by Senator Martial Asselin to Cameroon and Tunis in January and by François Gérin, MP, who represented Canada in Niger at the inauguration of the Unity Highway in March 1988.

In spite of difficult economic and financial circumstances, Canadian merchandise exports to Africa, excluding Libya and Egypt, declined by only 4 per cent, to \$886 million.

The export of services totalled around \$200 million. Canada's main customers in 1987 were Morocco, Algeria, the South African Customs Union and Tunisia.

Following the Francophone Summit in Quebec City, a Francophone Business Forum was held in Montreal with the active participation of the Department. Departmental participation in trade promotion during 1987/88 included the International Fair of Algiers, the Casablanca Fair and the Agri-Tunisia Show, among others. African buyers were invited to a number of exhibitions, including the International Software Fair in Montreal, Intercom 87, the Western Canada Farm Progress Show and Mintec.

In co-operation with Quebec, Canada enhanced its presence in Francophone Africa by numerous cultural activities in the arts (cinema, performing arts and visual arts), and in the academic world (exchanges of professors and book gifts). Cultural weeks in Algiers, Dakar and Abidjan, exhibitions of Quebec paintings and tapestries in Dakar, Abidjan and Yaoundé, the Tunis exhibition of Canadian books, the concerts and jazz workshop in Yaoundé, signature of a joint cinephotographic production agreement with Morocco, and the regular activities of the Canada-Zaire Cultural Association contributed to the display of Canada's culture.

Anglophone Africa

The most important event of the year for Canada's relations with Anglophone Africa was the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in October 1987 in Vancouver. Several political leaders from Anglophone Africa participated in the meeting and African issues figured prominently on the agenda. Southern African questions in particular attracted attention, including the necessity of addressing the needs of the Front Line States directly facing the consequences of the destabilization policies of South Africa.

Largely in preparation for the Vancouver Commonwealth meeting, the Secretary of State for External Affairs visited several countries of southern Africa in August 1987. In Zambia, Joe Clark consulted with President Kenneth Kaunda, the incumbent Chairman of the Front Line States, and obtained his comments on the best strategy to adopt at the Vancouver Summit from an African point of view. Mr. Clark also met representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) at their headquarters in Lusaka. During a visit to Maputo, Mr. Clark held talks with President Chissano and officially invited Mozambique, given its special position in relation to the land-locked Commonwealth states of southern Africa, to send its Minister of Foreign Affairs to be present in Vancouver as an observer during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. During a visit to South Africa, Mr. Clark had an opportunity to register Canadian concerns on *apartheid* directly with the South African Foreign Minister, and he also met with Dr. Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

In January and February 1988 Mr. Clark returned to southern Africa to follow up on some of the decisions taken during the Vancouver Commonwealth Summit and to pursue Canadian interests in the region. He headed the Canadian delegation at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), which met in Arusha, Tanzania, in January