

close relationships; by the development efforts over the years; by our mutual and uncompromising repugnance for *apartheid*; and by our determination, with others, that Namibia shall one day be free.

But most of all, that solidarity inevitably comes to the fore when debating a subject like this: the economic crisis in Africa. Last week, on the very matter of this speech, I journeyed to Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Mulroney. He explicitly asked me to convey to this Assembly the sense of importance which Canada attaches to these deliberations.

On November 1, just five days ago, our Secretary of State for External Affairs appointed a prominent and much-respected Canadian as emergency co-ordinator for the African food crisis, to ensure that all of the efforts we undertake are effective in their intended reduction of human suffering. As is well known, transportation and logistical difficulties are of particular concern. It will be part of the co-ordinator's job to overcome the bottlenecks, and to see to it that the assistance is delivered as quickly as possible.

Just yesterday — in fact, just last night — the co-ordinator and the Secretary of State returned to Canada from a trip to Addis Ababa to assess, at ground level, what best might be done. It was an initiative deliberately designed further to galvanize Canadian public opinion.

In the case of Ethiopia, Canada has already contributed between one quarter and one third of all food aid over the past four years, amounting to some 275 000 tonnes. In light of the present crisis, we have dramatically increased our food aid to Ethiopia by more than 50 per cent to a level of \$26 million Canadian for 1984-85. As contributions from individual Canadians and Canadian organizations pour in, we will obviously do more.

But as speaker after speaker in this debate has indicated the response to the emergency is merely the beginning. What must come now is an Herculean effort, on the part of all member nations, to address those conditions which give rise to the crisis.

At the heart of the response lie the efforts of the African nations themselves. They have been and are, indomitable in pressing the issues to the world stage. In particular, the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa last June analyzed the crisis in vivid detail and provided a series of short, medium and long-term prescriptions. The ministers deserve our every support.

Indeed, when you think of it there is a certain *déjà vu* about this very debate. It is right and necessary that there be a culmination to the process which began some time ago, but let us see it as a culmination, given the litany of studies, reports, documents and conferences which have animated United Nations activity on Africa throughout all of the intervening months.

The Secretary-General alone has released a number of searching and thoughtful papers in 1984. Indeed, it is difficult to underscore adequately the remarkable quality of the Secretary-General's initiatives on Africa. His office has provided focus, momentum, and objectives.