

a world order within which all nations, and all men, can live in freedom, dignity and decency. In short, we face an essential need and an unprecedented opportunity. International development is a great challenge of our age."

In the opinion of the Government of Canada, these words are even more convincing today than they were when they were written five years ago. And they underline our interest in partnership and co-operation with developing countries.

Our involvement in development assistance in Africa is substantial. This year we have allocated \$195 million of public funds for our bilateral programmes in the independent countries of Africa namely over 40% of our bilateral aid budget. Of this figure, about \$85 million took the form of grants and the rest that of concessional loans. We will also be providing almost \$60 million worth of food aid to Africa this year. An additional \$26 million has been channelled into Africa through multilateral agencies such as the UNDP, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, as well as non-governmental organizations such as the World Council of Churches. I should like also to refer to the special assistance programme which we have undertaken in the Sahelian region of West Africa. This special programme provides for disbursements over the next five years of some \$230 million. These disbursements are certainly justified by the magnitude of the problems found in that region of Africa, most of which are directly related to the severe drought suffered there since 1968. Canada has tried to play its part in meeting the immediate needs of the people stricken by this drought. What remains to be done now is a long-term effort, aimed at finding and implementing permanent solutions, in co-operation with the other aid agencies to the severe setback the drought has meant for the development of the Sahel.

There is a third element, however, which has a special relevance to Africa. That is our concern for human rights and dignity and self-determination. For a quarter of a century successive Canadian Governments have condemned racial injustice and colonialism as they have been practised in Southern Africa. The situations prevailing in that area have in our opinion been totally unacceptable and an affront to the conscience of the world.

Sometimes our policies in this field have been dismissed by some critics as being mere rhetoric. But that is far from the case.

For example, we consider our bilateral aid programmes in the independent countries of Southern Africa such as Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland show where we stand in relation to them and to the white-ruled minority regimes.