

Some confusion apparently prevails about the Government's policy of providing humanitarian assistance to various indigenous groups in Africa. The position of the Canadian Government is as follows:

For many years Canadians have been concerned about the injustice of racist and colonial policies in Southern Africa. As has been publicly stated on many occasions, the Government shares this concern and it has contributed funds to several programmes designed to assist the victims of these policies. Canadian aid has been channelled mainly to assist refugees from Southern Africa and to provide scholarships for Africans from Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa) to study in Canada and in other countries. Canadian funds authorized for the current fiscal year have been channelled through the following United Nations and international bodies in these amounts:

U.N. Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa	\$ 75,000
U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa	10,000
U.N. Scholarships for Namibians	25,000
Commonwealth Secretariat Scholarship Programme for Rhodesians	67,000
International University Exchange Fund	75,000 (approx.)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	50,000 (approx.)
TOTAL	<hr/> \$302,000

The meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Ottawa in August 1973 approved the following declaration concerning Southern Africa:

" Heads of Government reviewed the efforts of the indigenous people of the territories in Southern Africa to achieve self-determination and independence and agreed on the need to give every humanitarian assistance to those engaged in such efforts."

Canada endorsed this statement.

In line with this declaration I stated in my speech to the United Nations on September 25, 1973 that Canada "is studying ways to broaden its humanitarian support" for persons in Southern Africa engaged in efforts to achieve equality. Accordingly the Government decided to extend its current humanitarian aid for refugees in Southern Africa by giving consideration to humanitarian projects and scholarships for the indigenous people residing within the white-ruled countries and territories of Southern Africa and to refugees in adjacent countries.