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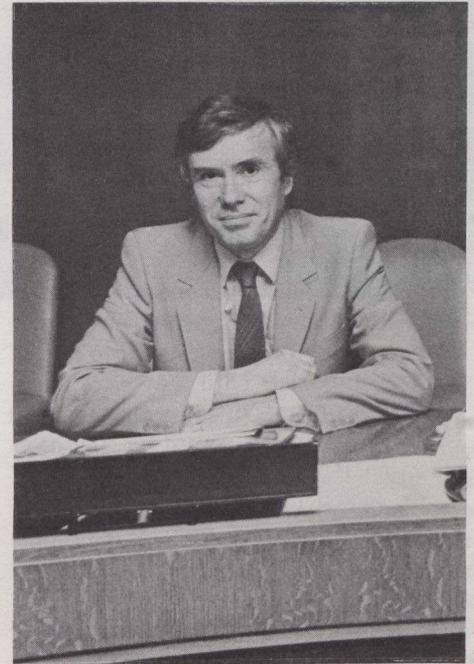
Canada pledges aid for Africans at United Nations conference

Canada will contribute \$22.4 million this year to help refugees in Africa, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in an address to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held in Geneva, April 9-10.

The conference was called by the United Nations General Assembly and was organized in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Canada's pledge was in response to a United Nations plea for \$1.15 billion to aid five million refugees who have been forced to flee their countries because of wars, famine and drought.

Dr. MacGuigan said that \$16 million of the Canadian contribution would be used to provide emergency food aid to countries where the refugee problem is most acute namely, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. The remaining \$6.4 million will go to programs of international agencies "designed to respond to the highest priority refugee needs", he said.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan.

United Nations photo by Milton Grant

Continuing commitment

The minister, in pointing out Canada's continuing commitment to African development over the years, said that Canada had provided development assistance to almost every African country, amounting to more than \$300 million, or 46 per cent of Canada's total bilateral aid program.

In the past year, Canada has contributed \$8.5 million in emergency food aid to help African refugees. In addition, Canada recently contributed \$1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross's All-African Program for 1981 and has given grants totalling \$475,000 to two UN programs providing educational assistance to Southern African refugees. Canada has also increased its contribution to the UNHCR to \$4 million in 1981, in part to respond to a need for expanded African programs. At the recent Zim-

babwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development, Canada announced a commitment of \$50 million over five years.

Dr. MacGuigan told the conference that Canada "was responding to an African problem to which solutions can only be found in Africa, by Africans".

"We intend to play a full part in responding to the pressing humanitarian need of the refugees and in seeking solutions for underlying problems," he said.

Special rapporteur named

During the conference Sadruddin Aga Khan was named special rapporteur on the question of mass exoduses of populations. Dr. MacGuigan said he welcomed the appointment which came as a result of a Canadian proposal adopted on March 11 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The resolution provided for "an individual of recognized international standing as special rapporteur" to study the question of mass



Eighty-five years ago this week...
On April 27, 1896, following the resignation of Prime Minister MacKenzie Bowell, the Governor General of Canada invited Sir Charles Tupper to form a new government. Tupper, a former Secretary of State in the Bowell Cabinet, remained in power until July following the defeat of the Conservatives by the Liberals in the June 23 election of that year. Sir Wilfrid Laurier succeeded Sir Charles Tupper as Prime Minister of Canada.

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