

Canada to host meeting of Club of Friends of the Sahel

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced on March 29 that Canada had agreed to host the second meeting of the Club of the Friends of the Sahel. The meeting will be held in Ottawa at the Conference Centre of the Department of External Affairs Conference Centre from May 30 to June 1.

The Club of the Friends of the Sahel, an informal group of countries and regional or international organizations, was created under the sponsorship of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to contribute to the planning and co-ordination of middle- and long-term economic aid to the Sahel States. One of its aims is to support the efforts of the Interstate Committee for the Fight against Drought in the Sahel, known as CILSS.

The CILSS, created in 1973 by the Sahel States, is a committee at the ministerial level whose aim is to co-ordinate, on a regional basis, all the actions of the member states against drought.

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is one of the countries that provided assistance to the Sahel countries in their fight against drought and will continue to do so in conformity with the

Member countries of CILSS

Cape Verde Islands, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta.

Associate countries of CILSS

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United States.

Canadian Government policy to give priority, in its aid programs abroad, to the less-developed countries.

Sahel, a region of Africa, south of the Sahara, was affected by a drought, lasting six years, which devastated the livestock and caused the death of an estimated 100,000 persons.

The participation of Canada in the Club of the Friends of the Sahel dates from 1975 and is part of this country's general effort since 1974 in the development of this region, through both bilateral programs and support granted to the CILSS.

In 1974, Canada initiated a five-year program for the Sahel which amounted to an estimated \$230 million. The main parts of the program are: the development of agricultural production (food

products), the opening up of the region, development of mineral and hydraulic resources and the protection of the vegetal cover. The objectives of the industrialized countries and the Sahel States are, in the short term, to prevent further mass starvation and, in the medium term, to promote the economic recovery and development of the Sahel countries.

Since 1961, when Canada established a resident mission in Cameroon, relations with French-speaking Africa have been intensified, expanded, and diversified, to the point where they now exceed the limited framework of bilateral relations. The continuing collaboration as between equal partners, is now carried on in the various specialized agencies of the United Nations. In little less than 20 years, Canada has recognized all the states of French-speaking Africa, has opened seven embassies which are accredited to those states, and has created a program of bilateral aid which now exceeds \$100 million a year. As this represents about 20 per cent of total Canadian bilateral aid, it is clear that membership in the French-speaking community (Francophonie) has become, along with participation in the Commonwealth, a permanent aspect of this country's foreign policy. This relationship has led to a better understanding and co-operation with this important part of the Third World.

Eaton Centre opens in Toronto

Phase 1 of the \$250-million Toronto Eaton Centre – the newest addition to the city's downtown area – opened in February. When the complex is finished in 1979, it will occupy about 10.5 acres just east of Toronto's City Hall.

The first phase (*over*) consists of the 860-foot "Galleria", a 26-storey office tower and (*right*) Eaton's department store and two 700-car parking garages.

The design has been influenced by malls and shopping centres of widely differing styles. Though it looks futuristic, the Centre has been compared with the famous Galleria in Milan, and has more than a hint of the old Crystal Palace in London.

The illustration overleaf shows an interior view of the Galleria – a three-level indoor shopping street extending

