

Towards strengthening relations with the Ivory Coast and Kenya

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina made official visits to the Ivory Coast and Kenya in January.

In the Ivory Coast, January 8-11, Mrs. Vézina co-chaired the second meeting of the Bilateral Commission where general relations between the two countries was examined and a new General Agreement on Development Assistance was signed. Canadian development aid to the Ivory Coast has surpassed \$85 million over the past 20 years. In Abidjan, Mrs. Vézina inaugurated the Polyclinique Sainte-Anne-Marie which was constructed by a Canadian company at a cost of \$50 million.



Monique Vézina

The visit is expected to consolidate co-operation between Canada and the Ivory Coast and permit discussions on major international political issues with senior government officials. Ministerial visits in both directions over the years and the visit to Canada of President Houphouët-Boigny in June 1983 have helped to reinforce relations between the countries.

The visit to Kenya, January 12-17, provided an opportunity to study the development co-operation program, to discuss the challenge facing Kenyan society and how best Canada can assist, and to review major international issues with government leaders. The Canadian program of development co-operation has grown substantially in recent years and disbursements are expected to reach \$25 million in 1984-85.

Mrs. Vézina visited a number of grass roots development projects in central Kenya.

Canada-EC newsprint pact

Minister for International Trade James Kelleher has announced that a newsprint agreement was signed with the European Communities (EC) in Brussels on December 28. The agreement requires the EC to bind in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) a 650 000-tonne duty-free quota for newsprint. It also stipulates that within that quota, 600 000 tonnes will be allocated to Canada.

The terms of access of newsprint, Canada's fourth largest export to the EC, were discussed by Mr. Kelleher and Étienne Davignon, the vice-president of the European Commission responsible for industrial affairs, during Mr. Kelleher's visit to Brussels earlier in December.

The agreement was signed by Canada's ambassador to the EC, Jacques Gignac, and Paul Luyten, the deputy director-general of external relations, Commission of the EC.

Continued commitment to the European satellite program

Canada recently announced the continuation of its participation with the European Space Agency (ESA) in the development of ESA's remote sensing satellite, ERS-1.

Canada has been a co-operating member of ESA since 1979 and has participated in the three stages of ERS-1's preliminary planning phases since March 1980. This participation is now being extended to the next three phases — construction, launch and two-year operation — of the ERS-1 satellite which is scheduled for lift-off in April 1989.

The country's initial investment for the first three phases was almost \$6 million. For the last three phases Canada will invest about \$40 million in the program, which represents 6.2 per cent of the approximate total cost of \$700 million.

Remote sensing is the acquisition of information about the earth's surface by sensors mounted aboard aircraft or satellites.

Canada's remote sensing program is coordinated by a branch of Energy, Mines and Resources. Initially Canada was actively engaged in receiving, processing and utilizing remotely sensed data, but did not contribute to the design and construction of the satellites involved. Recently Canada has become involved in the development of its own remote sensing satellite, RADARSAT.

Objectives for ERS-1

ERS-1 is expected to be the forerunner of a series of European remote sensing satellites to become operational in the 1990s.

One of the objectives is to establish, develop and exploit the coastal, ocean and ice applications of remotely sensed data. These applications, related mainly to obtaining a better knowledge of ocean parameters and sea-state conditions, are important because of the increasing development of coastal and offshore activities and the adoption by countries of the 200-nautical-mile economic zone. In addition, all-weather, 24-hour, high-resolution imaging capability over the earth's surface with a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) will provide useful data as a complement to optical data received from other satellites.

ERS-1 is also expected to increase the scientific understanding of coastal zones and global ocean processes. This, together with the monitoring of polar regions, will be a major contribution to the World Climate Research Program (WCRP).

Benefits to Canada

Announcing Canada's continued participation in ERS's program, Minister of State for Mines Robert Layton said "it will help Canadian aerospace industries improve their expertise in this high technology area; will complement the development of Canada's own RADARSAT remote sensing satellite; and will enhance Canada's endeavours in international co-operation".

The program enables Canada to participate in a remote sensing satellite program at a fraction of the cost of doing the work alone,

while at the same time acquiring the technological expertise to build a SAR package particularly suited to Canadian needs. The SAR will be the prime sensor aboard RADARSAT.

Another benefit to Canada is the access to all technical information produced by the ERS-1 program, including information acquired by ESA before the commencement of Canadian participation.

Canada will also have access to the data that will be provided by the satellite. Such data will provide an opportunity to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of microwave remote sensing data for ice monitoring and related applications. It will also serve as a forerunner to RADARSAT, in terms of developing comprehensive data distribution and information systems.

Canadian industrial participation in the program will include MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates of Vancouver, British Columbia as the prime contractor for the ground segment; SPAR Aerospace of Montreal, Quebec, the contractor for the satellite data handling subsystem; and COMDEV Limited, Cambridge, Ontario, as the supplier of microwave components.

The leading European ESA members involved in the program include West Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands.



Robert Layton