

neutrality in the face of conflicts such as those affecting the western Sahara, the Republic of Chad and the Horn of Africa, this does not necessarily mean that we are insensitive to the problems; indeed, Canada provides appreciable humanitarian relief for victims of such conflicts. Canada also played a key role in re-establishing human rights in Equatorial Guinea, after the fall of the Macias dictatorship, and participated in supervision of elections in Uganda when Amin Dada fell from power.

At present, we are continuing an ever more profound and sustained political dialogue with Africa. Top-level visits are increasing in number, as are consultations when international crises occur. This political dialogue is pursued on a bilateral basis and also on the occasion of meetings of Commonwealth agencies and Francophone institutions.

This, then, is a broad outline of Canada's African policy. As you have doubtless inferred, this is a coherent, dynamic and soundly based policy. There are still elements which need to be expanded upon and integrated into our general policy, for example, our relations with certain countries which belong neither to the French-speaking world nor to the Commonwealth; desired expansion of our aid programs in the face of administrative constraints dictated by a concern for effectiveness; the expansion, likewise desired, of our network of diplomatic missions, in the face of our policy of austerity. However, I am pleased to observe that no political problems exist between Canada and any African country. Our relations are doubtless more intense with some than with others, but are in all cases excellent.

The Canadian government attaches great importance to the development of its relations with Africa. We shall continue to support the efforts of the African countries to step up their rate of development. We shall continue to promote our political exchanges, exchanges of personnel, cultural and commercial exchanges. We shall continue to strengthen our ties at the bilateral level and within the multilateral agencies of which we are members.

The history of Canado-African relations shows us that we share many common interests with Africa. We have learned from these relations that they rest on a solid foundation, one suited to agreement and co-operation at all levels. We shall thus continue to build on this foundation, in order to pursue rapprochement and contribute to the creation of a better, more just and more prosperous world.

---

S/C