

b) Sub-Regional and Regional Concerns

The problems of drought and desertification, of the African Island nations, of the landlocked countries, of the Front Line States and of refugees and displaced persons are being addressed through broader, cooperative programs. Canada has engaged in a program of bilateral assistance in the Sahel worth \$Cdn 300 million over the period 1987-1992 to help restore the region's socio-ecological balance by combatting desertification. Also, since 1986, Canada has committed about \$Cdn 30 million annually to the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in support of its efforts to reduce external dependencies and to establish a basis for self-reliant economic and social development throughout the region. In addition, Canada has committed over \$Cdn 100 million annually in other bilateral aid to the individual members of SADCC. Canada has pledged \$Cdn 20 million towards the rehabilitation of the Limpopo railway line in Mozambique, a vital transportation link in the region. Canada's program with SADCC concentrates on food and agriculture, energy, transportation and communications and human resource development.

Canada considers assistance to the victims of apartheid in South Africa to be particularly important. Consequently, in 1987/88, Canada provided Cdn \$6 million for education, community development and legal and humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid. These funds will be increased in 1988/1989 to \$Cdn 7.8 million. As well, Canada continues to provide well over \$Cdn 500,000 annually to the UN Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa, the UN Fund for Namibia, and the UN Trust Fund for South Africa to assist South African and Namibian victims of apartheid. Canada has also taken economic and other measures to pressure South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

The urgent needs of refugees place a strain on fragile African economies. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is the primary conduit of Canadian assistance for refugees. In 1987/88, Canada provided more than \$Cdn 6 million to the UNHCR core program. Canada also provides additional support for various country specific UNHCR appeals. In Africa, Canada is contributing over \$Cdn 2 million for UNHCR projects in support of Mozambican refugees and \$Cdn 750,000 in support of UNHCR's returnee program in Ethiopia. In recognition of the special needs of refugee women, who comprise about 50% of the refugee population, Canada has committed \$Cdn 2 million over five years from the Africa 2000 Program for projects aimed at promoting self-sufficiency for African refugee women.