Gouvernement du Canada

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Coordonnateur canadien des secours d'urgence Canadian Emergency

Famine en Afrique

African Famine

March 31, 1986

The Honourable Monique Vézina, P.C., M.P. Minister for External Relations Lester B. Pearson Building Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit this report FORUM AFRICA: CANADIANS WORKING TOGETHER, on a series of community meetings from September 1985 to February 1986.

When you asked me on May 31, 1985 to continue in my role as Canadian Emergency Coordinator for the Africa Famine, one of the specific tasks in my mandate was to "organize one or more symposiums on Canada's policy on Africa".

Following the launching of Forum Africa on September 4, 1985 in the City Halls of Ottawa and Hull, more than fifty communities participated in six regional sessions. The process concluded with the National Forum in Ottawa in mid-February.

Forum Africa allowed Canadians of different ages and different walks of life to evaluate the African crisis, to learn from it and to reflect on the role they could play in the recovery of those African countries suffering from famine. In addition to this printed report a videotape of the Forum Africa experience is also available.

In NO MORE FAMINE: A DECADE FOR AFRICA I recommended that Forum Africa should be continued as a focal point for the proposed programs and policies of the "Decade for Africa".

An opportunity should exist each year during the 'Decade for Africa' for Canadians in their local communities and on a nation-wide basis to both assess the progress being made and to further elaborate plans of action in support of African food self-sufficiency.

Yours sincerely,

David MacDonald

Canadian Emergency Coordinator

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