

## C. AFRICA



Africa remained an area of high priority in Canadian foreign policy. Canada's interest stems from its commitment to international development and debt relief, its leading role in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, its partnership with African and Commonwealth countries in efforts to end apartheid, and its continual search for trade and investment opportunities for Canadian companies. Africa continued to account for 45 per cent of Canada's bilateral development funding.

### *Francophone Africa*

Canada continued to consolidate the close ties developed in recent years with Francophone Africa. Participation in Francophone activities, as well as organized ministerial visits and meetings of joint commissions and bilateral consultations, greatly enhanced relations. Of special note were the meetings of the Canada-Cameroon Joint Commission, which took place in Yaoundé in May 1989, and the bilateral consultations between Canada and Niger in Ottawa in April 1989. M<sup>me</sup> Landry journeyed to Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. African dignitaries visiting Canada included Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo of Zaire and Burundi's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprien Mbonimpa.

Throughout all these activities, Canada defended human rights and promoted the strengthening of democracy in Africa. An ongoing dialogue was conducted with African leaders in order to promote human rights and a more open political climate. At the Francophone Summit held in Dakar in May 1989, Canada tabled a resolution on human rights that was subsequently adopted.