

equipment to bring electricity to over three million rural people.

In the oil and gas sector, Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation is assisting in the exploration and development of oil fields in several countries, including Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

CIDA has contributed some \$95 million for forestry projects. In Senegal, for example, a reforestation program which involved the planting of trees in a strip 200 metres wide and 31 kilometres long, has helped to save the soil for agriculture and provide firewood for the local people.

Canada is also a major contributor to the World Bank which, in 1984, approved \$237 million in new hydroelectric investments, \$73 million in the oil and gas sector, \$413 million in geothermal exploration, and \$35 million in miscellaneous energy projects, including training, for Africa.

### Industrial co-operation

Through its industrial co-operation program, CIDA has helped establish contacts and ties of co-operation between Canadian and African companies in more than 37 countries on the continent.

Since 1981, the program has provided more than \$32 million to support 1 011 joint venture projects and other commercial exchanges in Africa. For example, a company in Montreal specializing in international logistics and transport, and another in North Bay, Ontario, with expertise in the treatment of hydro poles, have been linked with partners in Cameroon. A Vancouver firm has studied the supply of water in Ethiopia.

### Education programs

CIDA has supported human resource development in Africa by providing education in Canada and in Third World countries for African students by training managers and technicians, by providing technical assistance for development projects, by financing universities and technical schools, and by supporting the efforts of multilateral and non-governmental organizations.

Over the past four years, more than \$100 million has been used in many fields including health, education, agriculture, co-operatives, public administration, and in the leadership skills needed to bring community development schemes to life.

In addition to financial assistance for the development of transportation and communications projects, Canada contributes its own experience by sending specialists into the field to take part in projects, and promotes the transfer of technology and skills by training local people. Since 1981-82, CIDA has provided some \$240 million for projects in transport and communications.

## Prince and princess open 1986 world exposition

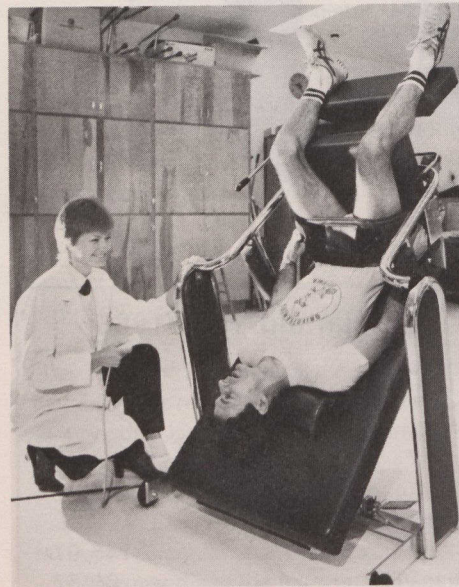


Prince Charles and Princess Diana (centre) with Mila Mulroney (left) and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney cut the ribbon to open the Canada Pavilion at EXPO 86 on May 2. The Prince and Princess of Wales officially opened the 1986 world exposition and an estimated 65 000 people attended the ceremonies that included a chorus of 1 986 voices.

## Back pain turnaround in upside down chair

Inverchair, a back treatment tool that allows a person to sit almost upside down, appears to provide quicker relief from lumbar pain than many other methods in use. Patients, who are strapped in, are gradually inverted until they are at a 69-degree angle from the floor. In that hanging position the reverse effects of gravity relieve pain by taking weight off the spine.

The chair was invented by former Canadian professional wrestler Walter Sieber to treat his own back problems. Since 1983, physiotherapists at the National Defence



Patients are finding the Inverchair an effective way to relieve back pain.

Medical Centre (NDMC) in Ottawa have been studying the device with two University of Ottawa kinanthropology professors, Maurice Jetté and Martin Normand.

Major Betty Warrington-Kearsley, head of NDMC's physiotherapy division, said that the study would evaluate the chair's effects in comparison with conventional therapy on patients with back problems from five military bases. They will also look beyond the apparent benefits of the chair to determine what happens to the body when the patient is strapped in.

In addition, Major Warrington-Kearsley said they would try to measure pain levels before and after the treatment as well as how much the chair improved the patient's range of spinal movement. "It has to prove itself as a very useful treatment tool before we would recommend its widespread use," she said.

Michael Fazzari, vice-president of Inverchair Marketing Inc. in Toronto, said the chair had been approved by Health and Welfare Canada as a medical device. About 100 chairs, which cost about \$5 000 each, are in use in North America by chiropractors, doctors and athletes.

Dr. James Bateman, founder and director of the Orthopaedic and Arthritis Hospital in Toronto, is the only other Canadian researcher who has studied the chair's effectiveness as a method of relieving low back pain problems. He found that about 85 per cent of his back patients benefited from this type of therapy, said Mr. Fazzari.