

Francophone Africa and the Maghreb

peacefully, and he stated that Canada would continue to have diplomatic relations with South Africa. He emphasized that the South African situation would be kept under review.

East and West Africa

Instability in the Horn of Africa also caused increasing international concern. The long-standing dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden region of Southeast Ethiopia grew from border skirmishing into full-scale fighting, and several important Ethiopian towns were captured by Somali-supported guerilla forces. This and related situations in the Horn created a growing potential for outside intervention, with disturbing implications for the stability of Africa.

The continued gross violations of human rights in Uganda attracted the critical attention of the international community. After learning of the suspicious circumstances surrounding the deaths of Archbishop Luwum and two Ugandan cabinet ministers in February, the Canadian Government expressed its grave concern to the Ugandan Government. In addition, the Government re-emphasized its concern on this issue to the international community by tabling a resolution in the UN Commission on Human Rights in March that called for a full investigation into the human-rights situation in Uganda.

During 1977 there also occurred further disintegration of the East African Community and increased tension between Kenya and Tanzania. In retaliation against Kenya's decision to place the East African Airways in receivership at the time of the tenth anniversary Arusha Declarations, Tanzania closed the border to all overland traffic. Following the breakdown of border-reopening negotiations, the closing was later extended by Kenya to include air traffic. While many East African corporations and research institutions had already decentralized regionally to a significant extent, this final series of events resulted in the winding-up of virtually all Community activities and the repatriation of Community employees.

Canada, which welcomed Nigeria's election to the Security Council in 1977, will continue to follow with interest this nation's active foreign policy in areas of mutual concern, especially its contribution to efforts to find peaceful solutions to the problems of South Africa.

A number of events of importance to French-speaking Africa took place during 1977: the meeting of the Club of Friends of the Sahel, the cancelling of the debts of the poorest countries, the Canadian Government's announcement of its intention to make all future transfers of money to the region in the form of grants and the numerous ministerial visits exchanged by Africa and Canada. These visits elicited favourable responses to Canada by governments and individuals throughout the region and stimulated a desire to reciprocate to the extent that the limited means of the countries concerned would permit.

In June, at the invitation of Canada, the second meeting at ministerial level of the Club of Friends of the Sahel, to which the eight West African states bordering on the Sahara belong, took place in the Department of External Affairs under the chairmanship of President Ould Daddah of Mauritania. Most Western countries, many international organizations and the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations were represented, and the Club adopted a long-term economic-development strategy for the Sahel. This semi-arid sub-Saharan region, one of the poorest territories in the world, inhabited by some 27 million people, was stricken by a catastrophic drought from 1968 to 1972. For the countries of this area, the Ottawa meeting was one of hope, and they viewed it as a springboard for a far-reaching plan of survival. Ironically, while the process of economic recovery was beginning, drought recurred in the Sahel.

At the same time, south of the equator, guerilla warfare was being conducted against Zaire government forces by the former Katangan police force in the copper-producing region of Shaba. With the help of Moroccan troops and strategic support from France, the troops repelled the guerillas after 80 days of fighting. Following this conflict, Zaire undertook reform of its political system. The presidential elections that followed returned President Mobutu Sese Seko to power by a substantial majority. In co-operation with other industrialized countries, Canada pursued its