



CANADA-GHANA RELATIONS

Canada's relations with Ghana reflect three decades of personal and official contacts through our aid program and in international organizations. Canada provided observers for the constitutional referendum on short notice, and also made available substantial assistance and expert observers for the presidential elections. The most recent high-level visits were by Hon. Walter McLean MP in February 1993 and January 1992, and Minister Landry in September 1989. Douglass Fogerty has headed our High Commission in Accra since 1990, and Annan Cato has headed the Ghanaian High Commission in Ottawa since last May.

There were modest trade benefits as Canada imported \$5 million of cocoa and aluminum in 1992 and exported some \$26 million of wheat (fourth-largest market in Africa), trucks and other items. Canadian General Electric recently won a \$36-million European-financed contract to retrofit six hydro-electric generators at the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River. Canadian investment in the revitalized gold-mining sector has been growing recently, as gold is projected to surpass cocoa as the leading primary export.

Canada's Assistance Program for Ghana

Established in 1958, the Canada-Ghana co-operation program was the first official assistance program implemented by our country in Africa. Between 1958 and 1992, Canada provided approximately \$840 million to Ghana, just over half of it in bilateral assistance. For the 1992-1993 fiscal year, the bilateral funds allocated to Ghana amounted to about \$31.6 million.

Support for Ghana's structural adjustment program is the largest component in terms of disbursements under Canada's assistance program (about \$15 million a year). This policy of support has made it possible for the government of Ghana not only to reorganize its finances but, at the same time, to also restore the industrial infrastructures and provide social services to the people.

The second major component of the program is based on relieving poverty through projects in many sectors : food aid, access to drinking water (with community participation), women in development (particularly access to credit -- a project that is managed by the Canadian Co-operative Association), and support for the Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology for Industrial Service Program, to mention only a few.

May 1993

Canada