

Most of the emphasis was on new directions for cooperation between the two countries in the coming years. This will be centred mainly on industrial cooperation projects designed to set up joint Canada-Moroccan enterprises, on the extension of preferential credit to sustain high-development projects, and on a technical cooperation programme suited to Moroccan priorities. Both parties showed a particular interest in reinforcing educational exchanges and stepping up cultural cooperation, which is soon to receive fresh impetus in the executive training area.

The Moroccan side stressed the importance of participation by Canadian companies in the Moroccan development effort enshrined in the new Five-Year Plan. The Canadian side expressed its interest in the prospects held forth by the Plan and indicated its desire to contribute toward the fulfillment of its objectives.

The two Ministers agreed to hold the first meeting of the "Bilateral Commission" in Rabat, at the ministerial level, toward mid-December 1981.

The Ministers went on to discuss international political problems at large, and the Middle East question in particular. They examined the prospects for peace in the region and reaffirmed their desire for a global settlement that would be just and equitable. They felt that no settlement could be possible in the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem. Both sides referred to the Jerusalem question and the important role played by His Majesty Hassan II as chairman of the Al Qods (Jerusalem) committee.

Reviewing the situation in Africa, the Ministers emphasized the need for a stronger effort to achieve a settlement in Namibia, based on the application of Security Council resolution 435.

The situation in the Western Sahara was the subject of a particularly extensive discussion. Dr. MacGuigan was pleased with the extremely positive and courageous initiative taken by His Majesty Hassan II in Nairobi at the latest Summit of the Organization for African Unity, and with the OAU's recommendations for an equitable settlement of the conflict.

Another subject of discussion was multilateral relations between wholly or partly French-speaking countries. Mr. Boucetta took this opportunity to inform the Canadian side of Morocco's willingness to form closer relations with the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, using the next general conference, scheduled for December in Gabon, as an occasion to do so.