

Protection of Development Projects

Projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other international donors through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) had increasingly become susceptible to sabotage. Canada, therefore, agreed to respond to requests for assistance for the protection of infrastructure projects in southern Africa. Requests for security assistance were discussed at last year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and more recently at the meeting of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in Toronto. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark observed that "Destabilization and insurgency activities continue to be a threat to major development projects, such as the planned rehabilitation of the Limpopo line in Mozambique." He added that Canada was now ready to join other governments in providing the protection.

Among the types of assistance envisaged under the program were the following: a) logistical support in the form of clothes, fuel, spare parts and communications equipment; b) food to be provided to personnel involved in project implementation; c) an increase in balance of payments support directed to countries experiencing these difficulties. Regular CIDA monitoring and evaluation procedures were to apply to funds used for this purpose. In addition, increased support could be provided to train more personnel from the Front Line States through an existing military training assistance program currently funded by External Affairs and implemented by the Department of National Defence. External Relations and International Development Minister Monique Landry pledged that Canada would remain a strong supporter of

SADCC and its efforts to advance regional cooperation and economic independence (*External Affairs News Release*, September 29).

War Crimes

Attorney General Ray Hnatyshyn signed a preferred indictment against 76-year-old Imre Finta, the first person to have been charged under Canadian law with crimes against humanity. The preferred indictment meant that Mr. Finta would not face a preliminary hearing but would go directly to trial. The 8-point indictment charged Mr. Finta with committing both war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Second World War. It alleged that in 1944 he unlawfully confined 8,617 Jews at Szeged, Hungary, and stole jewelry, money and other valuables from Jews while using threats of violence. Another charge related to incidents at a railway station at Rokos, Hungary, where it was alleged that Mr. Finta, then a captain in the Hungarian army, kidnapped Jews and had them sent out of the country. He was further charged with being responsible for the deaths of Jews who died during transport through Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland (*Globe and Mail*, August 23). Federal Prosecutor Chris Amerasinghe gave no reason why the government wanted to go directly to trial, and Helen Smolack, chairman of the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association, praised the move (*Toronto Star*, August 23). But Sol Littman of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre said Canada was still excruciatingly slow in collecting evidence against other suspected war criminals in the country (*Globe and Mail*, August 25).