



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 12
No.:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 31, 1983

CANADIAN COOPERATION WITH THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION CONFERENCE

Mr. Jean Lapierre, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced, on his behalf, in Maseru, Lesotho, on January 28, that subject to customary procedures, Canada plans to contribute up to \$15 million (Canadian) on concessional terms to the rehabilitation of the Nacala-Entrelagos Railway Line in Mozambique. Mr. Lapierre is leading the Canadian Delegation to the annual ministerial consultations of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) which is officially sponsoring the Nacala project.

Canadian assistance in 1982-83 to member countries of SADCC is expected to approximate \$100 million (Canadian). The Nacala project is designed to improve rail communication among several of SADCC's member countries; Canada's contribution constitutes a major element in the growing program of cooperation between Canada and SADCC.

While in Lesotho Mr. Lapierre also visited one of the sites involved in the South African military operation in Maseru on December 9, 1982 and offered sympathy to the family and friends of some of the victims.

In his address to the SADCC meeting, Mr. Lapierre congratulated the organization on the achievements of its first three years. He emphasized the urgency of SADCC's mission of economic liberation and assured the conference of Canada's support. Calling for "rapid and profound change in South Africa", Mr. Lapierre looked forward to the day when normal and full cooperation could be resumed between South Africa and its neighbours. He also shared the hope expressed by several SADCC spokesmen that an independent Namibia would soon be able to take its place as a member of SADCC.