

Le
Sommet
francophone

Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit

Paris, February 17-19,
1986

THE CRISIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Issue and Its Setting

The African famine (with the exception of the situation in the Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Botswana) is not as pronounced as in 1984. Regular rains have resumed and several countries reaped large cereal surpluses. Individuals, communities, international organizations and governments have provided massive emergency assistance. The United Nations system has played an important role in the co-ordination of the international relief effort. It is clear, however, that these efforts will have to be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Concern is now focussing more directly on the medium and long term recovery and rehabilitation of African economies. A Special Session of the UN on the critical economic situation in Africa will be held in New York at the end of May in order to identify a common approach for donor and recipient countries. At the July 1985 Summit of the Organization of African Unity, African leaders moved to increase domestic investment in agriculture and called for increased financial flows to Africa. The World Bank has spearheaded efforts to rehabilitate African economies through the establishment of a special \$1 billion voluntary fund for Africa aimed at improving production, in particular agricultural production.

At the Bonn Economic Summit, the Major Western Industrialized countries renewed their commitment to providing emergency relief, as well as assistance for long-term development. A Summit Group of Experts was established and has proposed follow-up measures in the agricultural sector. A number of specialized international bodies including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), have initiated special agricultural assistance programs for the continent.