

The severity of the South African Government's response to the racially-oriented rioting and strikes that broke out in June and spread to many parts of the country was unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council. Canada expressed similar condemnation directly to the South African Government. In response to the protests, the Government of South Africa made certain minor concessions but also made it clear that it did not intend to alter fundamentally its *apartheid* policies. The first *Bantustan* "homeland"—the Transkei—was declared independent in October. Except for South Africa, no state has recognized the Transkei, and the UN resolution condemning this "independence" as a further manifestation of *apartheid* drew overwhelming support, including that of Canada.

Nigeria, the most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa, pursued an active foreign policy and maintained its growing interest in African affairs, as its strong support for the liberation movements in Southern Africa illustrated.

After the rescue episode at Entebbe Airport in July, Kenya and Uganda came close to war and, though an accord was subsequently signed, uneasy relations continued between these two countries. This situation also contributed to the steady decline of the East African Community (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) into a moribund condition.

During 1976 there were several important visits to Ottawa from English-speaking Africa, by: the President of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama; the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Transport of Lesotho, Mr. Peete N. Peete; the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Colonel Roger Felli; the Commissioner for External Affairs of Nigeria, Brigadier Joseph N. Garba; and Nigeria's Federal Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. B. O. W. Mafeni. These visits demonstrated the growth of relations between Canada and Africa and made possible the exchange of views on issues of mutual concern.

## French-speaking Africa and the Maghreb

For *francophone* Africa and the Maghreb, 1976 went by in a climate of consolidation and relative stability. Only one government, that of Burundi, was overthrown—and no violence was involved. Algeria adopted a national charter and constitution and, on December 10, Colonel Boumédiène was elected President. In Morocco, the various political parties took part in municipal elections. Finally, the dispute over the Western Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania and the *Polisario*, which is supported by Algeria, was not resolved by the year's end and military operations continued despite actions aimed at bringing the sides together.

The member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Drought Control in the Sahel, supported by the Club of Friends of the Sahel, drafted a comprehensive plan to provide a basis for economic recovery.

Canada's participation in the creation of the Club of Friends of the Sahel and in the Club of Paris, which played an important part in helping Zaire with its serious economic problems, and the exploration of new means of co-operation based on equal partnership, illustrated the importance and priority Canada attached to its African partners. In the business sector, major contracts signed by Canadian companies and financed by the Export Development Corporation demonstrated the growing awareness by Canadian firms of the business they might do with certain African countries.

Other important events were official visits to Canada by: the President of the Republic of Senegal, Léopold Sédar Senghor; a Togolese delegation headed by Mr. Ayi Hunlédé, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, and including Mr. Kodjo, Minister of Finance and the Economy, and Mr. Dogo, Minister of Planning, Commerce, Industry and Transport; Mr. M. Alladayé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Democratic Republic of Benin; and Lieutenant-Colonel Aloys Nsékalije, Rwandan Minister of Foreign