

tries benefit from the general system of preferential tariffs. We facilitate visits to Canada by representatives of African exporters who want to market their products in Canada. Certain aid projects, especially in the most prosperous countries, generate lasting commercial benefits and sometimes make it possible for Canadian companies to open offices in Africa. The Export Development Corporation is taking an increasingly greater interest in the African market, along with Canadian businessmen; lastly, the Canadian International Development Agency has set up a program for industrial co-operation which facilitates the creation of joint Canado-African companies. Under this plan, Canadian companies join with African businessmen to establish in Africa enterprises such as bakeries, sawmills, poultry-rearing centres, and furniture factories. I feel this is very promising, since the economic vitality of a country rests largely on the development of small- and medium-sized businesses.

**Prime matters**

The aid program and trade relations, which both contribute to economic development, are at the centre of our links with Africa. The more purely political side is equally important. In this area, we share the major concerns of the African governments. If I may, I would like to enlarge upon this topic.

Canada is deeply involved in the North-South dialogue. This matter, of prime importance for Africa, has given rise to many consultations with our African friends, and several visits by the Prime Minister to various African countries. I have discussed these questions with a number of African heads of state and ministers, and I have always observed how keenly our positions and actions in the matter were appreciated.

Another question of vital importance to Africa is the problem of decolonization. I have already mentioned the active role which Canada assumed whenever independence was achieved. We have also shown an interest in this question through the part we played in the events leading to independence for Zimbabwe. For five years, in concert with other western countries, and in constant contact with the countries of southern Africa, we have been working determinedly to set in motion a process which will enable Namibia to obtain its independence, by peaceful means, on the basis of free elections supervised by the United Nations Organization.

With reference to *apartheid*, Canada has continually and vigorously fought this racist system which is an affront to human dignity, and which Prime Minister Trudeau has called an insult to humanity. Canada anticipated the United Nations when, in 1963, it initiated an embargo on arms sales to South Africa. We also took steps to discourage participation in sporting events with that country, beginning in 1978, and to discourage expansion of trade relations. Finally, we have offered, through the services of various agencies, constant support for the victims of *apartheid*.

Canada, which has never been a colonial power, pursues a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of African countries. This policy has always met with the approval of the countries in question. However, although we maintain absolute

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