

Canadian Initiatives in Quebec

At the Quebec summit, Canada announced a series of new initiatives to help Third World countries:

- cancellation of \$324.9 million in development assistance debts owed to it by seven low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- a number of projects in the fields of communications and culture to which Canada contributed \$7 million;
- the revitalization of an education centre for agricultural studies in Africa to which Canada allocated \$5 million;
- a co-operative program to promote energy conservation, energy planning and tele-detection of energy resources: Canada allocated \$1 million over the next two years;
- support to projects for transferring technologies and scientific information from northern to southern coun-

tries: Canada contributed \$1 million over a two-year period;

- the establishment in Canada of the International Francophone Centre for Distance Education.

At the summit conclusion, Canadian officials said that they were convinced of the viability of la Francophonie and were eager to see how the new group evolved in subsequent meetings. The next session will be held in Senegal in 1989.

Vancouver Summit

Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Vancouver from October 13 to 17, 1987. Of the 45 countries in attendance, 37 were represented by heads of state or prime ministers.

Prime Minister Mulroney, chairperson for the meeting, set the tone for Canada's participation by clearly signalling Canada's willingness to lead Commonwealth efforts

against *apartheid* in South Africa. "This is a group that leads the world in its war on *apartheid*," Mr. Mulroney said at the press conference concluding the 28th meeting of Commonwealth leaders.

Canada has long been one of the Commonwealth's most vigorous critics of the *apartheid* regime in South Africa. Not surprisingly, the issue remained high on the agenda at the Vancouver summit.

Canadian Initiatives in Vancouver

In addition to Canada's commitment to bring *apartheid* to an end, a series of other initiatives were introduced at the October CHOGM:

- cancellation of development assistance loans to six Commonwealth countries in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- increased assistance to victims of *apartheid*. Canada made new commitments worth over \$4.4 million to

education, community development, legal and humanitarian aid, and labour education;

- a donation of \$500 000 which will enable 10 small Commonwealth countries to have permanent representation at the United Nations;
- the "Vancouver Declaration on World Trade" indicated deep concern about trade protectionism and made a commitment at the highest political level for solid and early progress in the multi-lateral trade negotiations;
- a new distance education network with the central co-ordinating unit to be located in Vancouver on Canada's west coast. The Commonwealth network will promote exchange of information, training, technical assistance and research.

Informal consultation among Commonwealth heads of government.

