

● *REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS*

A regional approach to co-operation is not new for CIDA. What is new is the decision to make it one of the three pillars of CIDA's development assistance strategy in Africa. The following projects illustrate this approach:

● *PANAFTTEL*

Canadian co-operation in telecommunications in Western Africa began in 1978 with construction of a 3,000-km microwave network linking Dakar and Cotonou via Bamako, Ouagadougou and Niamey.

Once construction was completed, Canadian assistance to the Pan-African Telecommunications Agency (PANAFTTEL) continued to provide the technical training necessary to maintain the network. Also, institutional support for the national telecommunications offices in the five countries was developed to strengthen the independence and financial viability of these organizations.

Since all member countries experienced common technical and institutional concerns, they set up an unofficial forum for co-ordination. The Joint Co-ordination Committee was created in 1985, to promote greater co-operation and co-ordination among the network's member countries. This initiative led to exchanges of expertise and the formation of technical subcommittees to co-ordinate maintenance of the network.

● *HUMAN RIGHTS*

A major program to support the development of democracy and the promotion of human rights in Francophone Africa was launched recently. The Canadian Centre for Study and International Co-operation is responsible for managing this three-year program, which is valued at \$6 million.

The funded activities will encourage the promotion of democratic culture and human rights. A number of components are planned: various studies, support for initiatives by non-governmental partners in Africa, and support for organizations that either defend and promote human rights or organize training and awareness activities.

● *PAN-AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING*

The Centre was founded in 1967 to provide adequate training for Africans working in the co-operative and rural development sector. It received official status from the Pan-African Co-operative Conference, a group of 15 member states in sub-Saharan Africa.