

Assistance programs

One of the main activities of Canada's six embassies in French-speaking Africa was the administration of assistance programs.

A total of \$69 million was allocated to the various programs of bilateral Canadian co-operation for the fiscal year 1972-73. New large-scale projects were inaugurated; projects begun several years ago were implemented; a long-range planning system was adopted for Canadian participation in the development of several of these countries.

The President of CIDA, Paul Gérin-Lajoie, led official delegations to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia in North Africa, and to Niger and Upper Volta. The latter visit was in connection with the international relief plan to aid the millions of people affected by the long-standing drought in the Sudan-Sahel region, which reached crisis proportions in 1973. Canada was one of the countries that contributed generously; initial participation amounted to some \$10 million in 1973.

Middle East

The renewal of full-scale hostilities in the Middle East in October 1973 brought to an end the uneasy truce that had prevailed since 1967.

The United Nations Security Council on October 25 authorized the formation of a peace force, and Parliament subsequently approved the Secretary-General's request that Canada provide the logistics component of the force. About 1,000 Canadians took up duties along the cease-fire line between Egyptian and Israeli forces, but by the end of the year the Israel-Syria border was still in active dispute.

During 1973, Canada strove to increase its representation in the Middle East, so that by 1974 it had diplomatic relations with every country in the region. Diplomatic relations were opened with Saudi Arabia in May 1973. Canada also decided to establish

diplomatic relations with the countries of the lower Persian Gulf — Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — and with the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. On December 21, the decision to open an embassy in Saudi Arabia was announced.

Canada's export and import trade with most Middle Eastern countries rose significantly during 1973, and the prospects are excellent for continued rapid growth.

In the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem, Canada continued to give substantial support to the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). The Canadian contribution was increased by \$500,000 in 1973, bringing Canada's total annual contribution to \$2.05 million and making it the third-largest contributor to the organization since its inception.



UNEF Forward Headquarters officers inspecting "A" Line on UNEF Buffer Zone in Sinai. Canadian Capt. Len Juteau is on extreme right. (UN Photo/Y. Nagata)