



Gouvernement du Canada Government of Canada

Coordonnateur canadien
des secours d'urgence

Canadian Emergency
Coordinator

Famine en Afrique

African Famine

March 31st, 1986

The Honourable Monique Vézina, P.C., M.P.
Minister for External Relations
Lester B. Pearson Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to enclose a copy of CANADIANS AND AFRICA:
WHAT WAS SAID, a nation-wide survey of attitudes towards foreign
aid issues.

During the height of the emergency from the autumn of 1984
to the early months of 1985 when millions of dollars were being con-
tributed to famine relief there was little question Canadians were
deeply moved by what was happening in Africa.

In subsequent months, as I travelled throughout Canada
I was impressed by the level of understanding Canadians had of the
causes of the famine and their commitment to the need for longer-term
support to avert future tragedies.

However, to better understand Canadian attitudes about the
African famine crisis, a decision was made to commission an objective
study of their views on this issue.

Decima Research was asked to undertake the study, building
on earlier opinion surveys they had done on foreign policy and other
aid issues. This report includes their complete analysis and the
interview schedule (questionnaire). To facilitate public access to
all background documentation, 19 pages of data describing sample
selection, weighting and validation; the verbatim responses, as well
as 900 pages of aggregate tables and cross-tabulations have been made
available in various locations across the country (see listing in the
appendix).

Yours sincerely,

David MacDonald
Canadian Emergency Coordinator
African Famine

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