

Assistance for African continent

Long-term program to aid Africa

Africa 2000, a comprehensive program to help meet the needs of the countries in Africa over the next 15 years and to provide them with the tools required for recovery, has been announced by the Canadian government. Minister of External Relations Monique Vézina said the initiative is a multi-faceted commitment by Canada "in support of the development of the African continent" and that under the program a special fund of \$150 million has been established from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funds and will be disbursed over the next five years. Along with this new money, Canadian assistance to Africa will total more than \$900 million for 1986-1987.

Africa 2000 has three main themes: partnership between the government and the private sector, reorientation of Canada's development assistance, and international consultation.

Partnership essential

"By partnership," said Mrs. Vézina, "I mean the government's determination to work with all the groups and organizations in Canadian society prepared to get involved in economic recovery in Africa." Voluntary agencies, municipalities, artists, schools, unions, twinning organizations and private companies are among the groups within the private sector which will receive assistance for their projects of recovery and development in Africa.



Monique Vézina

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been designated as "the first partners" in *Africa 2000* and they will receive half the special fund, \$75 million, to match contributions made by the public.

Canadian companies have also been invited to become actively involved and a new unit in CIDA, the Special Programs Branch, is being set up to assist groups and individuals who want to participate.

"My objective is that, by the end of 1987, we should have more than 2 000 small projects in place, contributing toward the over-all goal of the whole operation — helping to meet the essential needs of the African people," said Mrs. Vézina.

Policy reorientation

Agriculture, reforestation and food security will receive first priority among the development projects. "In reorienting our development policies, we will respond to the specific needs of Africa," said Mrs. Vézina.

As women make up 80 per cent of the labour force in African agriculture, their involvement will be very important in any Canadian projects. Mrs. Vézina added that a new program involving the integration of

women in development will be announced by the Canadian government in June.

In addition, a consultative group which will include people from all fields of activity and all of Canada's regions, will be established to advise the government on Africa policy.

As part of the international co-ordination integral to *Africa 2000* Mrs. Vézina is representing Canada at the special session of the United Nations on the African situation, being held in New York, May 27 to 31. She will also continue to consult with African leaders, and the representatives of the donor countries and the multilateral agencies.

"*Africa 2000* incorporates immediately several of the recommendations made by David MacDonald, the co-ordinator for Canadian famine relief efforts over the past year and a half," emphasized Mrs. Vézina. "Further initiatives will be announced over the next few weeks, as Canada is now committed to a general plan of action which addresses the root causes of the economic crisis in Africa," she added.

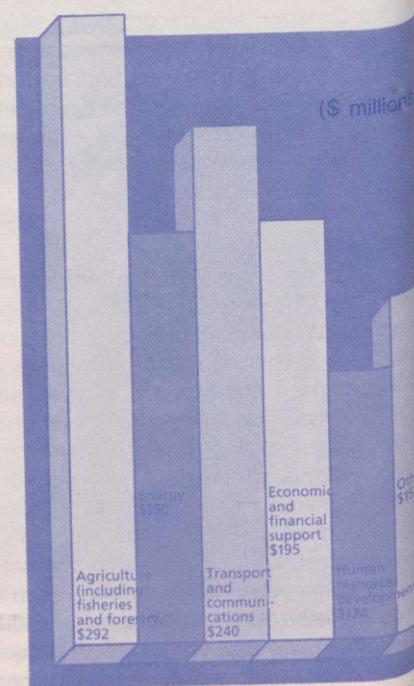
Visit to Algeria

International Relations Minister Monique Vézina visited Algeria, April 26 to 28, to discuss bilateral and international issues of concern to both countries, including the special UN session on Africa's economy.

Mrs. Vézina met with a number of government leaders including Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Kasdi Merbah, Minister of Finance Abdelaziz Khellef, Minister of Energy and Chemical and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi and Minister of Trade Mostefa Benamar. She also met Canadian business representatives in the country.

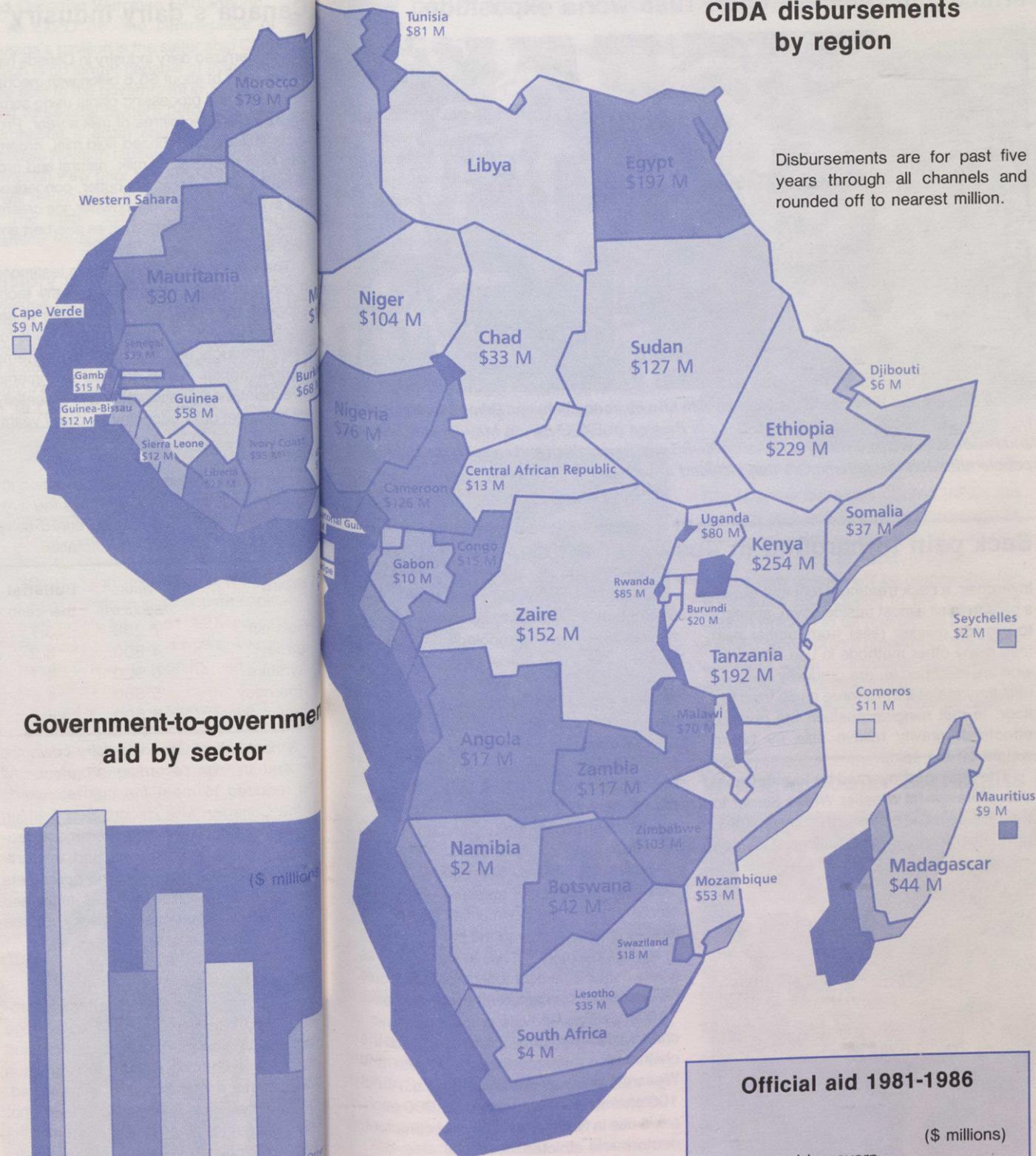
Canada-Algeria co-operation programs were reviewed as well as the possibility of increased co-operation in various areas. Establishing an Algeria-Canada task force to reinforce financial and economic relations was discussed and the extension of the line of credit provided by the Export Development Corporation was announced.

Government-to-government aid by sector



Total: \$1.198 million

CIDA disbursements by region



Disbursements are for past five years through all channels and rounded off to nearest million.

Efforts by CIDA

Canada has been involved in long-term development efforts in Africa since 1959 and through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), more than \$3 billion has been provided over the past five years.

The main areas of support are bilateral assistance in such fields as agriculture, energy and education; multilateral programs which help finance the work of United Nations agencies and development banks; special programs supporting the initiatives of Canadian voluntary groups and institutions, and of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and business co-operation programs that encourage Canadian firms to create joint ventures with Third World business and transfer technology to developing countries.

Aid for agriculture

The development of agriculture is a major priority for CIDA in Africa, and since 1982, \$292 million has been provided by the agency for this purpose. Projects for irrigation, reforestation, rural development, fishing, research, production, storage, transport and grain distribution in many African countries amount to some 40 per cent of Canada's bilateral assistance to Africa.

In addition CIDA supports the work of international organizations like the UN Development Program, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the African Development Bank.

International and Canadian NGOs also receive grants from CIDA for agricultural development projects. Volunteer groups have been especially successful at involving the rural people of Africa in their own development.

Development of energy

Energy is another of CIDA's three main development priorities, and a wide range of efforts are under way. The Canadian Renewable Energy Facility (CREF), for example, funds up to 100 per cent of the costs (to Canadian companies in the renewable energy field) of testing and adapting technology in the Third World. Through CREF, solar heating panels have been tested in Kenya, and small-scale hydro projects have been carried out in Swaziland and Sierra Leone.

Canada's involvement in the hydroelectric sector includes rehabilitation of transmission lines in Mali, Kenya and other countries; rural electrification in Ivory Coast, Senegal and Gabon, among others; and energy planning workshops in Malawi. In Egypt, CIDA has provided \$25 million worth of Canadian

Official aid 1981-1986

	(\$ millions)
Government-to-government (excluding food)	\$1 413.26
Food	489.07
Special programs (excluding food)	145.97
Humanitarian	65.57
Industrial co-operation	32.26