
Special fund for Africa

The Canadian government has established a \$50-million special fund for Africa, as well as a number of specific initiatives to help Ethiopia.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will be contributing an additional \$3 525 000 in humanitarian relief assistance to Ethiopia through such organizations as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Development and Peace and Oxfam Canada. In addition, CIDA will be providing \$4 million to send between 10 000 and 15 000 more tonnes of cereal to Ethiopia.

Part of the special fund for Africa will be used to match funds raised by voluntary organizations, corporations, municipalities and individuals in Canada for food and medical aid. The formulas will be developed following consultations between the voluntary sector and the country's recently-appointed co-ordinator for the African famine, David MacDonald.

In addition, the government is working to promote long-term development. The rural water resources development project, which has already provided safe water for 200 000 people in southern Ethiopia, is being extended at a cost of \$800 000. For Africa as a whole, CIDA, in conjunction with international agricultural research institutes, has approved two projects to improve wheat and bean production, at a total cost of \$6.9 million over five years.

Large food-aid contributor

"Food assistance from Canadians has been a critical factor in sustaining life among Ethiopians," said Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark. "As the drought intensified over the last three years, Canadian food aid accounted for almost a third of all food received by Ethiopia; in the past year it has accounted for more than half of all food aid delivered to date," he said. On a *per capita* basis, Canadians are the largest donors of food aid in the world. In 1984, Canadian food aid, which will reach 30 countries in Africa, will be \$150 million.

"Canadian concern for Ethiopia has been overwhelming," said Mr. Clark. David MacDonald has received many offers of assistance for the people of Ethiopia from across Canada and numerous non-governmental organizations have been active in mobilizing Canadian support.

Mr. Clark said that Canada would be redoubling its efforts to stimulate further co-ordination by the various donors who are working to overcome the crisis in Africa.

The government has already taken the lead in organizing co-ordination meetings on the ground in Ethiopia and together with other donors, has urged a greater co-ordination of the food aid emergency programs in Ethiopia by the United Nations. This has resulted in the appointment of a special UN representative.

"The government will be reviewing the African situation constantly to determine what further initiatives and extra funds might be necessary to alleviate the situation," said Mr. Clark.

Co-ordinator on African famine

David MacDonald was appointed Canadian emergency co-ordinator/African famine on November 1. The appointment was made in response to the human tragedy generated by the food shortages in Africa and the effort by the government to involve as many Canadians as possible in the process of aiding the victims.

Thousands of Ethiopians are starving to death, and according to some observers, seven million are endangered by the food crisis. On the entire African continent, 150 million people in 24 countries are facing severe food shortages.

Mr. MacDonald, as the Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator/African Famine, will: assess the food crisis in Africa and particularly in Ethiopia; propose concrete steps for the government to take in providing assistance; work with non-governmental organizations in mobilizing and channeling Canadian support to feed the hungry; and, co-operate with provincial governments and encourage their support and assistance. He will work directly with the minister for external relations and the president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

David MacDonald was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in 1936. He is a United Church minister currently residing in Toronto and is president-designate of the Canadian Inter-Faith Network.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1965, Mr. MacDonald was re-elected in 1968, 1972, 1974 and 1979. He was appointed secretary of state and minister of communications in 1979.

Since leaving politics in 1980, Mr. MacDonald has held a number of positions including president of the Futures Secretariat and program director and special adviser to the leader of the opposition. He is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, the United Nations Association, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Parliament of World Federalists.

Ultra-modern patrol vessel

Canada's offshore Atlantic patrol capabilities will be greatly increased by the new fisheries patrol vessel, the *Leonard J. Cowley*, which was launched recently at West Coast Manly Shipyard in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The 72-metre vessel will be the largest patrol vessel in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) fleet. It will operate in northwest Atlantic waters and be based at St. John's Newfoundland.

"This new vessel will monitor domestic fishing efforts as well as provide increased facilities for the department to fulfil Canadian commitments to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)," said Deputy Minister A.W. May at the launching ceremonies. "It will also add a major capability to the offshore search and rescue capability on the Atlantic coast," he said.

The name of the vessel commemorates the late Leonard Cowley, a former Department of Fisheries and Oceans assistant deputy minister for Atlantic fisheries, who died in 1982.

Special design for surveillance

The hull of the *Leonard J. Cowley* has been strengthened with high grade steel to enable it to operate in the ice prevalent off the coast of Labrador. The electrical and electronics systems fitted on the vessel are designed to provide highly reliable "no-break" electrical service and there are extensive navigational and communications capabilities.

Powered by twin 1 500-kilowatt engines through a single controllable pitch propeller, the vessel has a range of 12 000 nautical miles travelling at a cruising speed of 12 knots (one engine), with 10 per cent reserve fuel remaining. Maximum cruising speed is 15 knots.

Displacement tonnage of the vessel is 2 080 tonnes. It can carry food and other provisions for trips of up to 28 days' duration. Operating with a multiple crew, it is expected that the *Leonard J. Cowley* will remain at sea for more than 250 days a year, frequently in severe weather conditions. In addition, the vessel can be prepared to return to patrol duty in as little as six hours.

The *Leonard J. Cowley* will remain at Manly Shipyards in Vancouver until next summer while being fitted out with the most sophisticated electronic equipment available, including navigation and satellite-communications equipment to assist in determining the position of fishing fleets.

Under its Fisheries Management Program, DFO operates patrol vessels on both the east and west coasts of Canada.