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CIDA TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,500,000 TO PISC

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today, during the visit to Canada of Joao Pereira Silva, Minister of Rural Development in the Cape Verde Islands and Co-ordinator of the Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (PISC), a contribution of 1,500,000 dollars to the PISC.

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) contribution, which will be spread out over two years, will provide the PISC Executive Secretariat with Canadian specialists who will work with the Sahelians in developing and implementing a rehabilitation strategy. In addition, the Agency will contribute to the operating budget of the Secretariat and will finance an international symposium on the protection of plant life.

During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Silva met with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Louis Duclos, to discuss Canadian expertise in the formulation and implementation of programmes in such high-priority sectors as cereal production, well-drilling, fisheries development and reforestation.

In 1977 CIDA gave support to the PISC with a contribution of 1,000,000 dollars to a project called "institutional support of the PISC". This second contribution by CIDA demonstrates the Agency's confidence in a new type of international co-operation on a regional basis which has already proven successful thanks to the support of outside organizations.

Other donor countries such as France, the United States, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Development Fund are also contributing to the organization's budget which is now about 7.5 million dollars.

CIDA's Sahel programme is concentrated in four main areas: self-sufficiency in food, protection of the environment, improvement of highways and access to the sea, and balance-of-payments assistance.