



# communiqué

N°:  
No.: 160

August 13, 1987.

## JOE CLARK SIGNS \$15 MILLION FOOD AID AGREEMENT WITH MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo, Mozambique-- The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing Canada to provide \$15 million in food aid to Mozambique this year.

Designated by the United Nations as one of the least-developed countries in the world, Mozambique continues to be plagued by drought, famine, and an intensifying insurgent war. It is estimated that 4.5 million of Mozambique's 14 million people are seriously affected. At least 1.5 million are homeless in their own country and large numbers have sought refuge in Malawi and Zimbabwe.

"Recent events in Mozambique, such as the Homoine massacre, call for urgent delivery of Canadian aid to those in greatest need", Mr. Clark said.

The \$15 million in food aid will be provided in a variety of ways:

- 40,000 metric tonnes MT of Canadian wheat valued at \$8 million for commercial distribution throughout Mozambique;
- 11,000 MT of Canadian wheat, valued at \$2.25 million, which will then be exchanged for maize of equal value from neighboring Zimbabwe;
- 5,000 MT of Canadian beans, valued at \$3.1 million;
- the remaining funds for internal distribution costs and a contingency fund to respond to food aid initiatives by Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

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Canada is playing a significant role in Southern Africa, and is one of the leading donors to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). In 1986-87 the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided over \$30 million in assistance to Mozambique:

- \$20 million to rebuild the railway which is vital to Mozambique and Southern Africa and to support other projects in the transportation and telecommunications sectors;
- \$6.7 million in food aid;
- \$2.2 million for humanitarian emergency aid, including \$1 million in response to an appeal from the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organization;
- \$1.2 million for a three-year, community-based food production project undertaken by CUSO;
- \$1.2 million for a number of other projects undertaken by seven Canadian NGOs.

Apart from Mozambique, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is also visiting the Ivory Coast and Zambia during his five-day trip to Africa. Mr. Clark's trip is part of the preparations for the Summit meetings of la Francophonie and the Commonwealth, which Canada will be hosting in September and October, respectively.

"I am looking forward to a full discussion of the situation in Southern Africa and the crisis in Mozambique in particular, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Vancouver in October", said the External Affairs Minister.