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# STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY  
OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE  
D'ÉTAT AUX  
AFFAIRES  
EXTÉRIEURES.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF  
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP

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"CANADIAN HUMANITARIAN AID  
FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA"

Some confusion apparently prevails about the Government's policy of providing humanitarian assistance to various indigenous groups in Africa. The position of the Canadian Government is as follows:

For many years Canadians have been concerned about the injustice of racist and colonial policies in Southern Africa. As has been publicly stated on many occasions, the Government shares this concern and it has contributed funds to several programmes designed to assist the victims of these policies. Canadian aid has been channelled mainly to assist refugees from Southern Africa and to provide scholarships for Africans from Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa) to study in Canada and in other countries. Canadian funds authorized for the current fiscal year have been channelled through the following United Nations and international bodies in these amounts:

U.N. Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa	\$ 75,000
U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa	10,000
U.N. Scholarships for Namibians	25,000
Commonwealth Secretariat Scholarship Programme for Rhodesians	67,000
International University Exchange Fund	75,000 (approx.)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	50,000 (approx.)
TOTAL	<hr/> \$302,000

The meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Ottawa in August 1973 approved the following declaration concerning Southern Africa:

" Heads of Government reviewed the efforts of the indigenous people of the territories in Southern Africa to achieve self-determination and independence and agreed on the need to give every humanitarian assistance to those engaged in such efforts."

Canada endorsed this statement.

In line with this declaration I stated in my speech to the United Nations on September 25, 1973 that Canada "is studying ways to broaden its humanitarian support" for persons in Southern Africa engaged in efforts to achieve equality. Accordingly the Government decided to extend its current humanitarian aid for refugees in Southern Africa by giving consideration to humanitarian projects and scholarships for the indigenous people residing within the white-ruled countries and territories of Southern Africa and to refugees in adjacent countries.

To implement this expanded programme the Canadian International Development Agency would be authorized to consider requests for assistance in support of projects within Southern Africa provided such projects are sponsored by reputable Canadian non-governmental and international organizations and provided such projects are of a humanitarian or developmental nature. Each project would be evaluated on its own merits and the sponsoring organizations would have to satisfy the Canadian authorities that strict control of the project will be maintained and that full accountability will be furnished.

The Government of Canada does not intend to make funds directly available to liberation movements in Southern Africa. Moreover, no grants to organizations providing humanitarian assistance to such movements in Southern Africa have yet been made and none will be made until the estimates of C.I.D.A. for the year 1974/75, which include contributions to non-government organizations, have been approved by Parliament.

When referring to Canada's intention to extend its humanitarian aid programme for Southern Africa, Miss Monique Bégin, M.P., the Canadian representative on the Trusteeship Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, indicated on December 14, 1973 that, subject to parliamentary approval, Canada, in 1974, will contribute \$175,000 to the United Nations Education and Training Programme in Southern African and \$100,000 to the International University Exchange Fund, two programmes which provide scholarship assistance to refugees controlled by the minority regimes in Southern Africa.

The Canadian Government does not support the use of violence to solve the current conflicts in Southern Africa. However, the Government believes that there should be tangible support for the efforts of the indigenous people of Southern Africa who are striving to achieve human dignity and self-determination and it will therefore, subject to parliamentary approval, continue to expand its humanitarian assistance to these people.