

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE RT. HON. JUSTICE D.F. ANNAN  
TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT IN OCTOBER, 1996

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RT. HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

For the very warm welcome accorded me a short while ago by you, I wish, on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana to record my most sincere thanks and best wishes. Indeed, this is one visit I have looked forward to, with relish, to undertake for some time now.

Location, Climate, Language, Religion and Capital of Ghana

2. I deem it fit and proper to begin my speech by giving you a brief account of my country. The Republic of Ghana is located in the coastal area of Western Africa and covers an area of 92,098 square miles (238,533) square kilometres. The country faces the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean on the South. It is bordered by the Ivory Coast on the West, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) on the North West and North and Togo on the East. The climate is influenced by the hot dry continental air mass that originates in the Sahara desert in the North and by the tropical maritime air mass that moves from the South-West across the Southern Atlantic. Except in the North there are two rainy seasons during April and June and September and October with an average annual range of rainfall between 40 and 50 inches and an annual mean temperature of from 78°F (26°C) to 84°F (29°C) inland. There are about seventy-five different tribes speaking a number of local dialects but the official language adopted is English. The religions of the people are Christianity, indigenous religion and Islam. About two-thirds of the population live in the rural areas. One-third of the total land area is covered by forests with one-eighth of the land area suitable for agriculture. The capital is Accra. Ghana's population was estimated at the last census at nearly 14.5 million.

### The Economy

3. Ghana has a developing mixed economy based on agriculture and mining. Despite economic difficulties it is still one of the most developed countries in tropical Africa. It is among one of the lowest Gross National Product per capita countries in the world, though it is above average for West Africa. Agriculture accounts for nearly 50 percent of the Gross National Product and employs more than half of the work force. Cocoa produces more than 50 percent of foreign exchange earnings. Other economic products are timber, coffee and palm products. Cassava, maize, yams sorghum are some of the main staples. Main minerals produced for export are gold, diamonds, manganese and bauxite. Manufacturing is dominated by import - substituting industries producing food products, beverages, tobacco, textiles, timber wood products and refined petroleum. Electricity is obtained from the hydro project at the Volta River dam at Akosombo. The country's Balance of Trade fluctuates with world cocoa prices and budget deficits are financed by banking and non-banking financial institutions. Main imports are petroleum products, machinery, transport equipment and chemicals and main exports include cocoa, timber, gold, diamonds, manganese and bauxite. Prominent among Ghana's trading partners are the United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany and the Netherlands.

4. Ghana is a Member of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Africa Development Bank and the World Trade Organisation. Since the early 1980's Ghana has gone through various stages of Structural Adjustment which have given a boost to its economy.

### Political Scene

5. Ghana and Canada are Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. On the political scene, I wish to recount briefly the chequered experience of Ghana's progress towards democratic rule since its attainment of Independence from British Colonial rule on 6th March, 1957. The search for stable democratic system for Ghana and for many African countries has not been without its painful

experiences. Within a period of one generation Ghana has seen three democratically elected governments swept away by military interventions. The uprisings of 1966, 1972 and 1979 and 1981 did create a deep suspicion in the minds of many Ghanaians that the systems of Government that were put in place as democratically elected were not meeting the aspirations of the people.

6. Events in Ghana since the promulgation of the Constitution of Ghana of the Fourth Republican Constitution in January, 1993 have, however proved the skeptics wrong. Many Ghanaians have endeavoured to see the Fourth Republican Constitution succeed because of their belief that only a stable democratic system of government can end poverty, the economic decline and the general state of crisis. Suffice it to say that our country is now resolved, in the light of traumatic experiences gained through the spate of military interventions to stick to the spirit and practice of democratic governance which currently in place and this, has enabled us to take our rightful place in the community of democratic states of the world.

7. What then have been the structure, functions and achievements of Ghana's Parliament over the past three sessions and the two Meetings of the Fourth Session or years? (1993 to September, 1996).

Outline Structure, Functions and Achievements of the Parliament of Ghana - 1993 To 1995

8. The basic structures and mechanisms being used by Parliament to function in the First Session of the First Parliament of the 4th Republic are as follows: Parliament is composed of 200 Members of three political parties and 2 Independent with a Speaker and 2 Deputy Speakers, a Majority Leader who is the Cabinet Minister responsible for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, a Minority Leader (representing 8 Members). There are 27 Committees (11 Standing and 16 Select) the areas of responsibilities of most of which correspond to the work of various departments of Government and the public sector. Each Committee has a Chairman and a Vice

Chairman. A Parliamentary Service Act, Act 460 of 23rd November, 1993 with its enabling Regulations approved as C.I. 11 of June, 1995 is in force. Under the overall authority of the Speaker, the Administration of Parliament is headed by a Clerk of Parliament with a number of Deputies and Assistants, an Editor of Debates and Parliamentary Reporters as well as other administrative and clerical staff. With the passage of the Parliamentary Service Act and the enabling Regulations, Parliament has taken the necessary steps to establish a solid Parliamentary Administration to provide conditions and scheme of service for officials of Parliament which have immensely facilitated the conduct of its operations over the past three Sessions.

#### Functions Of Parliament

9. The Constitution requires Parliament to perform a wide variety of functions many of which have been performed during the past three and half years. To many, the function that readily comes to mind is the law making function of Parliament. However, the main task of Parliament is not necessarily to make laws or govern, but to secure full discussion and ventilation of views on all matters placed before it. In this sense, Parliament ensures that Ministers are always liable to be required to explain and publicly justify their policies and their actions, that Parliament may be said to be the custodian of the liberties of the people.

10. Parliament is also mandated constitutionally to discharge other very important functions in an inter-related network of functions and responsibilities both within the parliamentary system and also with bodies such as the Executive, the Judiciary and the Council of State, as well as political parties, professional trade and business organisations, the Bank of Ghana, various departments of state, the Commission on Human Rights and administrative Justice, the National Media Commission and National Commission for Civic Education, among others. It is clear therefore that even if Parliament's primary and perhaps most visible function is Legislative in character when it approves or makes laws, it does so in the context

of a much broader framework of responsibilities and a matrix of actions that affect practically all major areas of national importance and the national interest.

12. Parliament also performs deliberative, investigatory and regulatory functions. In its deliberative functions Parliament considers a broad range of domestic and foreign policies and actions. In its investigative

functions Parliament has the constitutional authority and duty, through its Standing and Select Committees to investigate and inquire into the activities and administration of Ministries and departments as may be necessary from time to time. The Committee System also enables Parliament to examine and assess legislative proposals in detail. A very critical aspect of Parliament's investigative function is located in the Appointments Committee. It is the duty of this Committee to examine persons nominated by the President for appointment as Ministers of State and their Deputies as well as candidates for appointment as Chief Justice, and Justices of the Supreme Court and the regional representatives of the Council of State. In respect of its regulatory role, Parliament is called upon, by constitutional provision, to make laws to regulate the establishment and functioning of political parties and professional, trade and business organisations. The Leadership of the country have also recognised the overriding necessity for the Executive, Parliament and the Judiciary to work together as the three main branches of the Government inextricably linked by the common bonds of national interest and a shared responsibility to promote national development. The powers entrusted to each of these branches of Government are seen to operate as complementary processes, independently exercised at the institutional level but consciously directed to produce, in the final analysis, a co-ordinated and harmonious totality that serves the supreme interest of the nation. There has, therefore been a unifying spirit of nationalism exhibited over the past three years of Parliament amid traditional diversity of powers.

#### Activities, Performance and Achievements of Parliament

13. The activities undertaken by Parliament, its performance and achievements over the past Three Sessions and Two Meetings have been modest but most encouraging. The initial thrust of business of Parliament during the First Session was to meet the constitutional deadline of establishing a number of commissions and other bodies within the first six

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months after the first sitting of Parliament. Parliament has debated, considered, amended and passed Bills mainly initiated by the Executive. Some of the important Bills were the Parliamentary Service Bill, the Serious Fraud Office Bill, the Local Government Bill and the Criminal Code Amendment Bill, and the Finance and Appropriations Bills.

#### Financial Measures and Issues

14. Financial business and consideration of bills take much of the time of our Parliament. Parliament also in the performance of its democratic functions, accepts and debates major policy issues. In the conduct of a democratic Government the Executive state their purposes and objectives to given their opponents the opportunity to challenge and point out what they consider as errors and deficiencies of policy. Parliament has generally served as the principal organ for this kind of policy review. There are also stated occasions in Parliament when the general public policies of Government are declared and debated. The President's speeches at the Opening of Parliament prepared by Ministers serve as general declarations of the aims and intentions of Government and provided opportunities in the ensuing debates on the speeches for Ministers to explain their policies more fully and for their opponents to criticise. The Budget Speeches of the Ministers of Finance constituted other occasions when the general lines of Government policies were exposed for comments.

15. The deliberative function of Parliament which is sometimes called the function of criticism, is exercised in the main by substantive motions which lead to debate.

16. During the past Three Sessions, Parliament deliberated on motions which those on major foreign policy and Ministers and Members Questions and Statements which are popular parliamentary mechanisms. Parliamentary Investigative Committees demonstrate their ability to handle details of the policies, activities and administration of the functions of ministries and

departments critically by looking closely at sectoral and departmental matters. Heads of Government Agencies are generally placed on the alert in the formulation of their policies and in the preparation and execution of their annual plans, programmes and budgets and also in the administration of their agencies.

17. Ghana has also been gender-sensitive in the selection and approval of candidates to fill vital positions in the political and public sectors of the economy. This move is the result of the recommendations made at the Beijing Conference which are now being implemented in earnest by all Agencies in Ghana. Indications are that women Parliamentarians in Ghana would equally benefit from the recommendations made by the Beijing Conference.

#### Ghana /Canada Relations

18. Canada, a British colony attained dominion status for nearly a century before Ghana became independent in 1957. Ghana's relations with Canada have since been marked by a rich tradition of friendship and fruitful co-operation. As a senior partner in the Commonwealth, Canada has been an active supporter and financier of pan-Commonwealth projects. The two countries also tend to co-operate in tackling burning world issues.

19. Canada has consistently supported Ghana over the years in the fields of energy resources, water supply, modern farming methods, science education, technical assistance and basic human needs in rural areas. Since the inception of the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP), Canada has provided steady support for the success of the programme. In recognition of the tremendous effort put into the ERP by the Government and people of Ghana, Canada in 1991 announced the cancellation of Ghana's debt of \$77.66 million. Canada has been contributing to the alleviation of the refugee problem confronting Ghana. Liberian and Togolese refugees in Ghana are in the direct beneficiaries of this kind gesture.



SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATISATION IN GHANA

20. Besides, Canada has been a very keen supporter of Ghana's democratic process. In 1992, a \$1 million grant was given to support electoral arrangements. Electoral equipment, materials and expertise were supplied to help organise the elections of 1992. The Canadian Government sent observers during the 28th April, 1992 referendum on the 4th Republican Constitution, and to monitor the November 3, 1992 Presidential elections. In June, 1995, the Canadian Government awarded the Electoral Commission a C\$215 million grant for the purchase of ballot boxes and security seals in aid of the voter registration exercise which was held from 1st to 15th October, 1995. The Liberal Party Whip, Don Burdria in October, 1996 became the new Minister of International Co-operation and La Francophonie and responsible for CIDA.

OFFICIAL VISITS

21. The cordial relations have been lubricated with exchange of visits by Canadian and Ghanaian dignitaries. In February 1993, the Hon. Walter Mclean, Chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Matters, a close associate and adviser of the former Prime Minister Mulroney, visited the country and held discussions with Ghanaian officials on bilateral matters. He also sought to generate interest in inter-parliamentary associations as a means of promoting democratic institutions. The Canadian Parliamentarian also expressed a desire to bring together Francophone and Anglophone Parliamentarians to foster regional co-operation in West Africa.

22. The Hon. Monique Vezina, the Canadian Minister for External Relations and International Development also visited Ghana in May, 1993. At a meeting with President Rawlings, she pledged Canada's continued support for Ghana's efforts at economic development. More recently, in March 1995, the Secretary of States for Latin America and Africa of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Honourable Christine Stewart, visited Canada-sponsored projects in Northern Ghana and expressed to President Rawlings her pleasure with the effort being made to complete the projects.

The Canadian Foreign Minister Hon. Andre Ouellet made a two-day stop-over in Ghana from 27th to 28th November, 1995 while on his way to attend a Francophone Summit in Cotonou, Benin. Early 1996, Lloyd Axworthy replaced Andre Ouellet as Foreign Minister.

REDUCTION OF ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA.

23. Partly as a result of recession in Canada, and mainly because of disappointment with the meagre returns on her huge support for development projects in sub-Saharan Africa, Canada decided to reduce drastically its assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa. Ghana was one of the few countries which were not affected by this cut-back. Ghana may wish to respond to this kind gesture by buying more Canadian wheat and sustaining Canadian interest in gold and diamond prospecting and mining in Ghana. It is encouraging to note that the VRA in 1993, awarded to General Electric Canada, a \$25 million contract to do some retrofit work on the power generators at the Akosombo Dam.

24. In the recent past, the only cloud in our relations had been the large number of Ghanaians seeking to migrate to Canada by devious means to the irritation of Canadian officials. But with the inauguration of the 4th Republic in Ghana on 7th January 1993, asylum applicants would no longer be able to use political persecution as an excuse for visa.

GHANA AND CANADA AS MEMBERS OF CMAG

25. Ghana and Canada are members of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) which was created at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in New Zealand in November, 1995 to oversee the implementation of the Harare Declaration. In specific terms, CMAG was to deal with serious violations of the principles outlined in the Declaration.

26. The Group, made up of Britain, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe, was to focus attention on the Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, which were the only the members of the Commonwealth without constitutional

rule. At CMAG's second meeting in April, 1996, Nigeria was given certain conditions to fulfil for her suspension from the Commonwealth to be re-considered. During the third meeting in June, 1996, Canada unilaterally announced imposition of sanctions on Nigeria. Ghana had always cautioned against sanctions and advocated dialogue with Nigeria. Besides, the two countries had regularly consulted each other on issues of common interest.

At the last CMAG meeting in New York in September, 1996, it was made clear that the Group had the mandate to assess situations and make recommendations but had no authority to impose sanctions. Ghana regretted that the traditional warm friendship between Canada and Africa seem to have been undermined by the Nigerian problem.

#### CHRETIEN'S AFRICAN POLICY

27. Soon after taking office, Mr. Chretien called the African Heads of Mission and promised to reverse his predecessor's policy of reducing Canadian aid to African countries. Though this assurance has not been fully fulfilled, Ghana continues to be a beneficiary of Canadian aid. Indeed, Ghana was one of the few African countries whose aid was not cut by the previous Canadian Government.

28. Canada, considered one of Ghana's traditional trading partners, exports to Ghana, wheat, machinery, manufactured goods, vegetable oils and fats, electrical goods, chemicals, explosives and stationery; and imports cocoa beans, cocoa butter, timber products, aluminium ores and concentrates, rubber, yams and smoked fish from Ghana.

29. The level of trade between Ghana and Canada has been rather low owing to the fact that most Canadian companies obtain a greater part of their Ghanaian supplies through their American parent companies.

2. The table below gives an overview of trade between the two countries;

	<u>GHANA'S EXPORTS</u>	<u>GHANA'S IMPORTS</u>	<u>TRADE BALANCE</u>
1989	\$5.047m	\$33.941m	(-) \$28.894m
1990	\$4.296m	\$12.444m	(-) \$ 8.148m
1991	\$5.063m	\$26.706m	(-) \$21.653m
1992	\$1.63m	\$17.86M	(-) \$16.23m
1993	\$2.90m	\$18.77m	(-) \$15.89m
1994	\$5.35m	(Not available yet)	NA

30. The two principal factors that explain the poor performance of Ghana are the narrow base of Ghana's export products and the preponderance of raw commodities in her exports. Conversely, Canada exports a wide variety of manufactured products, a situation that calls for vigorous efforts to enable Ghana to penetrate the Canadian market. It is towards this goal that the Agency Agreements concluded between Cocoa Marketing Company and Ghana Timber Processing Company on one hand and some companies in Montreal in Quebec to promote Ghana's cocoa and timber products are viewed as a positive measure.

#### VISIT TO ALBERTAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT DELEGATION TO GHANA

31. In November, 1994, an eight member Trade and Investment delegation from the State of Alberta, Canada, visited Ghana and held discussions with government departments and private organisations to undertake investment joint-ventures in Ghana. They expressed interest in food processing, transportation, power plants using solar system, and the processing of saw dust into useful products such as paper.

TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

32. Ghana-Canada relations are governed by a technical cooperation agreement, which was signed in 1958, which is reviewed periodically. Canada is represented by the Canadian international Development Agency (CIDA) for the implementation of the agreement, although routine operational matters are handled by the Canadian High Commission in Accra.

2. Canadian assistance to Ghana, under the cooperative agreement, had focused on the following three major areas:

- (i) assistance to macro-economic and institutional support measures,
- (ii) support to micro-policy objectives with emphasis on employment generation schemes; and
- (iii) assistance to the social sector with priority being given to rural development and water supply.

33. However, following a massive restructuring of CIDA in early 1993, there has been a significant change in Canadian development policy to lay emphasis on relatively smaller projects supportive of good governance, decentralization, entrepreneurship, and sub-regional cooperation.

34. Canadian aid to Ghana since 1987 had been in the form of grants. In 1987, Canada granted Ghana a moratorium on the payment of Ghana's debts until 1991. These debts which arose from loans to the Volta River Authority and Ghana Water and Sewage Corporation were finally written off in 1991.

CIDA PROGRAMME/PROJECTS

35. In line with the policy framework for Canadian assistance, the main programme and projects currently being undertaken are:-

- (i) The Northern Regional Rural Integrated Programme (NORRIP)
- (ii) CIDA Structural Adjustment Line of Credit
- (iii) The GWSC Assistance Project
- (iv) GRATIS
- (v) The Water Utilization Project
- (vi) The Grains Development Project
- (vii) Assistance to PAMSCAD
- (viii) A pilot Public Sector Management Project, and
- (ix) Food aid.

#### NORRIP

36. The Northern Regional Rural Integrated Programme (NORRIP) was started in 1980 when CIDA provided a grant for the conduct of feasibility studies and the implementation of programmes. Initially, NORRIP was conceived as a self-sufficient model for regional integrated development based on small-scale initiatives, with agriculture as the lead sector.
37. The second phase of NORRIP, started in 1989, reduced the focal activities from 15 to 7 projects geared towards improving the institutional capacities of Government Departments and other selected agencies operating in the Northern Region, especially in the East Mamprusi and Yendi Districts.
38. In 1992, NORRIP continued with its drilling programme, and completed the drilling of 142 successful wells in Yendi District. Forty wells were also drilled in East Mamprusi.
39. In the health sector, NORRIP has provided training for village health workers and traditional birth attendants and assisted in the establishment and furnishing of the Adibo and Abinbani Health Ports.

SECOND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT FACILITY (SAF II)

40. In its support to the ERP, CIDA on 22nd February, 1989 allocated a grant of C\$30 million of Ghana, C\$15 million of which was channelled to the Bank of Ghana to support its foreign exchange auction system for the financing of general imports. The remaining C\$15 million of the grant was tied to the import of Canadian goods such as trucks, construction and sawmilling equipment, pharmaceuticals as well as electrical goods. Beneficiaries included the Ministries of Health and Energy, GIHOC Pharmaceuticals, Mim Timber Company Limited and the Electricity Corporation of Ghana (ECG) as well as a number of private sector operators. The tied component was fully disbursed by May, 1991.



### THIRD STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT FACILITY

#### (SAF III)

41. On 10th May 1991, CIDA provided Ghana with a third Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF III) in continuation of its support to the ERP. The facility involved a grant of C\$50 million, C\$25 million of which was used to support the Bank of Ghana's foreign exchange auction, whilst C\$24 million was tied to the purchase of Canadian goods. The balance of C\$24 million was to finance technical assistance in the form of engaging a Canadian Procurement Agent and a Canadian Monitor. Approximately, C\$412.5 million was disbursed over the period 1991 - 92 to produce capital goods.

### GWSC ASSISTANCE PROJECT

42. On 11th September 1991, CIDA committed a grant of C\$28 million to support the operations of the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation (GWSC) in the Upper East and Upper West Regions. The Project will provide machinery and spare parts for the pumping and treatment components of the GWSC water systems. There is also a technical assistance and training component.

### GRATIS PROJECT

43. In 1988 CIDA provided a grant of C\$3.5 million to assist in developing Intermediate Technology Transfer Units (ITTUs) under the ambit of the Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology for Industrial Service (GRATIS). Disbursement of CIDA funds, which started in 1989, seeks to support GRATIS on three basic levels. Namely, the overall co-ordination of the project; ii. the middle level the establishment and strengthening of the ITTU's support for the small-scale industries directly. In pursuit of these goals, GRATIS has been provided with technical assistance, equipment and vehicles, whilst a number of staff members have been trained.

### GHANA GRAINS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (GGDP)

44. The Grains Development Project, being executed by the Crops Research Institute (CRI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB), started in 1979, was in three phases. Throughout these phases, the Project has aimed at developing improved varieties of maize and legumes (especially cowpea, soyabean and groundnut). The Project consists of four major components: the provision of research and advisory services, training and operational

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support and related administrative services. CIDA funding for the project so far has amounted to C\$9.4 million for Phase III.

#### ASSISTANCE TO PAMSCAD

45. CIDA has also offered assistance to the PAMSCAD initiative, to alleviate the social costs of structural adjustment. This assistance has taken two forms:

- (i) The Commodity Aid to support Primary Education Development Project, involving C\$4.5 million for the printing of basic textbooks and exercise books for primary and junior secondary schools.
- (ii) The local Procurement Fund Project to support the local purchase of equipment, materials and tools for selected PAMSCAD projects and provide logistics to the PAMSCAD Secretariat.

#### COMMODITY AID

46. Another Canadian assistance is commodity aid. Under the arrangement, grants averaging C\$24 million per agreement are given to procure and transport various Canadian food commodities each year to Ghana.

#### WATER UTILIZATION PROJECT (WUP)

47. The Water Utilization Project (WUP), being implemented by the GWSC with the co-operation of the Department of Community Development and the Ministry of Education, was initiated in 1978. Besides providing pumped water, WUP was to educate people in the use of water and basic hygiene and sanitation.

#### KTI/ATCC REHABILITATION PROJECT

48. The KTI Rehabilitation Project sought to strengthen the delivery capacity of technical education in the country. It involved the rehabilitation of the physical facilities and equipment of the Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI) and the Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC) as well as upgrading the knowledge of the teaching and administrative staff of the two institutions. The Project started in March, 1987 and ended in May 1991.

### CUSO WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

49. In 1989 CIDA provided a grant of C\$2.57 million for the implementation of Women in Development (WID) Project in collaboration with the National Council on Women and Development (NCWD). The project was geared to assist women in Northern Ghana, especially the disadvantaged, to improve their economic and social conditions and thus, increase their participation in the development of their villages.

### NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE

50. In August 1987, CIDA contributed C\$12.5 million for the Northern Transmission Line, which was carried out by the VRA to provide electricity to the Brong Ahafo, Northern and Upper Regions. The CIDA contribution was used to procure electrical materials for the 161 KV transmission lines from Techiman to Tamale, and from Tamale to Bolgatanga. The construction of the transmission line was completed in mid-1990.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GHANA STOCK EXCHANGE (GSE)

51. To finance the technical assistance input required for the operation of the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE), CIDA granted US\$500,000 in 1991.

### CIDA PUBLIC SECTOR TRAINING PROJECT

52. CIDA provided a grant of C\$350,000 in 1993 for a two-year pilot Public Sector Training Project. The project provides short-term training for senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MFEP), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Bank of Ghana, Accountant General's Department and the Statistical Service as well as Parliamentarians for the formulation and execution of economic and development policies.

### GNPC/PCIAC INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

53. In May 1993, Ghana and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop expertise and infrastructure within the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) for oil and gas exploration and development in Ghana and also to assist Government in reducing its dependence on imported oil and gas.

54. Your Excellency, the need of our contemporary society to relate the modern democratic practices in our country to the values inherent in the traditions, customs and history of our country has engaged the attention of some budding political analysts and

this has become a fertile field for research.

55. There has been growing interests by political scientists and traditionalists to establish the relevance of our indigenous traditional ideas, customs, values and practices to modern concept of democracy we are operating in the country.

56. In the context of true democratic practice can we really afford to dismiss values that are of abiding significance in the lives of the overwhelming majority of our people? I have always held the view that to make democracy work as a sustainable process we must go back to custom, tradition, culture and history and look for relevant inputs into our modern practice of policies and government. We should revisit ideas about consultation, co-operation, compromise, consensus, participation and dialogue as necessary determinants of a good cultural frame work for our practice of democracy. Indeed the Constitution of our Fourth Republic accepts that social and economic objectives of state policy are much more realistic if implemented within the context of appropriate customary values. Due consideration is therefore given constitutionally to the need for a conscious introduction of cultural dimensions as critical components of national development planning. Article 59 of our 1992 Constitution therefore recognises that appropriate cultural and customary values as adapted developed from time to time must form integral aspects of the growing needs of society as a whole.

57. An interesting issue has also been raised about the relative emphasis of civil and political rights of the individual or group on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

58. Certainly, there is a lot to be said for the view that in the concept of our developing societies, the most realistic approach is to place both categories of rights on an equal footing since they complement each other. Indeed, democracy is about the development of man in society, and it is important that the true objectives of socio-economic development are not lost sight of or devalued in a policy of misplaced priorities that places more emphasis on the one set of rights to the detriment of the other. Indeed our Constitution in Article 36 (2) recognises in clear terms that the most secure democracy is the one that assures the basic needs of life for its people as a fundamental duty.

59. Certainly, the institutional framework is vital – namely, the Constitution, political parties, free and fair elections the estates of the Realm and the Council of State. But this framework cannot be an end in itself. It necessarily must be a means to an end. I agree that these institutions must be protected and defended and the Constitution squarely places that responsibility on all of us in Article 3.

60. But in the final analysis the surest protection or defence for the institutions of democracy must be their ability to deliver on the promise of development. Given the potential for development that is inherent in the democratic way of life for us in the Fourth Republic, socio-economic development must be seen as the end - product of democracy.

CONCLUSION

61. This concludes my speech for this occasion. With this encouraging performance Report on Ghana's Parliament and the very cordial relationship that exists between the Governments of the Republic of Ghana and the National People's Congress of China, Ghanaians must in concert resolve to sustain the development of the quality of our democratic governance, political and economic stability and progress in the country.

62. One clear and happy development discernible all over the world now is the universal attraction of the concept of democracy and a surge for it as a focus on human rights. For Ghana, democracy as a system of government has re-asserted its primacy. This new thrust of democratic experiment has brought into sharper focus the relevance of parliamentary institutions in further promoting the cause of representative democracy, notwithstanding the transitional difficulties and hurdles which are inevitable in any resurgent society. Ghana can now look forward to unity, development and stability as the basic ingredients of good governance.

63. Finally, all Ghanaians have been called upon to recognise that Parliament is a premier publicly acceptable institution open to all our people to come forward to participate in its work by listening to debates, liaising with Members of Parliament and submitting petitions to Parliament for consideration. For all Ghanaians in future therefore Parliament should protect the socio-economic infrastructure for the achievement of socio-economic development of all our people.

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