

of these organizations which are either Canada-inspired or include a major Canada participation. At a time when co-operation among the people and cultures of the world is ever increasing, the importance of non-government international organizations is also increasing, and our financial contributions are a tangible encouragement to various Canadian groups actively involved in international activities.

While this new form of multilateral co-operation was developing, Canada was therefore establishing diplomatic relations with all the francophone countries, and slowly but surely we have set in motion a program of co-operation which, I hope, will be in full swing very soon. So will it be with all exchanges at every level, whether commercial, economic, social or cultural, and to crown this effort at *rapprochement* based on a better knowledge of and co-operation with these various countries, it will surely be possible eventually to consider jointly with these countries means of bringing about a *rapprochement* in the world and ensure peace on earth.

Objectives

What are in fact the goals we are pursuing in our bilateral relations with these countries, especially African countries to which I feel particularly attracted? Our first goal is obvious: Canada seeks to affirm and show its French personality as well as its sincere interest in the cultural development and enrichment which we are likely to get from contacts with others. Needless to say, Canada as a whole should be involved in this undertaking. Our second goal is also clear: to help these countries which are among the neediest in the world. It is both our duty and our responsibility within the world community.

The third objective is to promote Canada's interests in major areas tied up with political, social economic and commercial elements. Therefore we must establish with these countries relationships that will be as extensive and varied as possible. As adviser to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for relations with French-speaking countries, it is a pleasure for me to give you some detailed information regarding the state of our relations with these francophone countries and prospects for the future.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, I have already been on official business to France, Belgium and above all to a great many countries of Africa. Last January, for instance, I went on official business as Canada representative to express our goodwill and intentions of co-operation to four countries in the Sahel, namely Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and the Ivory Coast. I just returned last week from an official visit to Guinea and Gabon.

I can tell you about all the admiration and esteem that these countries feel for Canada and the Canadian people. Everywhere, no matter in which countries I had the honour to represent my fellow citizens, there was a tremendous expression of sympathy for Canada because all these countries acknowledged that neither by tradition nor by inclination were we interested in creating a sphere of influence, we wanted simply to express in a concrete manner our feeling of solidarity towards mankind. Canadian aid which amounts at present to about \$150 million a year just for Francophone Africa is appreciated because, as I just stated, it is given with no ulterior motives and it meets needs and priorities as defined by the governments with which we enjoy close relation-