

Mr. Speaker, there is a deep silence, and the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) was right about that.

Now, from the copy of a contract of a person on assignment, I see that section 11 reads as follows: it is agreed by His Majesty and the assignee that, for the duration of the contract and for twelve months after the contract has expired, the assignee and his dependents promise not to publish anything, not to express in public any personal opinion deriving from the assignment of the assignee—

Mr. Speaker, persons on assignment are bound to shut off, not to say a word. Therefore, I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to say, when he rises later, how many people have completed their assignment? How many had to quit of their own free will before the termination of their contract? How many were expelled from CIDA? How many were there compared to the total number of persons on assignment, because surely that appears in the annual report, does it not? Is CIDA consulting or meeting with those people sent abroad?

Mr. Speaker, I have on my desk glaring proof that Canadians were sent to francophone Africa, not only to the Ivory Coast, but to other countries. I have proof that they were sent without a contract, that the contract was signed only six or seven months later, once the volunteers had reached their destination. I know of specific cases where people were promised reimbursement of their travelling expenses but never received the amounts entailed.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind those are specific and important points. I ask the government members to help us, instead of finding this funny; let them co-operate with us that Canadians might be proud of the help we give developing countries. It seems that debates like this one today on the Canadian International Development Agency are few and far between, because the opposition must initiate them. It seems to me this would be an ideal opportunity for the minister to make very specific commitments before the House with regard to projects of which we want to be proud. We are willing to help developing countries, on that we agree.

We hand over \$770 million to CIDA, the third highest item in the Canadian budget, which is more than that of the Department of Agriculture, to help the countries suffering from extreme hardships, severe droughts or poverty, where thousands of people die of hunger. Mr. Speaker, some young Canadians are willing to give of themselves, to give up a few years to help them. They are willing to do so! But let us support them and quit playing games with them.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many members of the House have laid eyes on the expert's guide. That is the name given the volunteer. This is a document intended for internal circulation, bearing number 550, which outlines what the volunteer must do.

Mr. Speaker, once an hon. member has read this guide, he has reason to ask himself hundreds of questions on the administration of CIDA because the expert's guide is, in the final analysis, a monumental hoax.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I do not want to take more of the time of the House. What I have to say now about CIDA is all negative because of the evidence I have in hand. It seems to me that the minister should take this opportunity

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to give us the assurance that he will answer the question I asked him the other day; I ask him again to assure us that he will order an immediate inquiry on the complex project of televised education in Ivory Coast.

He will realize that what I am now telling him is true. I can provide him information if need be. I am ready to co-operate with him and he can ask himself questions about other projects so that we may be proud of the assistance we make available to other countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there are a few things I would like to say in six very brief points. With the information I have, I can come to this conclusion: Some Canadian volunteers arrive in the host country from Canada without a working permit. Therefore, they have problems at the airport. That is not provided for by CIDA. I can give you names. Some volunteers leave without any contract in hand. I wonder whether the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Dupont) would go to work under such conditions. Some are surprised to see their contract cancelled by CIDA due to staff turnover, and that, without previous notice. A Canadian volunteer is sent to a country, and then his contract is annulled and he is required to sign another one.

Fourth, contract promises are not kept by CIDA. For example, Mrs. Gabrielle Robert was supposed to get a contract but she had no job once she got there. Mr. Speaker, I can even give you the names of Canadian volunteers who have no job in the countries where they are sent.

Finally, some volunteers do not work at the place where they had been assigned before their departure from Canada. Consequently, they must look for a job once they get there. I have even heard of a physical education teacher who got to a given country. He went to the school where he had been assigned under his contract and he was told: "We do not have any work for you, sir. Maybe you will find some at the next school". So, this teacher, whose name I can give you, went to the next school. He was told: "Sir, we cannot hire you because we already have a physical education teacher. But if you would go in another town, maybe you will find a job". Finally, this teacher went to the National Education Department of that country where he was hired. At the end, CIDA cancelled his contract and he has been brought back to our country.

They managed to discourage a young Canadian who was willing to give a great deal of his time, of his health and of his knowledge to help people who live in poverty and need our assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of assistance is a disgrace. I suggest that the department should take measures instead of bragging, as Paul Gérin-Lajoie does, about having \$707 million to distribute. It sure looks good, Mr. Speaker. If human value is so important to him, let him first look after his volunteers so that they can give their best and be proud of it instead of having to work under present conditions.

[English]

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I want to begin my comments by saying that the House of Commons is aware that a number of fundamental changes have taken place in the