

Canadians are pleased to witness the rapid shrinking of the area controlled by racialism and colonialism in Africa. We have hailed the historic decision of the new Portuguese authorities to grant full independence to all their colonies in Africa. We have embarked upon diplomatic relations with Guinea-Bissau, and we are sending, in the next few weeks, a special mission to Angola and Mozambique to lay the ground for good relations with these countries, as well as the smaller Portuguese territories of Africa, which will stand as free and sovereign members of the United Nations and the OAU (Organization of African Unity).

There have been some signs of progress as well in Rhodesia and Namibia, but the prospects are not clear and we are following developments closely indeed. It is not up to us to predetermine the terms of any eventual settlement in Rhodesia or Namibia. There is no doubt, however, that the world cannot accept any settlement not ratified by a solid majority of the population of these territories. We are hopeful that the day will soon come when the colonialist and racist regimes will understand that a new order of things has to be ushered in before all the peoples of Southern Africa can live in peace, prosperity and security.

Ghana and Canada are divided by thousands of miles with sharply different climates and economies. In the tradition of after-dinner orators, I should not fail to note that we are united by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. I am inclined to think, however, that the width of this mutual sea is so vast that one must regard it as, at best, a tenuous tie. I think we must recognize that Canada and Ghana are very different and very wide apart geographically. Our friendship, personal ties and very effective cooperation must therefore be regarded as striking proof that ideas and ideals unite more than distance can separate. We are in different spheres and hemispheres but not on different wave-lengths. Our economic and political cooperation transcend and dwarf the daunting distance between us. I am confident that this phenomenon will remain a solid fact of international life for very many years to come.