

serve in thirteen different countries - Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

You are the third group and the largest contingent which Canada has sent. When you have assumed your positions abroad we will have something over one hundred and eighty Canadian teachers serving abroad. This, it seems to me, is a significant contribution and I am very hopeful that we can continue to enlarge our programme in the coming years.

I think that it is particularly appropriate that Canada should be taking an increasingly active interest in the field of education overseas. Canadians know something about the challenges of nation building. We know something about the problems of developing an educational system to meet the needs of a rapidly growing country. We have had experience in adapting our educational institutions to the complex and sometimes difficult requirements of a society made up of people with different cultural backgrounds. I hope that you as Canadian teachers will be able to make some of this knowledge and this experience available to the countries in which you are serving.

Many of you will find that you are playing a pioneering role in the country to which you are posted. In some cases you will be able to draw upon the experience of your predecessors. In many cases, however, you will find that you are not only the first Canadian teacher but perhaps the first Canadian who has worked in your particular area. In these circumstances you will have a great deal of responsibility and indeed many opportunities to give a good impression of Canada to the local people. You will also be privileged to learn an immense amount from them, and I have no doubt that all of you will find this experience both for yourselves and for your families one of the most enriching of your lives.

There may be times when you feel discouraged and depressed and that progress in your work is disappointingly slow. I hope you will remember at such times that the building and expanding