

rapid and complete development of all the people concerned.

I also remarked that although our assistance to French-speaking African countries had begun slowly and modestly, it was our intention, now that it has reached the same level as our assistance to the Commonwealth African countries, to continue it not only for the benefit of the receiving countries but also to reaffirm Canada's bicultural character.

[English]

My tour of Africa, while all too brief, left me with a number of warm and deep impressions.

First, Canada is highly regarded and its name stands very high in Africa. Africans have given us their confidence, and it is this trust which creates an obligation on our part to share with them some of our resources by participating as partners in their programs for economic and social development. This can be achieved by offering to Africa the best in Canada from those fields where Canadians have achieved excellence and special expertise.

Such a joint venture will benefit not only Africans but Canadians. The Canadians serving in various capacities over the continent, old or young, missionaries or volunteers, CIDA personnel or businessmen, are engaged in useful, constructive and essential projects. On their return to Canada, what they have learned about the common human condition will stand them in good stead and will help us all to a better understanding of the world we live in. If one is seeking economic justification for external aid, as development proceeds, African countries will become markets for Canadian products, particularly capital goods, and mutually beneficial trade should increase. Already, in some of the larger countries like Nigeria and the Congo interesting commercial aspects are arising.

Our co-operation with and assistance to Africa can become among the best and most realistic expressions of our national character. Canada and Africa have been enriched by two great European cultures and languages; both Canada and the African countries I visited are engaged in the strengthening of their national unity and sovereignty; like the countries of Africa, Canada is still in the course of development, and, along with our African friends, Canadians abhor the immoral and inhuman policies implemented by the white minority regimes of Southern Africa.

I return from my tour with the conviction that we must continue and increase over time our contribution to the economic development programs of our African friends. Our co-operation with Anglophone and Francophone countries of Africa reflects our own national personality. Our participation in the harmonious economic development of African countries constitutes, I believe, the best way of promoting peace through social justice and the most effective response to the challenge of racial inequality in Southern Africa.

On my way through London to Africa, I met with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Arnold Smith, and on my return journey I gave him some of my

impressions which I thought might interest him in his official capacity.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I must begin, as I am happy to begin, by welcoming the minister back. We followed with interest his pilgrimage across Africa. We noted his activities. He was at a zoo. I hope he got along there as well as his chief did in another place.

I want to assure the hon. gentleman that while he was away the Acting Secretary of State, the President of the Treasury Board, did not let him down at all by giving away any information on any question he was asked.

The statement the minister has just made is not an earthshaking statement. It is, rather, one of those comforting and comfortable documents to which I find it impossible, even if it were my wont, to take violent exception. Perhaps it was somewhat less interesting than the very good press reports we read of his journey. He started in the Ivory Coast where he was reported so favourably impressed with the views of the president of that country. I was wondering whether he embraced the views of that gentleman on the Middle East war and its correlation with the South Africa situation.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Then there seemed to be a change as he continued his journey and moved toward a position that has become so common in the Canadian voting pattern in the United Nations, something of an abstention. The minister also abstained on a very important matter about which I hoped he would make an announcement during his tour, namely, the opening of a diplomatic mission in Zambia, a country that is so vitally concerned in the grave problems and terrible assaults on human dignity now troubling southern Africa. I would say to the minister that I am convinced that the opening of a mission in that country would have been more valuable and vital than any of the gifts that he dispensed or announced. I hope that some day he will be able to convince the President of the Treasury Board that we should open a mission in Zambia as well as one in Algeria. Or is it the case that austerity can be broken for Algeria but not for Zambia?

I was impressed with the minister's statement in reference to moral rectitude and agree with what he said. The minister spoke of abandoning the practice of wasting our energies in empty gestures designed to tell the world of our moral rectitude on racial questions. I am profoundly in agreement with this. For so long have we practised this. There was a time when Canada was regarded as a sort of omnipresent saviour of the world everywhere we were expected to go. Now I fear there is a tendency to become the cloistered saint, but we do not give up our preachments because we sometimes avoid our commitments. It will be a mark of maturity if we drop our pious preaching of pusillanimous platitudes and move on to accept those commitments that we can meet and are prepared to meet. I salute the minister for his statement and I admire his precepts, but he might well become his own first convert to that very fine exhortation.