

are 156 French-speaking Canadians in 13 French-language countries of Africa, and 54 trainees and students from these countries are in Canadian educational institutions. Capital projects are under study in these countries also.

It is not necessary to provide you with more facts and figures to establish the relevance of these programmes to your main theme "The World - Your Neighbourhood". Many African children will have been educated for life in their own communities and will have learned about other countries because of the help given by some of your colleagues in developing educational facilities.

Many African communities will eventually feel the benefits of economic development in which Canadian specialists have played a part. At senior levels in African countries, there will be men and women who have been trained in and influenced by Canada. An important part of our relations with Africa now consists of these contacts, which have a continuing human value over and above any monetary or technological value.

You will have noted that our two programmes of economic assistance in Africa are based on links of particular importance in Canadian external policy - in the first place with Commonwealth nations, in the second with nations using French. We have close links with Commonwealth nations apart entirely from economic assistance. We have been deepening our relation in recent years with France, which continues to have a close association with former colonies. These programmes should help, therefore, to create lasting ties of some importance with a majority of African states.

I have, of course, been referring to assistance given under official programmes. One very important sector of our relations with Africa consists of activities by private organizations. I have already mentioned the churches. No doubt many of you here tonight are also familiar with the devoted effort of other organizations. I am referring, for example, to the Canadian University Service Overseas, to "Operations Crossroads Africa", and to other private organizations operating abroad or helping African students here in Canada. They are doing work of the greatest importance for Africa and for Canada.

As Canadian interests have expanded in Africa, it has been necessary to establish or plan new diplomatic missions. Two years from now, we shall have 13 missions in Africa; five of these will be in the French-speaking nations, five in Commonwealth countries and three in other countries. These offices will have aid, consular, trade, cultural and political responsibilities. In addition to the interests and activities I have already mentioned, we are also attempting to expand trade and we are giving some assistance in military training to several Commonwealth countries.

The political necessity of expanding our relations with African nations is clear. It is in the interest of Canada and other free nations that Africa should pursue its own destiny free of authoritarian ideologies, of a direct great-power clash of interest and of access to nuclear weapons. The African nations command many votes