



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## VISIT TO AFRICA

A Statement by the Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, the Honourable  
Mitchell Sharp, in the House of Commons,  
March 22, 1971.

I should like to report to the House briefly on my recent African trip, in the course of which I visited Ivory Coast, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia.

This was the first series of visits by a Canadian foreign minister to Africa south of the Sahara. It enabled me to learn something, but all too little, of the countries visited. It gave me an opportunity to emphasize to the various governments the depth and continuing quality of the Canadian commitment to Africa, of which I saw convincing evidence through my meetings with more than 1,000 Canadians actively engaged in co-operative development projects -- missionaries, CIDA people, CUSO volunteers, and, of course, the personnel of our diplomatic missions. I also arranged for our ambassadors and high commissioners in the countries I could not visit to join us at various places in Africa in order that I might profit from their advice.

Development assistance is and will remain the largest element in our activities in Africa. This is at once a measure of the need of the developing countries there and of the opportunity Canada has to contribute its resources, human and material, operating equally in English and in French. In certain of the countries visited I was able to give formal effect to aid arrangements worked out over the last year or so, some of which will have an immediate beneficial impact on our domestic economy.

I also visited the headquarters of the East African Community, which is a form of common market composed of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

I learned at first hand of development plans from the African leaders, and saw how Canadian assistance programs fit into these plans and the part they may be expected to play in the future. In all five countries I was assured that Canadian involvement in Black Africa is welcome and expansion in our present efforts is sought. African leaders in the countries I visited told me that the Canadians there were doing an excellent job and that the countries