

At the invitation of the Governor General of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Roland Michener, the President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, made a state visit to this country from September 9-16. Accompanied by his wife, President Ahidjo visited Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Toronto.

While in Canada, Cameroon's head of state had talks with various federal and provincial authorities that were marked by a uniform atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. His discussions with the Prime Minister covered a number of common problems, as well as topics of international interest and relations between Canada and Cameroon.

Both President Ahidjo and Mr. Trudeau expressed satisfaction at the similar views held by their two essentially bilingual countries regarding the concept of Francophonie, and noted that the recently established "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique" could create broader opportunities for co-operation.

On the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Organization, and the tenth anniversary of the UN declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, both leaders expressed their concern over the growing strength of oppressive and racially discriminatory minority regimes in Africa, and reaffirmed their belief in the principles of human freedom and equality, and the right of peoples to self-determination.

Convinced that international peace and security are essential to the steady progress of mankind as a whole, the President and the Prime Minister agreed to continue to work for disarmament and a fair, just settlement of the Middle East conflict, and re-expressed their full support for the UN as an essential collective instrument of international peace and security capable of placing the fruits of scientific and technological advances at the service of all mankind.

Turning to bilateral relations, both leaders noted, with approval, the spirit of co-operation that exists between Canada and Cameroon, and decided that these relations will be intensified and that trade will be increased in the interests of the people of both countries. With this end in view, a Memorandum of understanding and an economic and technical aid Agreement were signed during the visit. Canada further agreed to make a major contribution to the establishment of the new Health Sciences Centre at the Federal University in Yaounde, and to carry out preliminary studies in the fields of forestry, agriculture and technical education to determine the potential for common endeavour. As is customary in Canada, some of these studies will be made in close co-operation with the provincial authorities concerned.