



A CIDA ornithologist instructs students at the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management in Northern Tanzania.

James H. White Photo

## French-speaking Africa

The 23 countries of Africa which use French as an official language constitute a vital field of international activity for French-speaking Canadians. In *francophone* Africa, as elsewhere in the continent, economic and technical assistance was a major feature of Canadian activities in 1972. The total allocation of funds for Canadian aid to *francophone* Africa was increased in that year to \$69 million. A visit to five countries of Africa (Senegal, Mali, Niger, Ivory Coast and Togo) by the President of the Canadian International Develop-

ment Agency (CIDA), Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, accompanied by the Commissioner-General for Cooperation of the Quebec Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Yves Michaud, demonstrated both the importance that Canada attaches to its aid program in these countries and the vitality of federal-provincial cooperation in this field. Another feature of Canadian relations with *francophone* Africa was the growing number of meetings and conferences held within the framework of *La Francophonie* and the numerous Canadian contributions to the activities and programs of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

A sustained effort was made in 1972 to add depth and strength, in a variety of ways, to the relations between Canada and all the French-speaking countries of Africa, but developments were specially notable in North Africa (the Maghreb). Visits of economic and commercial delegations were exchanged between Canada and Algeria, culminating in the signature of the agreement for the sale of 10 million bushels of wheat between 1973 and 1977. The year 1972 was also that in which Canada participated for the first time in the International Fair of Algiers and inaugurated a youth exchange program (Canada - World - Youth) with Tunisia and Cameroon. A commercial agreement was signed with Tunisia on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Canada-Tunisia Mixed Commission, an institution which continued to reinforce Canadian economic and cultural ties with Tunisia. The decision was announced to open a Canadian embassy in Morocco in 1974 and Morocco reciprocated by establishing an embassy in Ottawa in the course of the year under review.

Official visits undertaken in some of these countries reinforced more particular Canadian interests and activities. The Hon. Jean Chrétien represented the Canadian Government on the tenth anniversary of independence of Cameroon, which also coincided with the inauguration of the Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped established in Cameroon by Cardinal Léger of Montreal. In Algeria, Dr. Gaston Isabelle, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, attended the tenth anniversary of independence celebrations. Of special interest was the