

further on this upon his return.) Moreover, as the attached indicates, this problem may be matched or even surpassed in its importance by the growing urgency, for political reasons, of re-examining the whole question of aid to French-speaking Africa. Two examples from the memorandum serve to demonstrate this situation. Algeria is likely to become independent within a short time. As Morocco and Tunisia are already entitled to benefit from the present programme, Algeria presumably will also be included. It is likely, therefore, that we shall run an even greater risk than before of difficulties in our international and bilateral relations with the French-speaking states since it will be necessary to spread \$300,000 among nineteen African nations, including this new and important one, in place of eighteen. This in turn may have implications in terms of the delicate yet exceedingly important domestic factor. On the other hand an increase in the allocation for this programme would be consistent with the Government's expressed intention of fostering greater national unity through encouragement of French-Canadian interest and participation in Canada's external policies.

5. The programme for French-speaking Africa for 1963-64 should be established within the next few months if it is to be applied effectively. The Advisory Committee must be convened during the summer if adequate time is to be allowed for the full implementation of its recommendations. The concern of the Department is that the programme should be geared on the one hand to the rapidly evolving situation in Africa and on the other hand to the needs of the External Aid Office for sufficient time to carry out its administrative functions.

6. Bearing this in mind, the attached memorandum was prepared in order to examine the general problem of aid to Africa and to reduce this problem to the specific issues of greatest importance to Canada at this time. As pointed out in the telegram sent to you in Geneva, current aid to the French-speaking states of Africa is at an exceedingly low level relative to that available to Commonwealth Africa. In addition, six African states are not eligible for Canadian bilateral assistance. We concluded that the most satisfactory way to begin to correct the imbalance among present aid programmes would be to plan for an increase in the assistance to French-speaking Africa. For this reason, it was decided to seek your views on whether in principle an increase in assistance to this area might be considered provided that the Advisory Group comes forward with sufficiently attractive proposals to warrant such an expansion.

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

[PIÈCE JOINTE 2/ENCLOSURE 2]

Note

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], March 29, 1962

AID TO AFRICA

There has been increasing evidence over the past year of both public and governmental interest in Canada in our relations with the new states of Africa. This has taken such forms as visits by African delegations, activity of private organizations, press comments (especially in Quebec) on the state of these relations, and cooperation in the United Nations (notably with the French-speaking states).

2. The African states, encouraged by this cooperation and in need of new external assistance, have turned to Canada to draw upon our experience as a developing nation in their search for solutions to and help with their own internal problems.