

know too the severe burden laid on your economy by quadrupled oil costs just when your economic growth was starting to surge forward. We pledge, therefore, to sustain and increase our development cooperation with Ghana in this highly important plan period. Development is, of course, buttressed and intertwined with trade, both domestic and international. In accordance with your philosophy of self-reliance, we would be delighted if mutually profitable trade between our two countries could be expanded as a contribution to the development of both our countries. I am pleased to have the opportunity to explore promising new avenues for trade with your government during my stay here. Three trade delegations from the province of Ontario in Canada have visited Ghana in the last year. Ghanaian trade officials will be visiting Canada in the months to come.

Our relations in the cultural field have been fairly limited to date. We, in Canada are, however, becoming increasingly attracted by the rich and varied heritage of Africa. Canadians of African origin may be participating in the Black Arts Festival in Lagos. I hope that my visit here will lead to an increase in cultural exchanges and interest between our two countries. In the field of sport, for which Ghana is well known, we look forward to an enthusiastic Ghanaian participation in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

The usefulness and creative potential of the warm friendship between our two countries is not confined to our bilateral relations. In an expanding variety of international organizations, our representatives have worked harmoniously together, often helping to bridge divergent viewpoints for the benefit of wise compromise decisions. As an original member of the Commonwealth, we were delighted to welcome Ghana in 1957. We have both been enthusiastic supporters of this very useful multinational forum embracing countries of every race and continent who share similar ideals and a common working language. Ghana and Canada have helped turn this forum and club into a workshop, a workshop of professional, vocational and technical cooperation with a multitude of institutions and meetings through which skills and ideas are fruitfully exchanged. In this expanding dimension the Commonwealth Secretariat has played a central role. It was Ghana who first suggested the idea of the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1965 and its first Secretary-General, who will soon be completing his ten creative years of office, is a Canadian. His first Deputy Secretary-General was a distinguished son of Ghana and of Africa. It was appropriate that Canada and Ghana were both represented in a small committee of very senior commonwealth officials who recently reviewed secretariat activities. These are examples of our effective collaboration within the commonwealth which will have one of its periodic and very fruitful Summit Meetings in Jamaica this month.