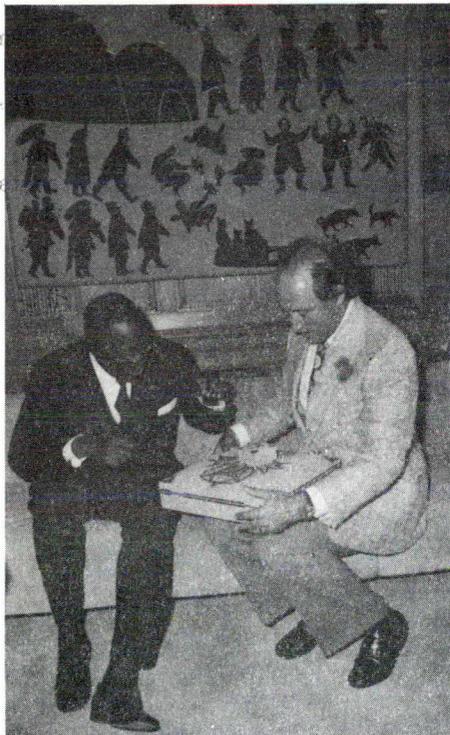


Co-operation with Upper Volta

During a visit to Canada this month by General El Hadj Aboubakar Sangoulé Lamizana, President of the Republic of Upper Volta, and a delegation, the Canadian Government announced that it had increased its co-operation with Upper Volta and planned to spend about \$20 million in the next five years, mainly



Prime Minister Trudeau receives a gift of a chess set from General Sangoulé Lamizana, President of the Republic of Upper Volta.

for the development of sectors assigned priority by the Government of Upper Volta, such as rural development, transport and mines.

Agreement was reached on:

- (1) the installation of a 50-kilowatt transmitter at Bobo-Dioulasso;
 - (2) missions to complete plans for plant protection and aerial geophysical prospecting in the western and southern central regions;
 - (3) missions to carry out further studies for a road program; development of the valleys in the Upper Volta river system and the Bambakari Dam;
 - (4) a mission to explore the possibility of assistance with training related to the priority sectors mentioned above.
- The Canadian Government stated its willingness to maintain its current

level of aid to Upper Volta in the field of education. With regard to food aid, the Canadian Government will continue to respond sympathetically to a situation that is at times difficult for Upper Volta.

Finally, Canada will continue to provide assistance for regional programs, such as the program for combating onchocerciasis. Both parties expressed satisfaction that the agreement on the Pan-African Telecommunications Network linking the countries of the region was signed during the visit of the President of the Republic of Upper Volta.

Pan-African telecommunications

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, signed agreements on May 15 with the Ambassadors of Dahomey, Upper Volta, Mali, Niger and Senegal for the establishment of a part of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network.

The agreements, which involve a grant of \$4.5 million and loans of \$22.43 million, will be furnished by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Depending on the approximate percentage of construction in each country, loans will be allocated in the amounts of: \$672 million to Mali; \$5.04 million to Dahomey; \$4.08 million to Niger; \$3.84 million to Senegal; and \$2.75 million to Upper Volta.

The regional project is intended to improve communications between the five countries and the remainder of the continent in a common effort of co-operation. It consists of the construction of two sections of high-voltage lines: the first will join Kaolack in Senegal and Bobo-Dioulasso in Upper Volta, via Bamako, Mali; the second will join Koupela in Upper Volta to Bohincon in Dahomey, via Niamey in Niger. It also involves the construction of centres of international telephone exchange in Bamako, Mali, Niamey, Niger and Cotonou, Dahomey.

The loans to be made to each country will be used for procurement of Canadian goods and services necessary for the construction of that part of the network situated on their territory.

The grant will cover the costs of technical assistance, the services of the Canadian consulting engineers, who will carry out the design and supervise

the construction, as well as the costs of a training program for African personnel.

Although the contribution of the African countries cannot be determined at present, it is expected to be substantial and will include the purchase and preparation of the work sites, construction and upkeep of access routes and provision of local labour.

Election to UN Commission on Human Rights

Canada was elected to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights during the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council in New York, April 8 to May 8.

The Commission on Human Rights, which is the principal body of the United Nations responsible for human rights, was created in 1947 and drafted a Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was solemnly adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly the following year.

Among other things, the Commission is responsible for the development of an important set of international instruments, declarations or conventions, in particular the two Covenants on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The next session of the Commission will be held in Geneva next February. Canada served a term on the Commission on Human Rights once before from 1963 to 1965.

Canadian autonomy approved in international union

In what is considered a major breakthrough in the development of Canadian union autonomy, delegates to the international convention of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC) recently approved unanimously a proposal to establish a national structure for Canada.

The proposal calls for a national president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and executive council to administer the affairs of the union's 25,000 Canadian members.

No other international union has ever