

We have made our presence felt most tangibly in French-speaking Africa and Asia through external aid. It seems natural that our activity should have begun in a field where it would be in effect an extension of the admirable work already begun, particularly in Africa, by hundreds of Canadian missionaries in education, medical services, and other fields.

In French-speaking Africa, our external aid programme has developed remarkably in the last few years. From the \$300,000 a year which we spent between 1961 and 1964, our bilateral aid figures went up to \$4 million in 1964 and reached \$8 million during the present fiscal year. To this impressive sum we intend to add another \$4 million. I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Government has decided to increase its aid to French-speaking Africa during the next fiscal year to \$12 million. If you bear in mind that we shall be giving \$16 million to English-speaking African countries next year, it will be evident that we have gone a good way towards balancing the aid which we give to the two groups in Africa.

Launching a programme of this size in a few years has required a considerable effort in organization and co-operation from both Canada and the recipient countries. As I have said, we started slowly. We did this on purpose, because both we and the countries concerned agreed that our aid should go into well-conceived programmes which would have a real and lasting value. Considerable progress has been made. I am proud to say that we now have the means and the people in Canada and abroad to reach the goals which we have set for ourselves. Our diplomatic missions in Africa and Asia have done a wonderful job in difficult circumstances. Thanks to them we now have a better knowledge of the real needs of the countries concerned. These countries, in turn, now have a better idea of the human and material resources which we can make available to help them. Please do not forget, my dear friends, that, when we talk of peace and the risk of a world war, what I am saying tonight is the actual basis of a peace effort.

We have now reached what I should call the second stage in implementing our programme -- that of diversification and consolidation. At first our activity was directed mainly towards technical assistance, and particularly education. We already have nearly 250 teachers in French-speaking Africa, and we hope to bring this number up to nearly 300 during the coming year. Nearly 450 trainees from the developing French-speaking countries are now studying in Canada. We wish to do more, and to offer help in such different fields as agriculture, public health, transportation, communications and engineering. Last year we gave considerable food aid to Morocco, Algeria and Senegal.

I have just mentioned the human and technical resources which we shall increasingly need. I should like to express my satisfaction at the enthusiastic support which French-Canadians from Quebec and the other provinces have given to the preparation and carrying out of projects not only in French-speaking countries but almost everywhere in the world. As an example, I might mention that many doctors and members of other professions have offered their services spontaneously, in some cases without fee. Is there any better example of altruism and generosity? I should like to renew today the appeal I have often made to businessmen, industrialists, professional men, teachers and technicians. Help us to help others, because without your assistance we can not carry out the important and complex