

Back-ground notes on Ethiopian-Canadian Relations

Addis Ababa was an important centre of African affairs well before the establishment there of the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in July 1964 because of the stature of Emperor Haile Selassie, Ethiopia's long history as an independent country, and more recently because of the good communications between Addis Ababa and the rest of the world and excellent conference facilities. There is a substantial Canadian colony in Ethiopia. Canadian teachers make a large contribution to Ethiopian secondary and university education. In addition, some Canadians are working with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which is also based in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia, with a population of some 21 million has, on her highland plateau, some of the most fertile land in Africa. Ethiopians have served with distinction under the United Nations both in Korea and in the Congo.

Emperor Haile Selassie is the founding father of the Organization for African Unity, and is one of the leaders of Pan-Africanism. In October 1963 he was the chief peacemaker in the dispute between Algeria and Morocco. On September 9 this year he suggested that Heads of State meet at the UN General Assembly to discuss the Kashmir conflict and some other problems which threatened world peace.

Friendship and ties between Ethiopia and Canada are illustrated by the Emperor's State visit to Ottawa in 1963 and the presence in an Ottawa school of two of the Emperor's grandsons.

Canadian exports to Ethiopia in 1964 were \$240,000 and imports from Ethiopia were \$150,000. Ethiopia's principal products are coffee, pulses, oilseeds and hides.

In an address on September 3rd in Montreal, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, speaking of Canada's increasing interest in Africa, announced our intention to open six new missions in Africa by 1968 including two this year. He announced on that occasion the opening of an Embassy in Dakar.