

The majority of our External Affairs personnel in these posts are spending some of their time on development aid matters; in addition, there are 16 CIDA field representatives attached to these missions. About 850 Canadian experts are now in Africa on CIDA contracts of every conceivable type, and some 500 representatives of CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) and of its French-language equivalent, SUCO are posted in African countries. Another 50-odd Canadians are working in Africa on behalf of the Canadian Executive Service Overseas -- a very useful organization through which senior Canadians provide their expertise to the developing countries at minimal expense. In total, therefore, we have nearly 1,500 Canadians working on development in Africa.

The involvement of provincial governments is an interesting feature of the Canadian presence in Africa. They have already displayed their interest in the continent and their willingness to participate further in Canada's international development programmes. They possess important resources both technical and managerial and their support for Canada's aid programme in Africa is extensive. They work in close harmony with CIDA to recruit teachers and experts. Quebec is presently in the vanguard of this involvement, and participates with CIDA in four important projects in Africa. This demonstrates how all levels of government in this country can work together abroad.

I must point out however that most of our missions in Africa are still quite small; their staffs are hard-pressed to discharge their responsibilities, particularly in regard to countries of non-residence. For example, our ratio of aid supervisors to aid administered is far out of line with some other countries, particularly the United States. Moreover the responsibilities of our missions go well beyond administering aid. The number of Canadian visitors to Africa is rapidly increasing, with attendant consular problems. And with increasing visits of business men, technical experts and advisors, the question of trade and cultural exchange has taken on a new dimension.

Yet some people ask: "Why are we in Africa at all?" The short answer is that Canada cannot afford to isolate itself from what André Malraux has accurately described as one of the greatest events of the 20th century -- the emergence of hundreds of millions of Africans to self-government and independence. Canadians are an outward-looking people conditioned to be so because our very existence depends on the outside world; and when we look eastward we must look to Africa as well as Europe.

Our two official languages correspond to the two European languages used most frequently in Africa; the Government's language policy is a distinct asset in this continent; and I'm told that the bilingual nature of Canada is well reflected in the linguistic background of the young Canadians working there. I should add that Canada has achieved a fairly high level of technological competence; and technology is an essential ingredient of development.