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BRIEFING FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING TEACHERS

At the University of Montreal, Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressed a group of teachers who were being briefed before taking up posts in various French-language countries of Africa and Asia. The text of his speech follows in part:

...I understand that one of the chief purposes of the briefing programme in which you have been participating has been to enable you to see your assignment in the proper perspective. This is not just a matter of knowing beforehand some essential facts about the countries to which you will be going or about the arrangements for maintaining you there. I should like, as the Minister for External Affairs, to talk to you about some broad perspectives of national policy.

I am not, of course, thinking only of your work in the immediate future while you are abroad on these special assignments. Your position as educators in Canada and your current involvement in a project of considerable importance to Canada will enable you to appreciate the significance of these broader considerations.

AID TO AFRICAN NATIONS

First let me mention some points about our assistance to French-speaking nations in Africa. This is of particular interest to you, and has been a subject of discussion in Quebec generally. Since these nations became independent, Canada has co-operated actively in their social and economic development, particularly in educational development. There have been rapid and significant increases in this assistance, as in our aid programmes generally, in the

past couple of years. Of 320 teachers who took part in projects overseas in the academic year 1964-65, 72 went to French-speaking countries, chiefly in Africa. During the coming academic year, 164 of a total of 540 will go to French-speaking countries, 14 in Africa and three in Southeast Asia.

This significant increase in activity is apparent also in the total funds allocated for such co-operative projects. In the first three fiscal years, \$300,000 was allocated to assistance for French-speaking Africa but, in November 1963, the Government decided to undertake a larger programme and, in the fiscal year 1964-65, \$4 million was committed to this area of the world. I am now glad to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government plans to increase its aid allocation to French-speaking Africa during the current fiscal year to a total amount of \$7.5 million. I am glad that this particular part of our aid programme is expanding at a higher rate than any other.

A MARKED EXPANSION

There are fears expressed occasionally that the amount of aid is too small, or that funds committed are not spent quickly enough. The Government has been very much aware, as is clear from its declaration of November 1963, of the necessity of expanding its aid programmes rapidly while maintaining the control and efficiency in actual operations which is essential. There has been marked expansion since that time, and it will continue. As I have mentioned on other occasions, the fact that the current allocation for French-speaking Africa is non-lapsing ensures that all funds committed to projects will be used.

(Over)