

ment, 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 businessmen, technical experts and advisers, 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 twentieth century -- the emergence of hundreds of millions of Africans to self-government and independence. We 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 are also 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.

Even if the passage of time has eased some of the post-independence strains between African states and their former colonial masters, there are still quite a few situations where governments would prefer to deal with a country like Canada that has no colonial past; and, if I may add a personal note, I have the feeling that our response has not always met with the expectations of the Africans. As they say on Madison Avenue, we must try harder; and I intend to try harder.

I turn briefly to the wider political and cultural framework of Canada's African diplomacy.

Since the 1950s, Canadian participation in the United Nations and in the Commonwealth has been a basic element in our foreign policy;

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