hindered the establishment of, for example, French-speaking missionaries in Lesotho, nor the work of English-speaking missionaries in Mauritania; neither did they prevent Canadians from becoming active in areas which required languages other than French or English. Canadians thus played a major role in setting up an educational system in Ethiopia. Progress has continued: two Canadian women, medical missionaries, recently received the Order of Canada in recognition of their heroic work in Angola when that country was in a state of war.

Apart from the contribution by missionaries, the Canadian business community was interested in Africa. The Alcan company, for example, began operations in Guinea when that country was still a French colony, and opened a business office in Leopold-ville (now Kinshasa) in 1947.

As African countries became independent states, Canada accorded them diplomatic recognition beginning with Ghana in 1957. Independence for other Commonwealth countries followed, as it did for former French and Belgian colonies. With the emergence of a large number of new African states whose official language was French, the Francophone element began to play an increasingly prominent role in foreign policy, in parallel with the Commonwealth element. It was in fact during this period that there was a resurgence of the "French fact" in Canada, and a wish to reveal this vitality in new areas all over the world led to an intense interest in Africa. Canada thus began to establish a network of embassies and high commissions in Africa, and to welcome African diplomatic missions; these new political ties served to develop and stimulate exchanges, certain of which, based on natural affinities, had appeared several decades earlier.

The time thus came to formulate a Canadian policy on Africa. Since the new African countries had urgent needs in the matter of economic and social development — needs brought into focus through the testimony of missionaries — it was natural that Canada's actions should be concentrated chiefly in that field, but not to the exclusion of all others.

Thus, Canada helped the new African regimes to take their place in the world order, providing them with easier access to the various international agencies. It also participated in the first United Nations peace mission to what was formerly the Congo. Already a member of the Commonwealth, Canada also supported the leading institutions of the French-speaking world, many of which it helped to establish. Since the African countries account for a major portion of the membership of the various agencies linked to the Commonwealth and the French-speaking world, Canada has discovered an effective means of consolidating its ties with Africa in that frame-work, thereby reinforcing its bilateral relations with each of the African countries.

Objectives policy

Today, Canado-African relations have reached an advanced stage of maturity, and we have begun to acquire sound experience in African matters. Canada is actively pur-