

II

AREA DIVISIONS

African and Middle Eastern Division

The Canadian Government expanded and intensified its relations with African countries and in the Middle East during 1968.

Although no new resident missions were opened in Africa, Canadian Ambassadors were accredited for the first time to Libya, Mauritania and Somalia, and a Canadian High Commissioner was accredited to Botswana. Increasing African interest in Canada was demonstrated through the establishment of resident missions in Ottawa by Algeria and Ethiopia, by the arrival in Ottawa of the first resident Ambassador of the Congo (Kinshasa), by the dual accreditations of High Commissioners of Uganda and Swaziland and by the dual accreditation of an Ambassador of the Somali Republic. During the year, President Bourguiba of Tunisia and Prime Minister Jonathan of Lesotho visited Canada. There were also numerous visits by ministers and officials from African countries.

The Canadian Government has been deeply concerned with the human suffering resulting from the civil war in Nigeria, a nation with which Canada has developed close relations. Operating through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Government made available approximately \$3 million in food and other assistance for those areas of Nigeria affected by the hostilities. In addition, at the request of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria, Canada has participated in the International Observer Team investigating allegations of genocide which have arisen from the war. Parallel with the humanitarian concern demonstrated by its contributions to relief operations, the Canadian Government has encouraged and supported attempts, by the Organization of African Unity and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to settle the dispute through peaceful negotiations.

During 1968, continuing efforts were made to strengthen relations with French-speaking African nations. This was underlined by the dispatch of two ministerial missions to francophone Africa. First, a special economic co-operation mission, led by the Honourable Lionel Chevrier, visited Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Cameroun, the Ivory Coast, Niger and Senegal. Its aim was to extend and intensify our programmes of economic co-operation in francophone Africa generally, and to this end the mission committed the Canadian Government to specific projects. Later in the year, Senator Paul Martin visited a number of francophone countries, including Rwanda, the Congo (Kinshasa), the Ivory Coast, Niger, and Senegal. The purpose of Senator Martin's trip was to attend the fifth anniversary of the Canadian-sponsored University of Rwanda. He took the opportunity while in Africa to visit the other countries mentioned and to hold talks with their leaders.

Canada continued to indicate its desire to participate in the projected francophone organization. To this end the Government accepted an invitation to participate in a conference, which is to be held in