

Smuts spoke of problems. Perhaps we use the word too often. It is scarcely fair to African nations, considering the crises and conflicts elsewhere, to present only the difficulties and dangers of political change in the continent. Haile Selassie, the monarch of the proud and ancient land of Ethiopia, has said:

"Africa, together with the rest of the non-aligned world, has emerged as a positive force for peace and harmony in our planet."

There can be no doubt as to the desire of African leaders to contribute to the welfare of the world community as a whole through the United Nations and other agencies of international action. Much as they welcome co-operation with nations elsewhere, they do not wish to have their continent become again a focal point for rivalries or for foreign political involvement because of some remaining colonial and racial problems.

Leaders of newly-independent states assert an African destiny. Kenneth Kuanda, the President of Zambia, has pointed out:

"We definitely shall want to learn from both the West and the East. But we shall reject in them that which we shall consider unsuited to our way of life; for, although we hunger and thirst for modern knowledge, we consider it only as a useful tool to help us rediscover and rebuild our own."

Sékou Touré, the President of Guinea, has given equal emphasis to this point:

"What must be constructed harmoniously and rapidly is an Africa that is authentically African. Africa has her own needs, concepts and customs. She does not seek to deck herself out in borrowed clothing that does not fit."

These are some of the voices of contemporary Africa. Perhaps the declarations and actions of these and other leaders explain the impression made on the former United Nations Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, of "the vitality of the present generation and the present leaders of the African world". Hammarskjöld, who was a perceptive and deeply-cultured observer of nations, spoke of an African renaissance.

In view of the very great differences between various parts of this immense continent, one cannot speak easily in general terms about Africa. We can only select developments or difficulties which are central in the concerns of some or most nations and which will serve as background to what is said about Canadian activities or about the currently dangerous situation in Rhodesia.

Economic development is probably the greatest and the most widely felt need. An average per capita income of about 33 cents a day can never support the aspirations of African leaders for justice, political stability and cultural expression. There is also the need to develop political institutions in the light of experience. Recent