

The Press: Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs be the Minister to head this mission to Latin America?

Mr. Sharp: No, I find that it is supposed to be some other Minister, I regret to say, though I am hoping I might go. I think I am going to be too busy at that time.

I expect that it will be other Ministers rather than the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The Press: What will be the purpose of this mission?

Mr. Sharp: The purpose of this mission will be to promote relations not only in trade but in cultural affairs and political affairs. This would be a broadly based mission that would be concerned about all aspects of our relationship.

The Press: Could you tell us in which French speaking countries the Government intends to establish five new missions?

Mr. Sharp: I regret that I cannot — I would like to assure you that the five exist, but it is part of the courtesy of international affairs that you should always have an agreement with the government concerned before you announce the missions that you are appointing.

The Press: Is it in Africa?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, some of the Missions we are talking about are in Africa.

The Press: As a supplementary, Mr. Sharp, I think that Mr. Benson indicated in December that we were not to open two new missions in French speaking Africa on account of economy, and this statement says by 1969. I would like to know whether it will be during this current fiscal year or whether it will be late '69 or even '70?

Mr. Sharp: No, it is our intention to appoint them by '69 and they are included within the projections of expenditures that have been approved by the Treasury Board.

The Press: The next fiscal year?

Mr. Sharp: I am not quite sure when they will be that is why I said by 1969.

The Press: Mr. Sharp, could you tell us how large a mission you envisage for the Latin American tour and possibly indicate which Ministers it might be?

Mr. Sharp: No I am not in a position to say that. It will be a representative mission and we will attach considerable importance to it. It will be headed by Ministers I can assure you.