

4. If the revised background memorandum and the covering memorandum meet with your approval they will be prepared in final form for the Minister without delay.¹

R.E. COLLINS

[PIÈCE JOINTE 1/ENCLOSURE 1]

*Projet de note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Draft Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], March 30, 1962

AID TO FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

You suggested from Geneva that the programme of Canadian aid to French-speaking Africa should be discussed with you on your return with particular reference to the fact that appropriations allocated to the programme have thus far not been fully utilized. Before raising the question of a possible increase in the present programme, which is dealt with in the attached memorandum, it may be useful to make some introductory remarks.

2. With respect to the apparent lack of effectiveness of the programme thus far, you may be interested in the observations Mr. Moran put forward before this subject was raised with you in Geneva. He noted that it is normal that the first year of operation of any programme is the difficult one. The common experience of all countries is that only limited financial expenditure can be made during the first year because time is required both for the receiving countries to assemble the necessary data for proposed projects and also for the donor country to examine the proposals and determine whether they are within its capabilities. For example, in the first year of the Colombo Plan no expenditure was made from the \$24.4 million appropriated except for the purchase of wheat. Less than fifty per cent of the funds appropriated were spent in the first two years of the Plan. The Special Commonwealth Aid for Africa Programme initiated last year is following the same pattern. A large portion of the current year's appropriation will lapse although commitments already undertaken are sufficient to use all of next year's anticipated allocation.

3. In addition to this general difficulty the External Aid Office was also hampered in this particular programme by the lack of a channel for direct contact with the governments to which assistance is being provided. As you will recall, it was necessary this year for Mr. Beaulieu to visit these countries in order to obtain sufficient information for the programme to be put into effect. The imminent establishment of diplomatic relations with all of the states eligible under this programme, except Mali and Mauritania, will provide the necessary direct contact. Henceforth, accredited Canadian representatives will make periodic visits to practically all of the eligible states and will be able to perform on a regular and continuing basis the tasks carried out by Mr. Beaulieu on his visit. It is conceivable, therefore, that many of the specific problems encountered with this programme will be eliminated or diminished in the very near future.

4. For the foregoing reasons, the relative ineffectiveness of the programme for aid to French-speaking Africa would seem to be a temporary problem. (Mr. Moran may wish to comment

¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

I think that we should await Mr. Moran's return and submit if possible an agreed presentation to the Minister. M. C[adieux]