

MISSION TO FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, recently announced that Mr. L. Chevrier, Commissioner-General for visits of state during centennial year, will head a special mission to study the Canadian economic development programme in French-speaking Africa. Mr. Chevrier will be accompanied by Dr. Henri Gaudefroy, Assistant Director General of the External Aid Office, and Mr. Jacques Dupuis of the Department of External Affairs.

The mission, which will leave Canada this month, will tour a number of French-speaking countries for about six weeks, to discuss the Canadian aid programme in detail at a senior level. On its return, the mission will submit a report to the Government on the state of Canada's aid programme to French-speaking Africa and will make recommendations concerning its growth and direction.

Since the programme's beginning in 1961, Canadian aid to *francophone* Africa has grown substantially, totalling \$35.5 million, of which approximately \$12 million was allocated during the current fiscal year. \$25 million has been in the form of out-

right grants and \$6.5 million in development loans. In addition, \$4-million worth of food aid has been allocated to North Africa.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The bulk of grant-aid has been used for technical assistance, including the training of students in Canada and the provision of teachers and technical advisers. Two of the major projects have taken the form of Canadian assistance for the University of Rwanda, and the provision of a team of 50 doctors, nurses and specialists for the Hôpital d'Enfants in Tunis.

In co-operation with Quebec, 251 French-speaking professors and teachers are serving, this year, in French-speaking Africa within the framework of the Canadian technical assistance programme.

Mr. Martin emphasised the fact that the expansion of Canadian assistance to *francophone* Africa is of special significance, representing an important aspect of the Government's policy of giving fuller expression abroad to Canada's bicultural character.

EX-SERVICEMEN EMPLOYMENT PLAN

The federal departments of National Defence and Manpower and Immigration have launched a programme to provide Canadian employers with better access to the pool of trained manpower representing some 2,000 members of the Armed Forces who reach compulsory retirement age each year.

The programme, which will co-ordinate the pre-retirement assistance programme of National Defence with the placement services of the Manpower Department, will try to ensure that retiring servicemen play an effective economic role as civilians by guiding them into the jobs for which they are best suited and which offer them good prospects.

At the military retirement age, officers and men have at least ten to 20 years more of productive life to look forward to before reaching the normal retirement age for civilian employment. Most have 25 years or more service to their credit, and many are experienced in the supervisory, administrative, managerial and technical spheres.

The Department of National Defence has been operating its own retirement-assistance plan for some time and its contribution to the joint programmes will be relatively unchanged. However, an evaluation of the existing programme during 1967, led to the conclusion that the Department of National Defence did not have all the resources available to offer a complete re-establishment service to retiring servicemen.

Under the revised programme, manpower counsellors will begin work with retiring servicemen up to 14 months before their retirement date. The counsellors will assess the individuals' military experience and qualifications, advise them on required training and guide them to the occupational and geographic areas

where their talents are most in demand.

As retirement date nears, the job placement service available through the national network of Canada Manpower Centres will be utilized. The objective will be to establish individuals in long-term employment where they can make the maximum use of their talents and employers can get maximum benefit from their services.

These men represent an important pool of talent with qualifications that are now in short supply in the Canadian labour market. By making this talent available to private industry, the new Civilian Employment Assistance Programme (CEAP) can help employers meet Canada's shortage of experienced managers and supervisors.

The Department of Manpower and Immigration programmes of Occupational Training for Adults and Manpower Mobility will also be applied where necessary to equip retired servicemen for employment or to help them move to an area where work is available.

EDUCATIONAL AIDS SHOWN IN U.S.

Canada is exhibiting the most comprehensive display of instructional materials ever assembled at the Convention of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City, New Jersey, this month. The convention, which is held annually, attracts school administrators from all areas of the United States. The exhibit is part of the convention programme.

The Canadian educational-equipment industry is today exporting the most sophisticated teaching-aids. A great variety of equipment items and supplies — some entirely unfamiliar to U.S. school adminis-