

742.

L.S.L./Vol. 182

*Rapport du ministre des Mines et des Relevés techniques
et l'envoyé spécial du Canada aux célébrations
de l'indépendance du Ghana
pour le premier ministre*

*Report from Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys
and Canada's Special Envoy to the Ghana Independence Celebrations
to Prime Minister*

Ottawa, March 28, 1957

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

May I, on behalf of Mrs. Prudham, my daughter Catherine, members of my staff and myself, thank you for giving us the privilege of representing Canada at the ceremonies inaugurating the new State of Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast.

It was a voyage of discovery for us all, marked by a great deal of colourful pageantry, especially during the official ceremonies.

We arrived at Accra on Saturday, March 2nd, after having spent three days enroute, including a one night stopover in the Azores and one night in Dakar, French West Africa.

The morning we left Ottawa it was 5° below zero at Uplands and when we arrived in Accra it was nearly 90° above, and there was little variation in temperature during our visit in Ghana. In the daytime it was usually 90° above and at nights 80° above, with 80 to 85 percent humidity throughout.

As is usual, local residents apologized for the climate, stating that it was unusually hot.

Our hosts, the Government and people of Ghana, were most hospitable. Our official party was lodged in Government-owned bungalows and our aircrew, numbering fourteen, were billeted with the military.

Two representatives of the C.B.C. and four newspapermen, Pierre Chalout of *Le Droit*, J. McCook of *The Ottawa Journal*, R. Taylor of the *Toronto Star* and A. Holland of the *Toronto Telegram*, were lodged at the University in Legon suburb.

Four new cars were assigned to the official party, and the newsmen as well as the aircrew were also provided with transportation. With each car there was a university student acting as an aide, as well as a uniformed chauffeur.

Dr. O. Ault, of the Civil Service Commission of Canada, and Mrs. Ault, who preceded us to Ghana by four or five weeks, were most helpful in assisting us to adjust ourselves to the tropical way of life and in meeting people of significance.

Dr. Ault, as you probably know, has been conducting a survey of the Gold Coast for the United Nations, related to the Africanization of the Civil Service. Dr. Ault and his wife are a very cosmopolitan couple and seem to inspire confidence wherever they go. One evening during our stay in Ghana, they were guests of a civilian family, sharing their hospitality and native food, even though Dr. Ault was suffering at the time from a characteristic tropical ailment.

On our first day in Ghana we travelled to the site of the proposed Volta River power development. We were guests of Dr. and Mrs. Grimes-Graeme. Dr. Grimes-Graeme represents the Aluminum Company of Canada in that country. We also had as travelling companions Sir Robert Jackson, Chairman of the Volta River Project Preparatory Commission,