



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 66/8

## CANADA AND AFRICA

Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario, Toronto, February 19, 1966.

I am very pleased, Madame President, to have been asked to speak at the annual conference of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario. I understand that you have based your discussions on the theme "The World -- Your Neighbourhood" and that you want to hear something of Canada's role in world affairs. It is always a pleasure for me as Minister of External Affairs to meet Canadians of various professions with whom I can share a deep interest in other countries and in our own country's international activities.

I am particularly aware of your responsibility in explaining developments in the contemporary world to children. I know, from meetings with many of the people concerned, how many Canadian teachers are making a contribution to education elsewhere by taking part in programmes of economic and social assistance in developing countries. I have, therefore, chosen to speak on Canada and Africa, because I consider this to be a major theme of current interest.

Developments in Africa provide some of the most startling examples of political and social change which we have witnessed in this century. Some of this change was foreseen. Jan Christian Smuts, the eminent South African leader of an earlier period, said in 1929:

"The peoples of Africa are infected with the vague unrest which has universally followed the Great War. For better or worse the old Africa is gone and the white races must face the new situation which they have themselves created in this continent. Africa is going to be one of the major problems of the twentieth century, and the repercussions of that problem on the rest of the world may be very far-reaching yet."

Even to mention Smuts is a vivid reminder of how much has changed in Africa generally and in its relations with the rest of the world. Thirty-two nations have achieved independence in the continent since 1945. If our thoughts are still coloured by the memories of empires and colonies, then we must make a particular effort to rid ourselves of old assumptions. There are new voices to listen to and to understand.