

CHAPITRE X/CHAPTER X

AFRIQUE
AFRICA

PREMIÈRE PARTIE/PART I

AIDE AUX PAYS FRANCOPHONES D'AFRIQUE
AID TO FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

849.

PCO

*Note du secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le Cabinet*

*Memorandum from Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Cabinet*

CABINET DOCUMENT NO. 110-61

[Ottawa], February 10, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR
FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN STATES

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan¹ has attracted considerable favourable attention throughout Canada. It has been pointed out, however, that our French-speaking universities and other educational institutions can participate in it only to a very limited extent because countries to which the Plan applies are English-speaking. It has therefore been urged in Parliament and outside that some effort be made to find a way in which Canada's French-language universities and other educational institutions could participate more fully in schemes for educational assistance.

These suggestions have come forward at a time when a number of former French and Belgian dependent territories in Africa have attained independence. By the end of 1961 some seventeen states of which the predominant language is French (apart from the native tongues) will have reached independent nationhood.

These newly-independent nations will look to Canada for help because Canada shares with them a common language, is not a colonial power, and has expressed interest in emerging Africa; and also because these newly-independent states may wish to reduce their political, economic and cultural dependence on France and Belgium.

French-speaking Africa is an area of great potential importance with a total population of approximately 45 million. It is in our interest that the educational needs of these countries be met as far as possible from the West. They are sympathetic to the West but they must seek outside assistance to remain viable and if Western countries are to retain influence in this area, it is important that they provide assistance. These African countries have voiced their needs for scholarships abroad for their French-speaking students, for French-speaking teachers in their own countries and for other types of educational assistance. Canada is one of the countries whose help they would most appreciate because Canadian assistance would not be surrounded by embarrassing implications that these countries were still dependent on the former colonial

¹ Voir/See Volume 27, document 126.