

In all five countries, Canada's stand on Southern African issues was well understood and accepted. African leaders I met expressed their satisfaction with Canada's position on these problems as expressed by our public statements and our voting record at the United Nations.

In my discussions with African leaders, I emphasized the need for a peaceful solution to the problems of Southern Africa. Large-scale hostilities in Africa could only bring about the ruin of the economy of the black nations and destroy any hope for the betterment of the life of their peoples. Such hostilities would inevitably involve outside powers and threaten a new conflict equal in magnitude to the tragedy of the Middle East or Vietnam.

I think we should realize and accept that our capacity to influence the white racist minorities in Southern Africa is limited and can best be exercised multilaterally through the United Nations and the Commonwealth. What we can do ourselves is to offer economic and political support for the developing countries of Black Africa. In this way, we can make a positive contribution to the solution of the deep-seated problems of Africa, and it is here that our energies should be focussed. This is bound to be more rewarding for Africans and Canadians alike than wasting our energies in empty gestures designed to tell the world of our moral rectitude on racial questions.

I discussed the question of La Francophonie with members of the governments in the Congo and the Ivory Coast, and explained Canada's position concerning this group of countries which are united by the French language and culture.

I assured them that Canada was completely committed to co-operation with French-speaking countries in general and particularly to the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation of which we are full members. I took this occasion to express our hope that the African countries would be participating equally fully in this organization to promote understanding and mutual assistance. In my opinion such full participation will permit more rapid and complete development of all the people concerned.

I also remarked that although our assistance to French-speaking African countries had begun slowly and modestly, it was our intention, now that it has reached the same level as our assistance to the Commonwealth African countries, to continue it not only for the benefit of the receiving countries but also to reaffirm Canada's bicultural character.

My tour of Africa, while all too brief, left me with a number of warm and deep impressions.

First, Canada is highly regarded and its name stands very high in Africa. Africans have given us their confidence, and it is this trust which creates an obligation on our part to