

The decision of Prime Minister Heath's Government to renew British arms sales to South Africa was a major issue at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference at Singapore in January. Prime Minister Trudeau had earlier made known to Prime Minister Heath his concern about the effect these arms would have on the Commonwealth's future and played a leading role in working out an accommodation on this issue. He urged that the immediate issue be placed in the larger perspective of the long-term future of Africa. As a result of the deliberations, an eight-nation study group was to be established to investigate the question of arms sales. However, Britain's decision in February to sell *Wasp* helicopters to South Africa dealt this plan a fatal blow.

In East and West Africa, Canada's principal interest lies in the sphere of aid and development. In the English-speaking countries of West Africa, Canadian assistance is concentrated primarily in Nigeria and Ghana. Of special interest since the return of peace in Nigeria has been the role Canadian aid has played in the process of reconciliation and reconstruction. Because of the growing importance of trade with Liberia, the Canadian Ambassador to Abidjan will shortly be accredited there. In East Africa, Canada has mounted substantial aid programs in the three countries that constitute the East African Community -- Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

In March the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, made a tour of sub-Saharan Africa, the first ever undertaken by a Canadian foreign minister. Visiting Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Congo (Kinshasa)<sup>(1)</sup>, Tanzania and Zambia, he had an opportunity to see at first hand projects being carried out under Canadian development-aid programs and to talk to a number of distinguished African leaders about problems of common interests.

On September 30, a strong delegation from the Organization of African Unity, headed by President Moktar Ould Daddah of Mauritania, visited Ottawa in the course of a tour of NATO and Nordic countries undertaken to gain support for the position of the OAU on Southern African questions. The delegation, having previously had conversations with the Secretary of State for External Affairs in New York, consulted with Prime Minister Trudeau and met the Governor General. During the course of these talks, Canada's rejection of colonialism and racism was reaffirmed and the delegation expressed its appreciation for Canada's stand on these issues.

#### African Affairs (II) Division

The year 1971 has seen the continued intensification and diversification of relations between Canada and *francophone* Africa, so that Canadian activity in that part of the world has never before been as intense. The Honourable Mitchell Sharp was able to note this for himself when he became the first Secretary of State for External Affairs to visit Africa south of the Sahara.

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(1) Now Zaire.