

Mr. Chairman, Canada is at present making substantial contributions to education in less developed countries and will therefore follow with particular interest the discussion on the draft resolution entitled "Training and education in countries in process of development, especially in Africa". The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom has already referred in her remarks to the Commonwealth Scholarship Programme which was instituted to arrange student exchanges among Commonwealth countries. Canada's share in this scheme amounts to one million dollars a year which will permit some two hundred students from Commonwealth countries to study in Canada at any one time. The majority of these will come from Africa and other less-developed areas. At the Commonwealth Education Conference of 1959 which launched this scheme, Canada announced also a special programme to provide and train teachers for developing Commonwealth countries. Canadian educationalists are now serving under this programme in a number of countries and more will be provided in the near future.

During his statement in the General Assembly, on September 26, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, announced that as its share in the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme which has just been established, Canada planned to contribute 10.5 million dollars over a three year period towards the development of African countries within the Commonwealth. Some of these funds will be devoted to technical assistance and aids to education.

These bilateral programmes which will bring assistance complementary to United Nations programmes, are regarded as Canada has increased its contribution to United Nations assistance programmes which will reach other African countries, a great number of which are French-speaking. Canada, as a bilingual country, has very considerable facilities for education and training in the French language and a large pool of French-speaking technical personnel. It will therefore welcome French-speaking students from Africa under United Nations programmes. The Canadian Government is prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent with the United Nations in providing training and expert personnel for French-speaking African countries under these programmes.

Mr. Chairman, as I have already encroached too long on the time of the Committee, I shall conclude my statement at this point and shall reserve any remarks on the other draft resolutions to another time.

Thank you.

