

racial discrimination and its repercussions.

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 focused. 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.

COMMITMENT TO FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

I discussed the question of *la Francophonie* with members of the Governments in the Congo and 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 share with them some of our resources by participating as partners in their

programs for economic and social development. This can be achieved by offering to Africa the best in Canada from those fields where Canadians have achieved excellence and special expertise.

TRADE PROSPECTS

Such a joint venture will benefit not only Africans but Canadians. The Canadians serving in various capacities over the continent, old or young, missionaries or volunteers, CIDA personnel or businessmen, are engaged in useful, constructive and essential projects. On their return to Canada, what they have learned about the common human condition will stand them in good stead and will help us all to a better understanding of the world we live in. If one is seeking economic justification for external aid, as development proceeds, African countries will become markets for Canadian products, particularly capital goods, and mutually beneficial trade should increase. Already, in some of the larger countries like Nigeria and the Congo (Kinshasa), interesting commercial prospects are arising.

Our co-operation with and assistance to Africa can become among the best and most realistic expressions of our national character. Canada and Africa have been enriched by two great European cultures and languages; both Canada and the African countries I visited are engaged in the strengthening of their national unity and sovereignty; like the countries of Africa, Canada is still in the course of development; and, along with our African friends, Canadians abhor the immoral and inhuman policies implemented by the white minority régimes of Southern Africa.

I return from my tour with the conviction that we must continue and increase over time our contribution to the economic development programs of our African friends. Our co-operation with *anglophone* and *francophone* countries of Africa reflects our own national personality. Our participation in the harmonious economic development of African countries constitutes, I believe, the best way of promoting peace through social justice and the most effective response to the challenge of racial inequality in Southern Africa.

On my way through London to Africa, I met with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Arnold Smith, and on my return journey I gave him some of my impressions which I thought might interest him in his official capacity.

A recent survey of apartments (six units or over) showed low-vacancy rates in all areas except Calgary and Montreal. Ottawa-Hull and Hamilton showed the lowest rate of apartment vacancies, at 1.5 per cent. Edmonton, Quebec, Windsor, Toronto and Vancouver all had vacancy rates of less than 3.0 per cent. London, Winnipeg and Halifax registered slightly higher vacancy rates - though still below 4 per cent, while Montreal and Calgary at 6.4 and 6.8 per cent respectively, had the highest rates.