

In other words, our diplomacy is broader in scope; and its sphere of activity is becoming world-wide.

The House will recall that in the early sixties, the Government undertook to strengthen Canada's ties with Africa and to give greater impetus to her relations with that vast continent, where some thirty new nations were struggling, under invariably difficult conditions, to meet the formidable challenges with which history had confronted them: their emergence from colonial status, the consolidation of national political institutions, the development of regional and continental co-operation transcending the boundaries arbitrarily established in the colonial era, economic and social development, the restoration and integration of traditional cultures, the struggle against racism and colonialism in the southern regions.

Canada had an obligation to support the efforts of these nations to the best of its ability. For this reason, the Government considered it important to consolidate and strengthen the ties which Canada had established with the English-speaking African nations within the Commonwealth. It was necessary, however, to extend Canadian diplomatic representation to the French-speaking African countries without delay, to establish with their governments bilateral development programmes and contribute to their financing, and to organize with them programmes of cultural and technical co-operation on both a multilateral and a bilateral level.