

leadership in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie often promotes African development and brings us increasingly closer to Africa through political dialogue.

Canada has taken a very clear stand on the issues of democratization, respect for human rights, and guarantees of civil liberties and individual freedoms. The respect for these basic, universal values is essential to allow all segments of society to participate in effective development. In this context, Canada is providing assistance and expertise to support African countries that have initiated political and economic reforms. Canadian leadership, especially in the Commonwealth and other organizations, has been very important in the campaign to dismantle apartheid in South Africa.

In short, Canada's relations with Africa over the past decade have obviously progressed beyond missionary work and development support. Although these remain important aspects, our relations are increasingly assuming the nature of political, social, economic and cultural dialogue and partnership.