

African countries, if they were members of E.E.C., and if Britain belonged to that community, would have had special treatment in the British markets which would not be available to Commonwealth countries.

The whole issue, of course, is so full of paradox and complex things of this kind. There is Nigeria's special relationship with E.E.C. which I really ought not to try to define. I think you should have a good economist do this.

Senator MACKENZIE: In this connection it is my feeling the African colonies of Britain obtained their independence without problems. By and large the French colonies had a good deal of trouble. However, since the changeover—perhaps this is because of the news we get—there seems to be more trouble developing in the former British colonies than in the French-language colonies.

Mr. HOLMES: There is a considerable difference, of course, between the North African countries and those south of the Sahara. Algeria certainly had trouble. I do not think there was very much difficulty in what they call the countries south of the Sahara, the black African French countries. That really went pretty smoothly, but now they are suffering more from Chinese penetration, I think, than the former British countries. For the most part they are smaller, and a good many of them are more primitive. You have had more struggling for leadership, and some of them, like the Congo, have been subject to coups which has pretty close ties with the eastern bloc. Mali was the same. There were two or three coups in French countries just before the ones in Nigeria and Ghana, but Nigeria and Ghana are much more in the public eye and there is much more general world-wide interest in them. That is the difference. But I think they are having troubles and, in some ways, seem to be more vulnerable than the Commonwealth countries.

Senator MACKENZIE: Would you venture a guess as to relative importance of the two blocs?

Mr. HOLMES: This is one of the things we tend to forget. As I have hinted at before in talking about aid to the Commonwealth, many people think this is a policy of exclusiveness on our part, but the Commonwealth includes a large proportion of all the peoples of Asia and Africa. In Africa the Commonwealth includes Nigeria, which has a population almost equal to all the others put together, plus Kenya and Ghana, most of the more populous countries. And French African countries south of the Sahara are less populous and, on the whole, more primitive.

It seems to me that in looking at Canada's policy towards the Commonwealth there is an opportunity for us to take quite an imaginative attitude. This may sound a little like fantasy, but I think one can think in terms of Canada's participating in two commonwealths: The British Commonwealth as we have always known it, which has been an institution; and then, using the term with a small "c", the French-speaking commonwealth—particularly the new countries of Africa and some in Asia where French is still spoken. These are countries that have shown considerable interest in special assistance from Canada. This is a challenge and a source of great interest to French speaking Canadians.

Senator MACKENZIE: Would you expand that a little, as to how much participation French-language Canada is taking in French-language Africa? As you know, a few years ago I had a hand in getting some university people from English-language Canada to go to French-language Canada to get some information, but at that time there was not much evidence of interest by any of us, English or French, in Africa. I was wondering whether it had developed since, to your knowledge.