

There is another point I am glad to emphasize, and that is the expansion of our diplomatic representation in French-speaking African countries. In 1961 we opened in Yaoundé our first embassy in that part of Africa that was formerly French. Our relations with Cameroun have since that time broadened considerably. Cameroun has in its turn become the first French-speaking African country to open a mission in Ottawa. Perhaps because they have been brought closer together by those national characteristics they have in common, such as bilingualism, Cameroun and Canada are today actively engaged in co-operation that will make evident the scope of the good relations that are developing so happily between the two countries. In order to provide a recent example of this co-operation, I should mention a bridge-construction project that will be undertaken in Cameroun within the framework of our aid programme.

In the Congo (Kinshasa), we have had commercial representation since 1946. This was converted into an embassy in 1962. The Congo is also represented in Ottawa. During this present year we have opened embassies in Senegal and Tunisia. It is clear that these specific moves, seen in their totality, reflect the importance which the Canadian Government ascribes to the development of its relations with the French-speaking African countries....

What are the great challenges that have faced us for the past decade and will continue for at least another ten years? Is it the balance of military force between the most powerful nations? Is it the solution of financial problems in the rich countries? The greatest challenge lies in the fact that only one-sixth of humanity is nourished sufficiently and well. Hunger in the world has become one of the most fundamental problems of our time. The fate of the human species depends to a large extent on the solution we find for it in the years to come. It is useless, indeed dangerous, to speak of reason, tolerance and social justice to those with empty stomachs.

For some years now, Canada, which is known to be one of the greatest producers of food-stuffs, has made very great efforts to carry out successfully the fight against hunger. Nevertheless, even if we were to spread our surplus production to the four corners of the earth, we could not by ourselves engage successfully in the struggle. That is why Canada, in addition to having its own programme of external aid, is an active member of the Colombo Plan, of the Food and Agriculture Organization (founded, incidentally, in Quebec in 1945), of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Canada has quadrupled the sum that it was pledged to allocate in food-stuffs and currency to the World Food Programme during the present three-year period. It has done this without lessening the support it gives to other international institutions. This year, 33 Canadian experts are working in 21 countries, assisted by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Those countries suffering from hunger turn toward Canada and we, in turn, set under way programmes of foreign aid that have increased at an accelerating rate. From April 1, 1961, to May 31, 1965, Canada allocated \$139,752,000 to food aid, principally in the form of wheat and of flour. This was done on a bilateral basis with the Colombo Plan countries. In addition,