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## VISIT OF PIERRE DE BANÉ TO MALI AND UPPER VOLTA

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On his visit to Africa, Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Francophone Affairs Adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, today made known the positive and promising results of his visit to Mali and Upper Volta. His African visit will also take him to Niger and Ivory Coast.

During Mr. De Bané's talks with President Traore of Mali and President Zerbo of Upper Volta, as well as with the chief ministers of these two countries, a general harmony of opinion was reached on the major international issues such as the North-South Dialogue and La Francophonie. The two presidents commended Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau on his leadership in the reopening of the North-South Dialogue. Pierre De Bané also informed his hosts of the Canadian government's intention of reinforcing its programmes of co-operation with these countries.

On the North-South Dialogue, central to the concerns of the International Community, De Bané's contacts were pleased to hear him express Canada's desire to make every effort to improve the living conditions of the developing countries. De Bané stressed the urgency of taking measures to alleviate the disparities between the industrialized and the developing countries. His hosts expressed their agreement and offered Canada their co-operation in the attainment of these goals.

On the matter of development of La Francophonie internationale, De Bané set forth Canada's policy and expressed Canada's unfailing support for the proposed meetings of heads of State and government of French-speaking countries.

The conversations on aid brought out a harmony of opinion on the priority areas, in particular alleviation of the countries' internal and external isolation, agriculture, water resources management and education. Pierre De Bané announced two grants from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the implementation of projects in Mali and Upper Volta.