



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

CANADA

No. 65/21 EDUCATIONAL AID TO FRENCH-LANGUAGE NATIONS

An Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a Briefing Conference for Canadian Teachers (French Language) Proceeding Abroad, University of Montreal, September 3, 1965.

May I begin by greeting all of you -- teachers and families -- who are just about to leave on such an important assignment. It is a pleasure for me to be with you and, apart from speaking to you, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible afterwards.

I understand that one of the chief purposes of the briefing programme in which you have been participating has been to enable you to see your assignment in the proper perspective. This is not just a matter of knowing beforehand some essential facts about the countries to which you will be going or about the arrangements for maintaining you there. I should like, as the Minister for External Affairs, to talk to you about some broad perspectives of national policy.

I am not, of course, thinking only of your work in the immediate future while you are abroad on these special assignments. Your position as educators in Canada and your current involvement in a project of considerable importance to Canada will enable you to appreciate the significance of these broader considerations.

First, let me mention some points about our assistance to French-speaking nations in Africa. This is of particular interest to you and has been a subject of discussion in Quebec generally. Since these nations became independent, Canada has co-operated actively in their social and economic development, particularly in educational development. There have been rapid and significant increases in this assistance, as in our aid programmes generally, in the past couple of years. Of 320 teachers who took part in projects overseas in the academic year 1964-65, 72 went to French-speaking countries, chiefly in Africa. During the coming academic year, 164 of a total of 540 will go to French-speaking countries, 14 of them in Africa and three in Southeast Asia.

This significant increase in activity is apparent also in the total funds allocated for such co-operative projects. In the first three fiscal years, \$300,000 was allocated to assistance for French-speaking Africa but, in November 1963, the Government decided to undertake a larger programme and, in the fiscal year 1964-65, \$4 million was committed to this area of the world. I am now glad to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government plans to