

The Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Senegal, Mr. Ousmane Seck, visited Canada from December 17 to the 22nd, accompanied by a delegation composed most notably of the Ambassador of Senegal to Canada, His Excellency Mr. André Coulbary, in addition to Senegalese officials directly concerned with cooperation between Senegal and Canada. In the course of his visit to Ottawa, the Minister was received by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp. The Minister and his delegation also met with Mr. Paul Gérin Lajoie, president of CIDA, Mr. d'Iberville Fortier, assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Claude Charland, Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Vincent Chapin, vice-president of the Export Development Corporation. The Senegalese delegation also visited Quebec City and Montreal for meetings with representatives of the Government of Quebec and private industry.

Following these discussions, it was agreed to conclude as soon as possible an agreement for the guarantee of investments. Negotiations were begun with a view to reach an agreement on economic and technical cooperation. In the commercial and cultural field, the need to intensify the commercial and cultural exchanges between the two countries was recognized. One specific question, that of the equivalence of diplomas between the two countries, was the subject of an agreement on principles. Further negotiations will take place after consultations with the educational authorities of the two countries. Canadian participation in the Dakar International Fair, to be held in November 1974, was again raised by the Senegalese delegation.

The working sessions between senior officials of CIDA and the members of the Senegalese delegation permitted the identification of areas of interest regarding integrated projects within the framework of the Fourth Economic and Social Development Plan of Senegal, areas which will require further study.

The representatives of Senegal and Canada acknowledged the excellent state, from both points of view, of the relations established in various fields between the two countries, as well as the usefulness of continuing the consultations on a regular basis, in order to promote relations between the two countries, predisposed as they are to close cooperation by a community of language and interests.