

one of our foreign service officers to Leopoldville as consul-général in the very near future. You may wish to inform Mr. Lumumba of this decision and ask him to do whatever he can to expedite our request.

#### *Economic Aid*

Mr. Lumumba will wish to discuss recruitment of French-speaking technicians in a wide variety of fields for service in the Congo. He has not explicitly stated that he will seek financial assistance from the Canadian Government for this purpose, but as the Congo is in serious financial difficulties, it is reasonable to assume that Mr. Lumumba has Canadian-financed technical assistance in mind.

None of the existing Canadian external aid programmes includes the Congo, or could be applied to it under the terms of the appropriations made by Parliament. There are, therefore, no funds available for Canadian technical assistance to the Congo, and new appropriations would have to be sought if it were decided to undertake an aid programme there. Strictly from the economic standpoint, there is at present far too little information available about the precise needs of the Congo for any recommendation to be made on what bilateral aid Canada might undertake to provide. For this reason, because the magnitude of the Commonwealth economic development programme for Africa which was discussed at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference has not yet been decided upon, and because Canadian aid for the Congo would probably give rise to requests for similar aid from other French-speaking territories in Africa, it would seem preferable to avoid any commitment to Mr. Lumumba.

The Congolese interest in obtaining aid from Canada arises in part, at least, from the fact that Canada is the only extra-European country with substantial training facilities in the French language and a large pool of French-speaking expert personnel. Provided that these resources are not over-burdened to the extent that Canada's own requirements cannot be met, the existing arrangements whereby the Canadian Government gives administrative assistance to some non-Canadian agencies in placing trainees in Canada and recruiting Canadian experts for service abroad could be used for the benefit of the Congo. Aid-giving agencies in the United States (public and private) and the United Nations have already expressed an interest in obtaining Canadian cooperation for this purpose. The assistance of the Canadian departments concerned can be provided at no direct cost.

It would, therefore, be possible to indicate to Mr. Lumumba that Canada is prepared to give its full co-operation to the United Nations in providing assistance to the Congo, and that requests for Canadian help received through the United Nations would be dealt with with sympathy and dispatch. Canada's contributions to the United Nations Special Fund and Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance will, of course, be used in part in the Congo. In this way a negative response to his approach could be avoided and he could be encouraged to rely to a large extent on the United Nations for development assistance, as it is better equipped at present than any other entity to assess and meet the Congo's needs and is already seized with the problem.

Should Mr. Lumumba wish and be able to make business arrangements with private concerns in Canada, presumably there would be no reason to discourage him.

#### *Scholarships and Teacher Training*

If questions are raised about the availability of scholarships for Congolese students, or about securing help in teacher training, it can be pointed out that none of the existing Canadian aid programmes includes African countries other than those in the Commonwealth. The most recent statement on the question of Canadian scholarships for French-speaking students was that made by Mr. Green in the House on July 14. An extract from his speech is attached.†