



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 66/36

### PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Excerpts from a Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, at a Briefing Conference for French-Language Teachers Proceeding on External Aid Assignments, University of Montreal, September 2, 1966.

...A few years ago, in similar circumstances, I appealed particularly to French-speaking Canadians to enter careers in our diplomatic service and to support Canadian activities overseas by taking part in other forms of our activity in the international field. I have always considered that it is vital for Canada to enter into closer contact with the French-speaking world and I have always believed that the Canadian presence in other parts of the world must reflect the bilingual and bicultural nature of our country.

You are probably aware that our allocations of aid to the French-speaking countries of Africa have grown from \$300,000 in 1963 to \$8 million in the course of the present fiscal year, while, during the same period, our allocations to French-speaking countries in Asia have gone from \$368,000 to \$3,500,000. To get a programme of this scope under way in a few years entailed some risks because it could not be accomplished without the dynamic involvement of interested governments, intermediate agencies, Canadian firms and, especially, our teachers. It is with great pleasure and legitimate pride that I state today that my appeal has been heard and that, for instance, the departure of a group as numerous as yours will bring to about 230 the number of our teachers in the French-speaking countries of Africa alone. This programme began in 1961 with seven teachers.

I am glad also that there has been an important increase in the number of French-Canadians working in the External Aid Office and that between 1/4 and 1/3 of the Foreign Service Officers now entering the Department of External Affairs speak French as their native language. The numbers are not yet sufficient in either case. I welcome this trend, however, towards a more balanced representation of the main elements of the Canadian population in carrying out our external-aid programmes and all the other broad purposes of our external policy.