

Canada's trade with Tunisia is modest. In 1960 Canada's exports to that country, consisting mainly of milk powder and primary aluminium, amounted to \$169,000.00. The 1960 figures for imports into Canada from Tunisia are \$61,700.00, consisting mainly of olive oil and phosphate fertilizers.

#### MATTERS WHICH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA MAY RAISE

##### (a) *Algeria*

In view of recent developments in Algeria, Tunisia's overriding preoccupation with the Algerian problem and the personal contribution President Bourguiba has made over the years in trying to facilitate a solution, it can be expected that he will raise the question of Algeria and will probably wish to develop his views on the subjects.

Attached are a background memorandum and some suggested talking points on the Algerian question.†

##### (b) *Canadian Economic, Technical and Educational Assistance*

Tunisia is in urgent need of assistance to develop its economy and to provide its people with greater educational and technical training opportunities. President Bourguiba may well enquire, therefore, whether there is any prospect of Canadian assistance in these fields. Since French is in effect Tunisia's second language, the President is perhaps more likely to raise the question of educational and technical assistance and to point out that because of its bilingual character, Canada is in a unique position to provide Tunisia with assistance in these fields. Tunisian interest in this possibility will no doubt have been raised by the Government's recent announcement of the scheme for educational assistance to French-speaking African states.

There are at present no Canadian Government programmes under which Tunisia could receive economic or technical assistance. With regard to educational assistance, no decision has yet been made concerning the countries which will be eligible to benefit from the recently announced programme for educational assistance to French-speaking African states. However, when it was drawn up it was envisaged that the programme would be designed primarily for the newly independent French-speaking African states south of the Sahara. There are 15 of these states with a total population of about 44 million who will have to share the \$300,000 which has been authorized for the programme. Were Morocco and Tunisia to be included this would mean that the programme would have to be spread more thinly over the participating states.

#### SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

1. Canadian-Tunisian cooperation at the United Nations, particularly on African and Congo questions and in the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Congo.
2. Canadian admiration for the very helpful and constructive role Tunisia has been playing in international relations, particularly for its loyal support of the United Nations and the United Nations operation in the Congo. (With a population of only 3.8 million and very limited economic resources Tunisia has sent to the Congo a contingent which numbered 3,170 at the end of March 1961.)
3. The confident expectation might be expressed that now that the diplomatic connection between Canada and Tunisia has been completed by the accreditation of a Canadian Ambassador to Tunisia, relations between the two countries will become even closer.