

an obligation that is rendered easier to fulfil by the friendship, kinship and practical ties that happily exist between those countries and Canada.

Our efforts at the governmental level will be all the more valuable if meetings such as this widen the horizons of the average Canadian citizen and draw him out of the traditional setting that has hitherto confused his thinking on foreign relations, a setting that is no longer compatible with the extent of our commitments or with the era of interdependence in which we live. What, I think, is to be particularly commended is the practical angle from which you have approached these problems and the concrete character of the projects that have held your attention.

This Africa with which you have been concerned during the past few days is eminently worthy of our consideration. The least one can say is that, in the midst of rapid, and at times upsetting, changes, it maintains its position in the headlines. Since 1945, 32 new political entities have appeared there. And it would seem that the great African nationalist movement that has renovated the political face of the continent has not reached its final stage. A year and a half ago, at Addis Ababa, the 35 independent countries of Africa, acting with remarkable speed and co-operation, laid the basis of the Organization of African Unity. In so short a time, this international organization has already demonstrated its importance and sense of responsibility, notably in the solution of the conflict between Algeria and Morocco and the progress registered in the dispute between Somalia and its neighbours. More recently, the Congolese situation has faced the OAU with a stiff test.

A resolution adopted a few weeks ago by the Security Council recognized that the OAU had an important part to play in the solution of the Congolese conflict. The Canadian Government, a substantial contributor to the United Nations Operation in the Congo from 1960 to 1964, believes that a solution not endorsed by the majority of the African states has little chance of success. We also feel that this conflict cannot be solved by military force. Only a political solution can restore peace in the Congo.

Three other problems are of capital importance for the future of the continent and the development of friendly and fruitful relations between the West and the new African countries. These are the problems raised by the Portuguese territories, Rhodesia and the apartheid policies of South Africa. A factor common to all three situations is the problem of relations between people of the black and white races. The Communist countries are hard at work persuading the rest of Africa that the West is contributing to the maintenance of white supremacy in the southern part of the continent. Yet the Canadian attitude toward these problems presupposes the possibility, and indeed the necessity, of co-operation in all fields between black and white people. Such co-operation must be based on mutual respect and a conviction that our respective interests are complementary rather than competitive.