

visited, Nigeria and Ghana, are two of Canada's staunchest friends within this association of English-speaking countries; consequently, it was my intention to review Commonwealth affairs with them.

Finally, since bilateral consultations between friendly countries can be arranged only rarely at the level of heads of government and only occasionally at the ministerial level, I wanted to discuss with my hosts ways of achieving closer consultation between our countries at the diplomatic and administrative level.

Allow me to add some personal considerations. In many respects, Africa had always remained at the edge of my consciousness, as is the case with many Canadians. Canada had the advantage of developing her relations with Africa free from the burden of a colonial past. Yet, despite the traumatic effect colonialism had on relations between African peoples and former colonial powers, it has nevertheless given the latter an insight into Africa that Canada did not possess. History has been kind to Canada in sparing her the horrors of slavery; but, consequently, those of African origin are few in Canada and, unlike other Western Hemisphere nations, we cannot rely on the cultural and ethnic ties created by these forced migrations to nurture our relations with Africa.

These were my personal reasons for wishing to visit Africa as soon as possible after my appointment as Secretary