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ships. Canadian aid, which is administered by highly capable Canadian representatives and experts, is considered to be very effective in all those countries. Besides this bilateral aid, Canada contributes substantially to multilateral and regional organizations operating in Africa. For instance, for a long time Canada was the greatest contributor to African development funding and I think that today we rank second or third with regard to our contributions to the entire African continent.

Friendly  
relations

I must also add that our relations with those countries have been open and friendly. Everywhere I have been, like my predecessors, I have had open and constructive discussions with local officials. Canada's advice and support are sought and solicited everywhere. The meetings that I have had with each head of state of those friendly nations (and only last week I spoke with President Sekou Toure of Guinea and President Omar Bingu of Gabon), show that our relations are diversified and that we are aware of all the latest problems. Guinea is reaching out for Canada while at the same time Canada, through this African state, is widening its audience in Africa. My meeting with the President of Guinea marked the first official visit by a Canadian minister since the country became independent in 1958. I saw that the President of Guinea is considered, not only in his own country but also throughout the continent and the Islamic world as a great leader who was able to forge a nation in his country, where private Canadian interests have been represented for many years. He was kind enough to grant me four meetings with him and we discussed various current issues. I also met with the President of Gabon, and of course all the signs of friendship which were expressed were not directed to me personally but to the Canadian people as a whole.

There exists between Canada and the French-speaking countries, both at the bilateral and the multilateral levels, common grounds for co-operation and understanding. In this world which is divided in rich and poor nations, industrialized and developing countries, along a North/South or an East/West axis, Canada is in a good position to effect a *rapprochement* between both sides, and to define, with those countries, the means to help achieve harmony and make development a success. The trips of the Prime Minister as well as my own trips have convinced me that we stand to gain in every way from building closer ties with French-speaking countries like Canada.

In closing I should like to emphasize that many Canadians, missionaries, volunteers, businessmen, have worked and invested everywhere throughout the francophone world....

I intend to pursue my work especially in Africa. I urge my friends, ministers and members to go there and concretely foster ties that are not only dear to us but, let us admit it, useful in every way. I have had the opportunity to discuss topics which are of common interest to ourselves and our African hosts in a very positive way, such as the United Nations, the law of the sea, disarmament, trade, peace in the world, first and foremost on African soil, because Canada is implementing a policy of co-operation, mutual aid, assistance and friendship with those countries, in short, one of concrete political presence. We must strengthen our role in support for and contribution to the international francophone world and our co-operation with all the countries involved. Every part of Canada will be the richer for it.

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