

BRIEFING FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING TEACHERS  
(Continued from P. 2)

number of you will be spending the next year. The embassy in Dakar, when it is opened, will help greatly to strengthen ties with Africa generally and will provide a third mission in French-speaking Africa, the other two being our embassies in Cameroun and Léopoldville in the Congo.

The expansion in our relations with Africa will continue during the next two years. We expect to be able to announce very shortly the opening of another post in addition to Dakar, and then to open four more posts in the next two years. The speed with which we can implement this programme will, of course, depend on the availability of administrative resources and on our ability to recruit suitable bilingual personnel who can both operate effectively in this area and reflect the bilingual and bicultural nature of our Canadian society. This is a particularly important aspect of our current planning...

When this expansion is completed, we expect to have 13 diplomatic missions and one trade commissioner's office in Africa. Five of these will be in French-language countries, five in independent Commonwealth countries and four in other countries. Furthermore, because of multiple accreditations to nearby states, we shall be able to use staff from these missions to attend to Canadian interests of all types in most parts of Africa.

RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

We have made an extended tour of the world in considering aid programmes and missions in Africa. The last point on the overseas horizon to which I would refer this morning is France and, with her, other nations where French is spoken. Our economic interest in African nations where French is spoken overlaps another very important part of our external policy, that of relations with the French-speaking world generally and with France. Our first interest, so far as aid programmes are concerned, lies in the needs of the developing countries concerned, but we are glad when economic co-operation can be parallel to, and even reinforce, political and cultural interests, whether expressed in French about former French colonies or in English about Commonwealth countries. France is, of course, carrying out a very comprehensive economic and cultural programme in Africa and we are glad to consult with the French about the way in which our efforts can be related to theirs.

Shortly after the declaration on increased aid in November 1963 which I referred to earlier, the Government took important steps to develop closer relations with France in all fields. The visit which the Prime Minister and I made to President de Gaulle and his ministers at the beginning of 1964 inaugurated what I am sure will be considered a new era in such relations. The consultation between the President and Prime Minister has provided the stimulus and set the framework for consultations at many levels on many subjects since.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to consult with M. Couve de Murville on four occasions, since I have found these meetings of great significance for our two countries. We expect to have economic consultations at a senior level soon. Only a few days ago, we had the pleasure of welcoming French members of Parliament to Ottawa before...their visit to many parts of Canada. They will create permanent connections with their Canadian colleagues.

I have always held strongly to the belief that Canada's foreign policy should reflect the bilingual and bicultural character of our country. I have already mentioned some of the ways in which I think we are making substantial progress in this direction. Canada, it seems to me, has a unique opportunity in relation to the developing countries of Africa and of Asia which, in the past few years, have become independent but have a heritage of British or French educational institutions. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to take the opportunity that our history has given us at this stage in world affairs and to do all that we can to assist those developing countries in which English or French is the second language.

In addition, we must strengthen and develop our relations with the French-speaking countries of Europe, first of all with France itself but also with Belgium and Switzerland. For the past two years, the Government has been rapidly increasing resources devoted to promoting cultural and educational exchanges with the French-speaking countries of Europe. On the basis of the promising start made last year with the allocation of \$250,000, the Government has recently decided to spend during the current fiscal year \$1 million on these exchanges, most of it to bring students, and some professors, from the great French-speaking universities of Europe to our universities. In return, there will, no doubt, be increasing opportunities for French-speaking students from across Canada to study in European universities. At the same time, there will be an increasing flow of cultural visits and exchanges in both directions. Meanwhile, we are negotiating general cultural agreements with both France and Belgium and hope to have mixed commissions of experts representing both countries who will plan the expanding programmes to take account of the principal interests and opportunities on both sides....

Practical arrangements to give effect to the expansion of contacts and exchanges of all kinds between France and Canada at the federal, provincial or municipal levels have been facilitated and promoted by the Federal Government. Far from wishing to restrain such exchanges, we hope that they will grow and increase to the benefit of Canada as a whole. We recognize that the interest of Quebec is naturally stronger than in other parts of Canada, since Quebec has the highest proportion of French-speaking Canadians. As the External Affairs Minister, I consider the interest of all Canadians, whether the matter at issue be in the political, cultural or foreign-aid field. I am glad to see advances in external policy which are in accord with the interests, obligations, traditions and sentiments of all Canadians....

\* \* \* \* \*