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OFFICIAL VISIT BY MR. ABDOU DIOUF,
PRIME MINISTER OF SENEGAL, MAY 27-29, 1971

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

During his official visit to Canada from May 27 to 29, the Prime Minister of Senegal, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, had talks on Friday morning with the Acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, and the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie.

This is the Senegalese Prime Minister's first official visit abroad since he took office in February 1970. He is accompanied by the Minister of International Co-operation, Mr. Emile Badiane, the Secretary of State for Planning, Mr. Ousmane Seck, the Senegalese Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Cheikh Fall, and a group of senior officials.

During his visit to Ottawa, the Senegalese Prime Minister was received by Mr. Sharp, Acting Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean-Luc Pépin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.

During his meeting with Mr. Sharp, the Senegalese Prime Minister and the Acting Prime Minister congratulated each other on the new ties that have developed between the two countries as a result of their membership in the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation between French-speaking Countries, in the establishment of which the President of Senegal, His Excellency Léopold Senghor, was so prominent.

The main subjects of the meeting between Mr. Diouf and Mr. Pépin were the investment possibilities in Senegal for Canadian industry, and the expansion of trade between the two countries.

However, the chief purpose of Mr. Diouf's visit was discussion of co-operation between the two countries. The Prime Minister of Senegal accordingly had two meetings with the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Gérin-Lajoie.

At their working sessions, the Prime Minister and Mr. Gérin-Lajoie studied a number of aspects of Canadian assistance to the economic and social development of Senegal. Having reviewed existing programs of co-operation between the two countries, they looked at future projects in such varied fields as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, urban sanitation, town planning, cinema, television and telecommunications.

The Prime Minister of Senegal emphasized the high priority his Government attaches to the water-supply aspects of agricultural development; in recognition of that priority, CIDA agreed to provide assistance in the area in question.

CIDA gave a favourable reception to the presentation of the various proposals, and recognized the priorities indicated by the Prime Minister of Senegal. The proposals will be studied by the CIDA staff, and the Agency will shortly be sending a team of experts to Senegal to make a more accurate assessment of the projects in question, giving priority to irrigation and fisheries development.

Mr. Gérin-Lajoie announced a decision in principle by the Canadian Government to grant a loan on favourable terms to finance a project involving cold storage facilities for perishable foodstuffs. The project had been identified in 1968 by the Chevrier Mission, and was carried out by the Canadian firm, Cogetec, which submitted to both Governments a recommendation for the renovation of refrigeration facilities in Dakar, Rufisque, Kaolack and Saint-Louis, and the supply of refrigeration equipment for the storage of meat, fish and vegetables. It was agreed that the possibility of a second stage in the execution of this program would be considered at a later date.

The Prime Minister and the President of CIDA agreed that technical co-operation between the two countries should be stepped up by sending two technical advisers to Senegal, one to be assigned to the State Planning Secretariat and the other to the Ministry of International Co-operation.

The President of CIDA informed the Senegalese delegation of his desire to see Canadian aid geared more to the needs of regional communities, without in any way losing sight of national development objectives. The Prime Minister of Senegal expressed interest in this

approach, while stressing the importance of mobilizing the basic elements of the national development plan.

Both the Senegalese and the Canadian participants felt these meetings had been especially fruitful in that they had provided an opportunity to consider new approaches to co-operation between the two countries.