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## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Excerpts from a Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, at a Briefing Conference for French-Language Teachers Proceeding on External Aid Assignments, University of Montreal, September 2, 1966.

...A few years ago, in similar circumstances, I appealed particularly to French-speaking Canadians to enter careers in our diplomatic service and to support Canadian activities overseas by taking part in other forms of our activity in the international field. I have always considered that it is vital for Canada to enter into closer contact with the French-speaking world and I have always believed that the Canadian presence in other parts of the world must reflect the bilingual and bicultural nature of our country.

You are probably aware that our allocations of aid to the French-speaking countries of Africa have grown from \$300,000 in 1963 to \$8 million in the course of the present fiscal year, while, during the same period, our allocations to French-speaking countries in Asia have gone from \$368,000 to \$3,500,000. To get a programme of this scope under way in a few years entailed some risks because it could not be accomplished without the dynamic involvement of interested governments, intermediate agencies, Canadian firms and, especially, our teachers. It is with great pleasure and legitimate pride that I state today that my appeal has been heard and that, for instance, the departure of a group as numerous as yours will bring to about 230 the number of our teachers in the French-speaking countries of Africa alone. This programme began in 1961 with seven teachers.

I am glad also that there has been an important increase in the number of French-Canadians working in the External Aid Office and that between 1/4 and 1/3 of the Foreign Service Officers now entering the Department of External Affairs speak French as their native language. The numbers are not yet sufficient in either case. I welcome this trend, however, towards a more balanced representation of the main elements of the Canadian population in carrying out our external-aid programmes and all the other broad purposes of our external policy.

There is another point I am glad to emphasize, and that is the expansion of our diplomatic representation in French-speaking African countries. In 1961 we opened in Yaoundé our first embassy in that part of Africa that was formerly French. Our relations with Cameroun have since that time broadened considerably. Cameroun has in its turn become the first French-speaking African country to open a mission in Ottawa. Perhaps because they have been brought closer together by those national characteristics they have in common, such as bilingualism, Cameroun and Canada are today actively engaged in co-operation that will make evident the scope of the good relations that are developing so happily between the two countries. In order to provide a recent example of this co-operation, I should mention a bridge-construction project that will be undertaken in Cameroun within the framework of our aid programme.

In the Congo (Kinshasa), we have had commercial representation since 1946. This was converted into an embassy in 1962. The Congo is also represented in Ottawa. During this present year we have opened embassies in Senegal and Tunisia. It is clear that these specific moves, seen in their totality, reflect the importance which the Canadian Government ascribes to the development of its relations with the French-speaking African countries....

What are the great challenges that have faced us for the past decade and will continue for at least another ten years? Is it the balance of military force between the most powerful nations? Is it the solution of financial problems in the rich countries? The greatest challenge lies in the fact that only one-sixth of humanity is nourished sufficiently and well. Hunger in the world has become one of the most fundamental problems of our time. The fate of the human species depends to a large extent on the solution we find for it in the years to come. It is useless, indeed dangerous, to speak of reason, tolerance and social justice to those with empty stomachs.

For some years now, Canada, which is known to be one of the greatest producers of food-stuffs, has made very great efforts to carry out successfully the fight against hunger. Nevertheless, even if we were to spread our surplus production to the four corners of the earth, we could not by ourselves engage successfully in the struggle. That is why Canada, in addition to having its own programme of external aid, is an active member of the Colombo Plan, of the Food and Agriculture Organization (founded, incidentally, in Quebec in 1945), of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Canada has quadrupled the sum that it was pledged to allocate in food-stuffs and currency to the World Food Programme during the present three-year period. It has done this without lessening the support it gives to other international institutions. This year, 33 Canadian experts are working in 21 countries, assisted by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Those countries suffering from hunger turn toward Canada and we, in turn, set under way programmes of foreign aid that have increased at an accelerating rate. From April 1, 1961, to May 31, 1965, Canada allocated \$139,752,000 to food aid, principally in the form of wheat and of flour. This was done on a bilateral basis with the Colombo Plan countries. In addition,

it provided more than \$14 million to the following multilateral agencies: the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Food Programme.

It was only during the financial year 1964-65 that a separate food-aid programme, to which the sum of \$15 million was allocated, was established. Before the end of the year, supplementary grants for the food-aid programme had raised this amount to \$22 million, but, because of the serious famine in India, this figure finally rose to \$35 million for 1965-66. Supplementary allocations will be added to the basic allocations for the financial year 1966-67, and these will bring the total sum devoted to food aid by Canada to a new high of \$75 million.

The efforts undertaken by Canada to aid under-nourished countries are not limited to the provision of wheat and flour. Canada devotes an important part of its aid programme to the development of the agricultural sector, because the ultimate purpose of our foreign aid is to enable the countries concerned to meet their own needs from their own resources. Canada participates in hydro-electric projects, in measures of irrigation and land reclamation, and in projects of rural electrification and flood control. We make available to the countries that benefit from our overseas aid fishing-boats, farm instruments, pesticides and fertilizers. We have also sent overseas a great many technical advisers on co-operatives, agriculture and fisheries....

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