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VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, Mr. Nestor Kombot-Naguemon arrived in Ottawa on November 3 for a two-day visit. He came to Canada on the invitation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp. Mr. Kombot-Naguemon was accompanied by Mr. Michel Gallin-Douathe, Ambassador of the Central African Republic in Washington, D.C., and Mr. Victor Teteya, Director of the Central African National Radio in Bangui.

The two Ministers had a very cordial meeting, discussing subjects of international interest (peace and international security) and African affairs (decolonization, apartheid, Nigeria). During their exchange of views on "Francophonie" they emphasized the importance of intensifying technical and cultural co-operation among French-speaking nations.

The Central African and Canadian Ministers discussed existing relations between the two countries. On this subject, they expressed the desire to strengthen and diversify co-operation between their two countries especially in the economic, technical and commercial fields, and they agreed on the modalities to follow for co-ordination and effective operation in all these fields. For this purpose, the two countries also intend to intensify their diplomatic relations by accrediting Ambassadors to their respective governments.

Having noted the satisfactory state of existing relations between their two countries, the two Ministers emphasized the usefulness and importance, not only of increasing co-operation between governments, but also of encouraging private investment in all fields. The Central African delegation met officials of the Department of External Affairs and visited the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, on behalf of his delegation, expressed his gratitude to the Canadian Government for its welcome and hospitality. He also invited Mr. Sharp to visit the Central African Republic. Mr. Sharp accepted the invitation in principle; the dates of the visit will be arranged later.