



communiqué

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CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF MALI, APRIL 20 - 22

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, is pleased to announce today that the Vice-President of the Military Committee for National Liberation of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency the Lt.-Col. Amadou Baba Diarra, made an official visit to Canada on April 20, 21 and 22, 1977 at the invitation of the Canadian Government. The delegation he presided was composed of senior officials of the Services of the Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Rural Development. The Vice-President held discussions with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, the Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, and the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Michel Dupuy. The Vice-President also visited the International Development Research Centre. These discussions concerned political and economic relations between Canada and Mali, relations among Francophone countries, between developed and developing countries, and the situation prevailing in Africa.

It was agreed from the start that the general relations between the two countries are excellent. In the field of bilateral aid, both parties reviewed projects now being implemented and agreed to sign cooperation agreements concerning three new projects. The Vice-President of Mali and Mr. Jamieson signed these agreements today on behalf of their respective governments.

The first agreement concerns the integrated rural development project of Kaarta at the cost of 25 million dollars over a period of five years. This vast project will apply to an area including 350,000 inhabitants. It will have several components such as the improvement of cereal crops, the digging of 50 wells to supply water, the construction or improvement of approximately 700 kilometres of dirt road, the rationalization of livestock breeding, the protection of forests, the supply of medical equipment, etc.

The second project concerns the construction of a high-tension electrical transmission line between the dam of Sélingué and the city of Bamako at the cost of 9.2 million.

The third project concerns the protection of crops. Scheduled to be terminated at the end of 1977, this project of 425,000 dollars aims at establishing a system of light defensive measures against insects and other animals making extensive damage to crops in Mali, and at laying the foundation of a more important project in the same field, the details of which will be determined in the fall of 1977.

Given the importance of the Canadian aid programme to Mali, both parties agreed to establish annual consultations on aid.