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No. 37

STATE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UPPER VOLTA
MAY 13 - 16, 1975

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

At the invitation of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency General El Hadj Aboubakar Sangoulé Lamizana, President of the Republic of Upper Volta, is visiting Canada. The President of the Republic of Upper Volta is accompanied by Mr. Saye Zerbo, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Antoine Dakouré, Minister of Planning, Rural Development, Environment and Tourism; Mr. Mahamoudou Ouedraogo, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Urban Planning; Mr. Ali Lankouandé, Minister of National Education; and a sizeable party of experts and technicians.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Upper Volta was received by Their Excellencies the Governor General and Mrs. Léger. He has had discussions with the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, accompanied by the Honourable Jean Marchand, Minister of Transport, the Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State. He also had discussions concerning the French-speaking world and co-operation with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie. In addition, he visited the House of Commons, where he was officially received by the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Renaude Lapointe, and the Speaker of the House, the Honourable J. Jerome.

On the subject of international co-operation, the two parties exchanged points of view concerning current problems in the implementation of international development strategy.

On the subject of bilateral co-operation, the Canadian government affirmed its desire to increase its co-operation with Upper Volta. For this purpose, the Canadian government plans to spend about \$20 million during the next five years, mainly for the development of sectors assigned priority by the government of Upper Volta, such as rural development, transport and mines.

Accordingly, agreement was reached on the following:

(1) the installation of a fifty-kilowatt transmitter at Bobo-Dioulasso;

(2) missions to complete plans for the following projects:

(a) plant protection

(b) aerial geophysical prospecting in the western and southern central regions;

(3) missions to carry out further studies for the following projects:

(a) a road programme

(b) development of the valleys in the Upper Volta river system

(c) the Bambakari Dam;

(4) a mission to explore the possibility of assistance with training related to the priority sectors mentioned above.

The Canadian government stated its willingness to maintain its current level of aid to Upper Volta in the field of education. With regard to food aid, the Canadian government will continue to respond sympathetically to a situation that is at times difficult for Upper Volta.

Finally, the Canadian government will continue to provide assistance for regional programmes, such as the programme for combatting onchocerciasis. On the subject of regional programmes, both parties expressed satisfaction that the agreement on the Pan-African Telecommunications Network linking the countries of the region was signed during the visit of the President of the Republic of Upper Volta.

On May 15, the President of Upper Volta leaves Ottawa for Montreal, where he will be the guest of the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec. Subsequently, he will go to New Brunswick, where he will be received by the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier. On May 16, the President of the Republic of Upper Volta will be officially welcomed by His Worship Mayor Jean Drapeau of the City of Montreal. On the same day, he will leave Montreal to return to Ouagadougou.