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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN UPPER VOLTA AND CANADA OCTOBER 13-15, 1981

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced that Colonel Félix Tiemtarboum, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Upper Volta paid an official visit to Canada, at the head of a large delegation, to participate in the second annual round of consultations on development cooperation between Canada and Upper Volta.

The Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Adviser for Francophone Affairs to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, led the Canadian delegation to this meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from October 13 to 15, 1981.

On the subject of cooperation programmes, the parties discussed the projects presently under way and set guidelines for future operations, focussing on four major areas: rural development, anti-desertification measures, the search for new energy sources and the development of transportation and communication infrastructures.

Mr. Tiemtarboum's visit to Canada enabled him to examine the many aspects of relations between Upper Volta and Canada during private talks with the Honourable Pierre De Bané who, on October 13, held a dinner on behalf of the Canadian government in honour of Mr. Tiemtarboum and the delegation from Upper Volta. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Upper Volta also met with the Honourable Pierre Bussières, Minister of State for Finance, and exchanged views with Mr. Marcel Massé, the President of CIDA, and Jacques Dupuis, Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Bureau of United Nations' Affairs, Department of External Affairs.

Openness, cordiality and a considerable harmony of viewpoints were the hallmarks of these meetings. The representatives from both sides expressed their desire to strive together to expand and further develop relations between Canada and Upper Volta, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

In this connection, the parties examined a number of new projects that would contribute to the economic and social development of Upper Volta in the coming years. Canada gave assurance that, within the confines of the available financial and human resources, it would cooperate actively and promptly toward achieving the goals that had been set.

Both delegations were pleased with the constructive, open climate that characterized the work, observing that the positive results stemming from the meeting would doubtless give fresh impetus to cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation from Upper Volta expressed its whole-hearted appreciation for the warm welcome extended to it by the Canadian government during its stay here.