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CORRIGENDUM

No. 65/1: Page 5, Paragraph 3

The ninth sentence should read as follows:

"At present, you will find some 20 such students and trainees in Canada."

The figures in the original text refer to students and trainees from all French-speaking countries, not only to those from the French-speaking countries of Africa.



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Notes for a Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, at the Conference on Canada and the French-Speaking Nations of Africa, organized by the CIAE and the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO in Montreal, January 23, 1965.

I take a special interest in addressing the participants in this Conference on the theme of Canada and the French-speaking nations of Africa. Your presence here and the very subject of your meetings are evidence that French Canada is increasingly aware of the great part that non-governmental organizations and private individuals must play in promoting a better understanding of international problems and more enlightened support for Canadian foreign policy. Your meetings mark the opening, in a way, of the French-Canadian contribution to the United Nations International Co-operation Year. This Conference is also the first organized in the Province of Quebec by the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO.

The international problems confronting us are the result, to a large extent, of a lack of comprehension and intercommunication between peoples belonging to different races, cultural backgrounds and continents. Moreover, we live in a world in which the rapid changes affecting all fields of human endeavour make all the more obvious the interdependence that exists between nations. For a middle power such as Canada, this interdependence has taken the form mainly, since the Second World War, of participation in the Atlantic Alliance, special links with Europe and America and ties with the Commonwealth and the United Nations, as well as the commercial activities resulting from the development of our national resources. All these links constitute an expression of the tasks that devolve upon us as partners in the development of the free world. But this is not all that we see in interdependence.

In the twentieth century, one of the most significant developments of which, surely, consists in the metamorphosis of the old empires into numerous independent nations, Canada is also aware of the fact that international peace, with prosperity, which depends upon it, cannot be assured until the majority of the peoples no longer have to contend with poverty and illiteracy. This task of helping the developing peoples, not only in the name of national interest but also as a matter of social justice, we undertook almost 15 years ago. Although the Canadian Government itself faces great problems owing to our present internal readjustment and our considerable progress, it is aware of its responsibility for the provision of assistance to developing countries,

an obligation that is rendered easier to fulfil by the friendship, kinship and practical ties that happily exist between those countries and Canada.

Our efforts at the governmental level will be all the more valuable if meetings such as this widen the horizons of the average Canadian citizen and draw him out of the traditional setting that has hitherto confused his thinking on foreign relations, a setting that is no longer compatible with the extent of our commitments or with the era of interdependence in which we live. What, I think, is to be particularly commended is the practical angle from which you have approached these problems and the concrete character of the projects that have held your attention.

This Africa with which you have been concerned during the past few days is eminently worthy of our consideration. The least one can say is that, in the midst of rapid, and at times upsetting, changes, it maintains its position in the headlines. Since 1945, 32 new political entities have appeared there. And it would seem that the great African nationalist movement that has renovated the political face of the continent has not reached its final stage. A year and a half ago, at Addis Ababa, the 35 independent countries of Africa, acting with remarkable speed and co-operation, laid the basis of the Organization of African Unity. In so short a time, this international organization has already demonstrated its importance and sense of responsibility, notably in the solution of the conflict between Algeria and Morocco and the progress registered in the dispute between Somalia and its neighbours. More recently, the Congolese situation has faced the OAU with a stiff test.

A resolution adopted a few weeks ago by the Security Council recognized that the OAU had an important part to play in the solution of the Congolese conflict. The Canadian Government, a substantial contributor to the United Nations Operation in the Congo from 1960 to 1964, believes that a solution not endorsed by the majority of the African states has little chance of success. We also feel that this conflict cannot be solved by military force. Only a political solution can restore peace in the Congo.

Three other problems are of capital importance for the future of the continent and the development of friendly and fruitful relations between the West and the new African countries. These are the problems raised by the Portuguese territories, Rhodesia and the apartheid policies of South Africa. A factor common to all three situations is the problem of relations between people of the black and white races. The Communist countries are hard at work persuading the rest of Africa that the West is contributing to the maintenance of white supremacy in the southern part of the continent. Yet the Canadian attitude toward these problems presupposes the possibility, and indeed the necessity, of co-operation in all fields between black and white people. Such co-operation must be based on mutual respect and a conviction that our respective interests are complementary rather than competitive.

The instability and violent changes that are now being witnessed in Africa shed more light on the hard facts that are the basic realities of that continent.

Allow me to quote a few figures:

- Average income per capita in Africa is only about 33 cents daily.
- In some countries, this average income barely reaches 15 cents.
- Eighty per cent to 85 per cent of all Africans are illiterate, and only 40 per cent of school-age children attend school.
- The African farmer's productivity is only about 4 per cent of that of the North American farmer, with all that such a figure implies in the way of nutritional deficiencies.
- The infant mortality rate is about 260 in 1,000 births.
- There is only one doctor for 17,000 people, a proportion one twenty-fifth that of Canada.

If such figures have anything to tell, it is the immensity of the task to be accomplished and the obligation we have of helping the Africans to help themselves.

This challenge, posed by the accession to independence of the new nations and by Africa's development problems, has been met by Canada in several ways. In 1957, we opened in Accra our first diplomatic post in West Africa. This year, we have on the west coast two missions in French-speaking countries, at Yaoundé and Leopoldville, and two others in Commonwealth African countries, at Accra and Lagos. These missions are also accredited in a dozen French-speaking African states. On the east coast, Canada has a representative in Dar-Es-Salaam who is also accredited in two other countries. In addition, we have missions in Cairo, South Africa and Salisbury. Twelve French-speaking African states, in return, have accredited with the Canadian Government their representatives either in Washington or New York. Several days ago we had the pleasure to welcome in Ottawa a diplomat from Cameroun, the first French-speaking country to appoint a resident representative in our capital city.

Our diplomatic relations and, with the exception of missionary efforts, the relations of Canada as a whole with Africa are still at their initial stage. There is no need to say that we all realize there is much to be done yet. Our African posts, which constitute the primary instrument for friendly relations and the implementation of our aid programmes have already begun to provide us with diplomatic officers who possess the specialized knowledge we need in order to perfect our relations with that continent. This, however, offers no grounds for complacency, and in the diplomatic field we still hope to progress further. We consider opening in a near future three or four new missions in Africa, some of which will be in French-speaking countries. This will provide a Canadian presence where it is necessary and at the same time lighten the already too heavy burden of our representatives in Africa.

As far as assistance is concerned, you are aware of the increased effort we have made in this field during the past few years. In the space of 15 years, our total resources available to that end were increased from the amount that in 1951 constituted our initial contribution under the Colombo Plan to nearly \$200 million for the current year. This figure represents an increase of 50 per cent on last year's appropriations. If a large amount of these funds continues to be allotted to basic equipment, it is because in certain countries, particularly those of Asia, the revolution in the field of education is progressing well. Where the basic human resources already exist, we must contribute to the development of the economic structure by supplying the necessary funds for the creation of dams, power plants, transport, etc. In semi-industrialized countries, contributions in the form of commodities prove to be the most useful. But in Africa, where the most obvious deficiency is in the sector of education, our assistance is directed for the greater part toward that field of activity. Africa is chiefly in need of teachers, physicians and administrators. Education is the only instrument that can ensure security and progress for Africa; it is the only force capable of creating a politically and economically sound Africa.

Because of its Commonwealth membership, our country was first concerned with helping its African associates within this great partnership of nations. But it also behoved Canada to institute a special co-operative scheme for the French-speaking countries of Africa. The bilingual and bicultural character of our country required it. This programme was launched in April 1961. Because of its particular nature, a consultative committee was established at the initial stage in order to prepare recommendations concerning the use of available funds. This committee includes representatives of various national or Quebec organizations whose activity is in the field of education, as well as representatives of the Federal Government and of the government of the Province of Quebec. It was quite natural that, in a country where education is under provincial jurisdiction, such a co-operative programme should be the result of a joint effort by the federal and provincial authorities, each respecting the prerogatives of the other. As an example, the Quebec Department of Education, which established to that end a liaison office, will be responsible in co-operation with the External Aid Office - for recruiting the 60 or so teachers who will serve in Africa in 1965-66. Another example of co-operation is the standing committee, made up of representatives of French-speaking universities and of members of the External Aid Office, that is responsible for organizing summer courses for French-speaking African students and providing opportunities for training in industry that will complement their theoretical studies.

During its first three years of operation, the programme for French-speaking Africa was limited to an amount of \$300,000 a year. Last autumn, however, in the context of an expansion of all our aid programmes, this amount was raised to \$4 million, out of which \$500,000 were contributed to the United Nations fund for civil operations in the Congo. This thirteenfold increase in the sum allotted in previous years shows clearly the importance we attach to this programme.

It should be kept in mind that, in addition to its bilateral aid, Canada is contributing substantially to many multilateral programmes, such as the UN Special Fund, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance of the United Nations and the IDA (International Development Association). We also work in close co-operation with international institutions such as the World Bank whose task is to co-ordinate and improve the bilateral programmes of donor countries. A certain part of the aid we supply on a multilateral basis benefits the French-speaking countries of Africa and should be added, for a fair assessment, to what we contribute on a bilateral basis.

What, however, in practical terms, are the results achieved by the Canadian Government Programme for French-speaking Africa? In 1961-62, we had sent seven teachers to these countries. For the current year, a total of 40 teachers and teacher trainers and 27 university professors are serving in Africa under this programme. These educators can be found at present in Cameroun, Congo (Brazzaville), Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Guinea, Mali, Rwanda, Chad and Togo, as well as in North Africa.

I should be remiss if I did not refer in a very special way to one of the most important projects we have undertaken under our schemes of co-operation with foreign countries. I am speaking of the creation of the national university of Rwanda in Butare. The Very Reverend Georges Henri Levesque, acting as the first rector of this institution, has recruited a team of some 20 French-speaking Canadians who are likely to play an important part in the development of this university. In 1963-64, the Canadian Government paid the salaries and other expenses of eight of these Canadians, among whom was Father Levesque. A number of additional projects concerning the development of services and faculties at the University of Butare are being discussed. But our scheme of co-operation with the French-speaking countries of Africa was not limited to the assignment of teachers. We supplied audio-visual equipment, books and other school materials to a number of countries. In addition, nationals of French-speaking countries of Africa received scholarships enabling them to pursue specialized studies in French-Canadian universities or were invited to take training in various Canadian institutions. At present, you will find approximately 200 of these students and trainees in Canada - 196 of them in Quebec. The Department of Natural Resources of the Province of Quebec is at present training a young man from Togo in administrative techniques. A Congolese is acquiring additional experience in journalism with Le Devoir. A student from Niger recently spent a period of training with the National Film Board. These are just a few examples.

During 1964-65, a substantial part of Canada's \$4-million aid appropriation will be earmarked for education, but certain amounts will be spent on technical assistance, to make possible a number of studies of development projects. For example, two Quebec firms are at present engaged in studies preliminary to the construction in Guinea of a hydro-electric station and some bridges.

In view of the firm intention of the Federal Government to ensure that its foreign policy, as well as its aid programmes, reflects the realities of Canadian life, co-operation with French-speaking countries cannot but increase. So far as the development of its administrative facilities (especially the recruitment of qualified officers) permits, and so far as it finds it possible to ensure that available help to recipient countries is efficient and acceptable, the Government of Canada intends to increase its co-operation with developing French-speaking countries as quickly as it can, in order to guarantee the fairest possible allotment of aid between French-speaking areas and others.

A slow start was made. The necessary team had to be organized by the External Aid Office. The shortage of Canadian missions in Africa was, and remains, a handicap we are trying to overcome. We have had to familiarize ourselves with these countries and to develop in them an interest in our aid programmes -- a task that has not always been easy, as these countries are oriented primarily toward their "parent" state, from which they continue to receive significant amounts of technical, financial and military assistance and with which several of them are associated through the European Economic Community. Because of the continuing presence of France, co-operation with that country has had to be developed in the field of aid to the French-speaking nations of Africa. The joint communiqué issued last March, on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister to General de Gaulle, emphasized the desirability of such Franco-Canadian co-operation. It is obviously not a question of competing with France but rather of making a complementary contribution in fields where we may prove useful.

Through our objective and constructive policy in international matters and the very happy relations we have developed with African countries, especially at the United Nations, we have, I believe, acquired their esteem and goodwill. Our missionaries were initiators in that sphere. In the field of teaching, they have been doing for years, and are still doing, excellent work in Africa. It is incumbent on us to-day to supplement their pioneer efforts with the means at our disposal. Your efforts to make more French-speaking Canadians conscious of these problems will, I am sure, bear fruit.

At this conference, you made it a point, as was proper, to concern yourselves with the relations of Canada with French-speaking Africa. The importance you attached to this objective stems from the ties that have united, and will continue to unite, all countries that are associated with the French-speaking community and whose education and culture rest on French traditions. However, it is to be expected that circumstances will prompt Africans to think of their continent in its entirety. In fact, it is already evident that, in their relations with the external world, they regard themselves first of all as Africans. The Organization for African Union, which I mentioned a moment ago, is a tangible expression of this awakening to the consciousness of the African personality. Language is only one factor of differentiation in Africa. Affiliations and tribal loyalties are others. I am sure that Africans will not wish to lose the benefits they reaped from their long association with Europe, which have allowed them to take their place rapidly in the international world. On the other hand, they will not abandon their cherished characteristics.

What they will seek, I am sure, is to co-ordinate these various elements and create a genuine African orientation that will allow the full and rational mobilization of African resources. I am equally sure that we Canadians shall be particularly responsive to such "unity in diversity", which, if I properly understand the Africans, is one of the essential elements of the personality of that continent.

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