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An Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a Briefing Conference for Canadian Teachers (French Language) Proceeding Abroad, University of Montreal, September 3, 1965.

May I begin by greeting all of you -- teachers and families -- who are just about to leave on such an important assignment. It is a pleasure for me to be with you and, apart from speaking to you, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible afterwards.

I understand that one of the chief purposes of the briefing programme in which you have been participating has been to enable you to see your assignment in the proper perspective. This is not just a matter of knowing beforehand some essential facts about the countries to which you will be going or about the arrangements for maintaining you there. I should like, as the Minister for External Affairs, to talk to you about some broad perspectives of national policy.

I am not, of course, thinking only of your work in the immediate future while you are abroad on these special assignments. Your position as educators in Canada and your current involvement in a project of considerable importance to Canada will enable you to appreciate the significance of these broader considerations.

First, let me mention some points about our assistance to French-speaking nations in Africa. This is of particular interest to you and has been a subject of discussion in Quebec generally. Since these nations became independent, Canada has co-operated actively in their social and economic development, particularly in educational development. There have been rapid and significant increases in this assistance, as in our aid programmes generally, in the past couple of years. Of 320 teachers who took part in projects overseas in the academic year 1964-65, 72 went to French-speaking countries, chiefly in Africa. During the coming academic year, 164 of a total of 540 will go to French-speaking countries, 14 of them in Africa and three in Southeast Asia.

This significant increase in activity is apparent also in the total funds allocated for such co-operative projects. In the first three fiscal years, \$300,000 was allocated to assistance for French-speaking Africa but, in November 1963, the Government decided to undertake a larger programme and, in the fiscal year 1964-65, \$4 million was committed to this area of the world. I am now glad to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government plans to

increase its aid allocation to French-speaking Africa during the current fiscal year to a total amount of \$7.5 million. I am glad that this particular part of our aid programme is expanding at a higher rate than any other part.

There are fears expressed occasionally that the amount of aid is too small or that funds committed are not spent quickly enough. The Government has been very much aware, as is clear from its declaration of November 1963, of the necessity of expanding its aid programmes rapidly while maintaining the control and efficiency in actual operations which is essential. There has been marked expansion since that time, and it will continue. As I have mentioned on other occasions, the fact that the current allocation for French-speaking Africa is non-lapsing ensures that all funds committed to projects will be used.

I should add, since I have been speaking primarily about Canadian teachers going to Africa, that there are other points of particular interest to French-language teachers and to others here. Some of you are going to Southeast Asia, and it should be noted that the Colombo Plan covers assistance to French-language nations in that area too. We have tried within the framework of the Commonwealth scholarship scheme to interest as many overseas students as possible in the facilities for study in French available in Canada.

I am glad to note that, of the 1,800 students and trainees who came to Canada in 1964 under various parts of our aid programme, 500 were located in the Province of Quebec, the great majority of whom were studying in French. It is the policy of the Government to ensure that the bicultural nature of our country is reflected in all parts of our external policy and that the educational and cultural resources of our country are all used in the development of the most effective aid programme possible.

Now I should like for a moment to direct your attention to some closely related subjects. I have stressed the importance of perspective. I have started by referring to our activities in French-speaking Africa and in other areas involving the use of French in development aid because you will naturally have a particular interest in these points at the present moment. I must, however, refer briefly to other projects for co-operating with the developing countries, to the expansion of our activities generally in Africa and to our relations with the French-speaking world, whether in Europe, Africa or elsewhere.

There have been great changes taking place generally in aid programmes in recent years. These changes have been apparent in terms of financial allocations, geographical scope, the nature of the assistance and the involvement of individuals and agencies. In the past two years, funds voted for assistance generally have doubled in volume. In 1960, 83 Canadian teachers and advisers went abroad; in 1964 the figure was 545, and this year the figure will probably reach 650.

An increased emphasis on technical and educational assistance, the implementation of new loan and food-aid programmes, the extension of aid to African states a few years ago and the introduction in the past year of loans for Latin American countries have all added new dimensions to the earlier programme. The scope of current Canadian programmes and the efficiency of their execution have been commented on favourably by international agencies particularly concerned.

The motives and objectives of this policy of economic co-operation with developing countries are clear. We feel an obligation to assist the developing countries to deal with acute economic and social problems. We believe that more stable and peaceful international conditions will result from accelerated economic development. We believe that, in the long run, Canada, too, can benefit economically from the solution of these problems elsewhere.

In carrying out a programme on such a broad front, we must ask ourselves where and how we can make our contribution most effectively. As more nations became independent, as new requests were made to us, as fresh opportunities for effective action became apparent and as more Canadians became convinced of the need to act abroad, the scope of Canadian activities, whether governmental or private, expanded. I believe that our programmes are well-balanced and that, considering all factors of need, history or size on the side of the recipient country and of capacity for effective action on the side of the donor country, Canada, we are making an international contribution of steadily increasing value on a broad front. You who are about to leave for assignments in French-speaking Africa and Asia, your English-speaking colleagues who were at Macdonald College last week and all Canadians who are taking part in this great enterprise can feel a real satisfaction in what is being done.

I referred to our motives and objectives in entering into these co-operative ventures and stressed that the basic motive was the desire to help those most in need of economic development. Since this is the case, we do not impose conditions on our aid except the obvious one that it should really contribute to a permanent and significant improvement in economic conditions. We certainly do not lay down political conditions about internal affairs or the external policies of the country concerned.

There are, however, close connections between economic and political relations. Our interest in newly-independent African nations, their role in the United Nations and in the search for racial equality and peace, lead us in Canada to increasing contacts, which, in their turn, raise questions of economic assistance. In carrying out aid projects, we develop fresh interests and expand our relations in all fields. For this reason, in reviewing the subjects of most immediate interest to you in your assignment, I should like to say something about relations with Africa.

The importance of Africa in the contemporary world is clear. Thirty-two nations have achieved independence there since 1945 and their governments are playing a role of increasing significance both in the United Nations and in regional agencies such as the Organization of African Unity. Their desire to assert their own identity, coupled frequently with a desire to maintain a heritage of links with the older nations of the West, not least through the use of the French and English languages, is impressive.

It is the interest of all of us that African independence should be aided and strengthened and that African nations should be able to determine their own course, in accordance with their traditions and interests and to choose their associates freely. The energy and determination of African leaders in seeking better conditions and the cheerful courage, strength and ability of the African people all arouse the respect, interest and sympathy of Canadians.

We have considered it particularly important, therefore, to develop diplomatic relations with states in Africa. At present we have seven diplomatic posts and one trade commissioner's office in Africa and we maintain relations with a number of other states through dual accreditations. It is, of course, very important, that we should have our representatives stationed in Africa both for the general political purposes indicated and to ensure the proper functioning of our aid programmes.

For these reasons, it gives me particular pleasure to announce for the first time today that we have decided to open now a new embassy in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, where a number of you will be spending the next year. The embassy in Dakar, when it is opened, will help greatly to strengthen ties with Africa generally and will provide a third mission in French-speaking Africa, the other two being our embassies in Cameroun and Leopoldville in the Congo.

The expansion in our relations with Africa will continue during the next two years. We expect to be able to announce very shortly the opening of another post in addition to Dakar and then to open four more posts in the next two years. The speed with which we can implement this programme will, of course, depend on the availability of administrative resources and on our ability to recruit suitable bilingual personnel who can both operate effectively in this area and reflect the bilingual and bicultural nature of our Canadian society. This is a particularly important aspect of our current planning, as I shall mention later.

When this expansion is completed, we expect to have 13 diplomatic missions and one trade commissioner's office in Africa. Five of these would be in French-language countries, five in independent Commonwealth countries and four in other countries. Furthermore, because of multiple accreditations to nearby states, we shall be able to use staff from these missions to attend to Canadian interests of all types in most parts of Africa.

We have made a considerable tour of the world in considering aid programmes and missions in Africa. The last point on the overseas horizon to which I would refer this morning is France and, with her, other nations where French is spoken. Our economic interest in African nations where French is spoken overlaps another very important part of our external policy, that of relations with the French-speaking world generally and with France. Our first interest, so far as aid programmes are concerned, lies in the needs of the developing countries concerned, but we are glad when economic co-operation can be parallel to and even reinforce political and cultural interests, whether expressed in French about former French colonies or in English about Commonwealth countries. France is, of course, carrying out a very comprehensive economic and cultural programme in Africa, and we are glad to consult with the French about the way in which our efforts can be related to theirs.

Shortly after the declaration on increased aid in November 1963 which I referred to earlier, the Government took important steps to develop closer relations with France in all fields. The visit which the Prime Minister and I made to President de Gaulle and his ministers at the beginning of 1964 inaugurated what I am sure will be considered a new era in such relations.

The consultation between the President and Prime Minister has provided the stimulus and set the framework for consultations at many levels on many subjects since.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to consult with M. Couve de Murville on four occasions, since I have found these meetings of great significance for our two countries. We expect to have economic consultations at a senior level soon. Only a few days ago we had the pleasure of welcoming French members of Parliament to Ottawa before they commence their visit to many parts of Canada. They will create permanent connections with their Canadian colleagues.

I have always held strongly to the belief that Canada's foreign policy should reflect the bilingual and bicultural character of our country. I have already mentioned some of the ways in which I think we are making substantial progress in this direction. Canada, it seems to me, has a unique opportunity in relation to the developing countries of Africa and of Asia which in the past few years have become independent but have a heritage of British or French educational institutions. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to take the opportunity that our history has given us at this stage in world affairs and to do all that we can to assist those developing countries in which English or French is the second language.

In addition, we must strengthen and develop our relations with the French-speaking countries of Europe, first of all with France itself but also with Belgium and Switzerland. For the past two years, the Government has been rapidly increasing resources devoted to promoting cultural and educational exchanges with the French-speaking countries of Europe. On the basis of the promising start made last year with the allocation of \$250,000, the Government has recently decided to spend during the current fiscal year \$1 million on these exchanges, most of it to bring students and some professors from the great French-speaking universities of Europe to our universities. In return, there will no doubt be increasing opportunities for French-speaking students from across Canada to study in European universities. At the same time, there will be an increasing flow of cultural visits and exchanges in both directions. Meantime we are negotiating general cultural agreements with both France and Belgium and hope to have mixed commissions of experts, representing both countries, who will plan the expanding programmes to take account of the principal interests and opportunities on both sides.

It has sometimes been suggested in this city and in this province that somehow the Federal Government has sought to limit or has not endeavoured to encourage cultural exchanges between Quebec and France. I should like to take this opportunity, here in the University of Montreal, to deny this categorically. In fact, the Federal Government in recent years has assisted the Province of Quebec in developing its exchanges with France, in addition to making preparations for a general cultural agreement between Canada and France.

Practical arrangements to give effect to the expansion of contacts and exchanges of all kinds between France and Canada at the federal, provincial or municipal levels have been facilitated and promoted by the Federal Government.

Far from wishing to restrain such exchanges, we hope that they will grow and increase to the benefit of Canada as a whole. We recognize that the interest of Quebec is naturally stronger than in other parts of Canada, since Quebec has the highest proportion of French-speaking Canadians. As the External Affairs Minister, I consider the interests of all Canadians, whether the matter at issue be in the political, cultural or foreign aid field. I am glad to see advances in external policy which are in accord with the interests, obligations, traditions and sentiments of all Canadians.

I have come back, therefore, appropriately enough, after our tour d'horizon, to our own situation here in Montreal on the eve of your departure for overseas on your teaching assignments. I should like to say a few words in closing about Canadian matters. The effort required to carry through an extensive aid programme in many parts of the world, which really enlists the resources and talents to be found in all parts of our country, obviously makes the co-operation of governments at different levels and of private concerns of all types essential. This is a good occasion on which to express, as I have done before, my appreciation of what has been done by the provincial government of Quebec and by other provincial governments in the recruiting of people for special assignments. I am glad to note that some of you here today are from French-speaking communities in other parts of Canada.

There are critics who try to see opposing interests in this field or to assign exclusive responsibility for the carrying-out of some comprehensive programmes to one level of government or another. I cannot imagine Canadian obligations and interests of the scope of those I have been describing which would not be the concern of the Federal Government in its field of responsibility or not be the concern of a provincial government in its own field. The only question ever at issue is how to find the most effective means of co-ordinating the interests and activities of all concerned. I am encouraged by the effective work done so far to believe that appropriate means will always be found.

I should like also to repeat what I have said on other occasions about the need for more young French-speaking Canadians to take up careers both in our diplomatic service and in aid work. I refer particularly to a speech I made in Quebec City in June 1963 stressing the importance of recruiting young people who would help to present Canadian policy abroad in the appropriate bicultural and bilingual terms. It is clear that, if we are to expand our diplomatic representation in Africa, if we are to develop our aid operations, if we are to strengthen our relations with the Francophone world, we shall need urgently, both in Ottawa and at our posts abroad, more qualified bilingual personnel. The opportunity is there for those who wish to serve and to assist in implementing policies and programmes which will assert the bilingual and bicultural character of our country in Ottawa and in Canadian activities abroad.

In saying farewell to you and expressing the hope that you and your families will derive the greatest satisfaction from your time abroad, I am reminded of another occasion a few months ago. In participating in the opening of the Canadian Consulate-General in Bordeaux at the end of last year, I referred to the life of that great port, the arrivals and departures, the contacts with other lands and all the associations the city and the surrounding area had with Canadian history.

Perhaps we are all historically-minded these days, with our centenary approaching. I cannot help thinking of the St. Lawrence and of this city and of all the great ventures they have witnessed. Canadians from every part of our country have come through here together in the unhappy days of war and in the more fruitful enterprises of peace. In saying farewell to your English-language colleagues last week and to you today, I am particularly conscious of one very moving consideration. Canadians of all cultures are joined in a venture of lasting international significance. In carrying out their tasks, they are presenting to the world proof of their own unity of purpose in pursuing objectives supported in all parts of Canada.

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