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Opening of Canadian Missions
in Cameroun and Tanganyika.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that the Government has decided to extend its diplomatic relations with the independent states of Africa by opening new diplomatic missions in Tanganyika and the Federal Republic of Cameroun.

The Government of Canada and the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroun, who already enjoy the best of relations, have agreed to exchange diplomatic missions at Embassy level. The Canadian Government will in the near future send an Ambassador to Yaounde. The Government of Cameroun will accredit an Ambassador to Canada at a later date.

It is also the Government's plan to establish diplomatic relations with a number of neighbouring French-speaking African states by accrediting to them the Canadian Ambassador to Cameroun. A further announcement on this subject will be made shortly.

The decision to establish diplomatic relations with these French-speaking African states has been taken because of the growing importance of Africa in world affairs and the outstanding influence of these states both within Africa and at the United Nations. The French African delegations have played a notably constructive part in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Canadian Delegation has worked closely with them on many issues.

Sharing with Canada a common French cultural heritage, the French-speaking states of Africa have shown great interest in establishing diplomatic relations with Canada. The opening

of an Embassy in Yaounde will afford an excellent opportunity for strengthening these natural ties. Earlier this year the Government established a \$300,000 annual programme for educational assistance to the French-speaking countries of Africa, which the new mission will help to administer. It is hoped that the Mission will also be able to promote the development of further programmes of technical assistance for these countries in fields in which Canadian experience will be useful.

Tanganyika will become independent December 9, 1961, and the Government of Tanganyika has agreed to the Canadian Government's proposal to appoint a Canadian High Commissioner in Dar-es-Salaam as soon as possible after the date of independence. This appointment is a mark of the importance which the Government attaches to the establishment of close relations between this new member of the Commonwealth and Canada. Tanganyika, with a population of 9,000,000 and a special reputation for the achievement of racial harmony within its territory, will have an influential position among the African states.

It is expected that, as has occurred in other new Commonwealth countries in Africa, the common interests between Canada and Tanganyika will grow rapidly during the latter's first years of independence. The Canadian mission in Dar-es-Salaam will have important functions to fulfill, particularly in the field of educational and technical assistance under the Special Commonwealth African Aid Programme.

It is hoped that with the establishment of these new Missions and the broader contacts they will make possible, there will be increased opportunities for trade between Canada and the States of both East and West Africa.