

That the first chair and centre of Canadian studies in the United Kingdom should be in Scotland is in no way surprising, noted Mr. MacEachen, since "there are the strongest of ethnic and cultural bonds between our country and this region of the United Kingdom."

"I myself represent Nova Scotians of varied Scottish ancestry in our Parliament, but there are also the French-speaking descendents of the Fraser Highlanders in Quebec; the descendents of Scottish settlers of Glen-garry in Ontario; the Selkirk immigrants to Manitoba; the Hebrideans who people the South of Saskatchewan; the Glaswegians who dug the first coal mines on Vancouver Island -- in all more than two million Canadians who claim Scottish forebears and who form the country's third largest ethnic community."

"Many a ship which for two centuries carried Scots westward across the Atlantic, would bring back not only timber for the great shipyards of the Clyde, salt fish, fine furs and abundant wheat, but Canadian students bound for the Scottish universities -- St. Andrew's, Glasgow, Aberdeen and particularly Edinburgh."

The Scottish influence had a profound impact on the early development of Canadian education systems, Mr. MacEachen recalled: "Indeed, I suppose it is more to our Scottish ancestors than to any others, that we owe the fact we have long enjoyed in Canada the kind of comprehensive school systems that are still in dispute in parts of this country."

Returning to the new five-year plan for cultural exchanges, the minister noted that in addition to Britain; the countries now included are France, Japan and the United States: next year, the programme will be extended to Belgium, Germany and Italy. Canadian studies are to be developed through the exchange of professors, the exploitation of joint research opportunities, the encouragement of inter-university contacts, the provision of Canadian books and learned journals and the organization of conferences and seminars.