

the review is not only to adjust our policy to the changing conditions but to promote greater public understanding of the reasons for these policies.

The Press: Is France at the head of the list of the Continental European countries with which you want to establish closer bilateral ties? It seems to have wandered outside the fold somewhat. Is Canada in a unique position to bring it back into the community?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, I believe that our relations with France are a central part of our relations with Continental Europe and our relations with France will certainly be subject to study to see how best we can promote good relations between our two countries and also to promote our common interests in the Francophone.

The Press: Mr. Sharp, the policy statement makes reference to substantial increases in financial aid to the Francophone. Is the intention here just to overwhelm the initiatives that the Quebec Government might take in the same regard?

Mr. Sharp: No, I doubt very much whether Quebec will take overwhelming initiatives in spending money in the Francophone.

The Press: Well, then, money aside then, the other areas?

Mr. Sharp: No. We are very happy to see Quebec promoting on behalf of the people of Quebec the relationships with other French-speaking countries. We have never objected to this. But we believe, as a federal government, as the Government of Canada, which is a bilingual country, that we have a responsibility for promoting good relations with other French-speaking countries of the world as well as with other countries that speak English or other countries from which many of our peoples come. We consider this a part of a general responsibility and we can quite understand that Quebec itself may wish to promote good relations and promote the interests of French-speaking peoples around the world. We have no objection to that, and never have had any objection.