

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

In our cultural relations, we have made great progress since we established our programme of cultural exchanges with French-speaking countries in 1964. When we started, we had \$250,000 at our disposal. Since 1965, we have raised this amount to \$1 million. In November 1965, the French Ambassador and I signed the first general cultural agreement between our two countries. This agreement, which aimed at a better organization and co-ordination of cultural exchanges between the two countries, has resulted in our welcoming to Canada at least 100 French scholarship winners every year, who have come to study at post-graduate and research levels in our universities. Under the same agreement, about 20 French university professors are invited to our universities every year. In return, France has granted nearly 80 scholarships to Canadians to study in France, and also welcomes several members of our academic community.

In addition, to underline the importance of La Maison Canadienne for students in Paris, the Federal Government has made a grant of half a million dollars to permit its expansion, raising its capacity from 70 to 125 students.

Thanks to the federal programme of exchanges with French-speaking countries, we have been able to help several Canadian groups go abroad during the past year. I might just mention a few of them: the Montreal Symphony Orchestra went to France, Switzerland and Belgium, with great success; le Théâtre de l'Egrégore played in France and Switzerland; les Feux-Follets took part in the international music-hall festival at the Olympia in Paris; a Canada week was organized at Mulhouse. Lastly, book collections of more than 800 works, covering all phases of Canadian life, have been given to six large French libraries....

POLICY OF EXPANSION

I should like to point out that the policy of cultural exchanges is not limited to French-speaking countries. I believe that it is in the interests of all Canadians to develop our cultural exchanges, particularly with Europe. I was particularly happy to be able to announce, in the course of my trip to Europe last November, the opening of negotiations with Italy and the U.S.S.R., which we hope will lead to cultural agreements with them....

While we have tried to intensify and diversify our traditional relations with France and to extend the scope of our exchanges with Belgium and Switzerland, we have also sought to establish close links with the many developing French-speaking countries which have gained independence since the last war. Canada has shown its interest in being represented in these countries in Africa by establishing embassies in Cameroun, Congo (Kinshasa), Tunisia and Senegal. Through multiple accreditation we now have diplomatic relations with all of French-speaking Africa. Although we have no formal diplomatic missions in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, our participation in the work of the International Control Commission since 1954 has allowed us to have useful contacts with these countries. I hope that in the near future our financial and personnel resources will

allow us to expand our network of diplomatic missions in French-speaking countries....

INCREASED AID

...In French-speaking Africa, our external aid programme has developed remarkably in the last few years. From the \$300,000 a year which we spent between 1961 and 1964, our bilateral aid figures went up to \$4 million in 1964 and reached \$8 million during the present fiscal year. To this impressive sum we intend to add another \$4 million. I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Government has decided to increase its aid to French-speaking Africa during the next fiscal year to \$12 million. If you bear in mind that we shall be giving \$16 million to English-speaking African countries next year, it will be evident that we have gone a good way towards balancing the aid which we give to the two groups in Africa....

We have now reached what I should call the second stage in implementing our programme - that of diversification and consolidation. At first our activity was directed mainly towards technical assistance, and particularly education. We already have nearly 250 teachers in French-speaking Africa, and we hope to bring this number up to nearly 300 during the coming year. Nearly 450 trainees from the developing French-speaking countries are now studying in Canada....

SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

...It goes without saying that "La Francophonie", although it may have an economic aspect, will be essentially a great cultural undertaking. No one dreams of having it extend into the political field. To endure, it must be a joint effort, it will have to be developed through constant consultation between equal partners, with due regard for the domestic institutions of each country. It follows that "La Francophonie" will have to have a very flexible form. It will require the freely given assistance of all those who wish it well, including participation by private organizations. It will also call for systematic international co-ordination which presupposes the support of French-speaking governments....

...We see our relations with "La Francophonie", the Commonwealth and other countries as different manifestations of a single foreign policy which is in the interests of all Canadians. As one aspect of this policy I am happy to announce this evening that the Canadian Government will provide an annual grant to AUPELF [l'Association des Universités partiellement ou entièrement de langue française - the Association of Universities which are partly or entirely French speaking] of \$50,000. In addition, at the request of AUPELF, it will contribute to the Fonds international de Co-opération universitaire, (the International Fund for University Co-operation), the principal aim of which is to promote the development of universities in the developing French-speaking countries. For this purpose, we envisage an annual contribution of \$100,000 for five years, to be used in consultation with AUPELF and the governments concerned....