

it has acquired through its vocation as a bilingual country. Wishing to serve with fairness its French-speaking population in Quebec and outside it, and to harmoniously blend North American culture and the French language, Canada realizes that it is in a privileged position to help other multicultural countries to adapt the French language to suit their needs. But it is the Agency that must plot an original course suited to La Francophonie in this area.

This cannot be accomplished overnight. It is a work that will require much patience and reflexion. It cannot be improvised. It will require extensive consultation, careful identification of the needs, an order of priorities, and goals limited in number but attainable in their entirety with the means available to us. Nothing would be achieved by a helter-skelter approach. But this is unfortunately a danger that threatens all cultural undertakings, given the immense scope of the field itself.

**Under-
development**

The second objective that I wish to discuss is the immense area of underdevelopment in all its forms, including cultural underdevelopment. Combating underdevelopment involves so much and the needs are so great that the Agency will find no difficulty finding a place for this cause, provided that it very carefully determines in advance the role that it can play.

You might ask yourselves, for example, whether you should concentrate on the use of computerization, through which so many pressing needs can be met and which is a factor in all areas of development, including cultural enrichment. Or should the emphasis be on the field of information?

Under the present circumstances and for some time to come, it is obvious that the Agency will not have the resources that the large organizations now working within the international community have. However, it could rank with any of them in terms of quality, efficiency and adaptation of activities to specific needs. This is the objective that I propose.

Imaginativeness, innovation and a careful approach can compensate for modest resources. This seems to be the route that we should take. It is not an easy one, but it has the great advantage of being within our reach.

**Committee
of five**

From this point of view, the idea of a committee of eminent men, which your Secretary-General and I discussed in Canada, seems to be highly appropriate. Now that it has completed its first decade, it is fitting that an organization like ours should concern itself with getting its second wind, taking a look beyond its daily activities and mustering its forces before launching into a new phase. The input from the studies and recommendations of a few individuals selected for this purpose might be very useful.

If I may be permitted to think aloud, I would say, speaking only for myself, that
