

La Fédération du Français universel (The International Federation for the French Language).

This is a most impressive beginning, and provides striking evidence of the spontaneous nature of the aspirations of the French-speaking people.

The Federal Government has followed the activities of these various groups very closely, and has shown its interest by providing financial assistance when needed, particularly to help Canadians attend the meetings organized by these organizations in different countries. Now the Government has decided to do more

As I mentioned a moment ago, 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 of \$50,000. In addition, at the request of AUPELF, it will contribute to the Fonds international de Coopération 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. I should add that this aid the Government has decided to give to AUPELF is due to the encouragement and the efforts of my colleague, Mr. Sauvé. AUPELF, the association of universities which are partly or entirely French-speaking, is one of the most impressive manifestations of the French-speaking attitude. Following an appeal by the University of Montreal, 55 universities, located in 18 countries throughout the world, united in 1961 to form this international association, which has already proved its value. Canadians are proud that its secretariat is located in Montreal. This seems to me fortunate, and I can assure AUPELF of all our support.

Concerning the Interparliamentary Association of French-speaking Countries, the Speaker of the House of Commons has received an invitation from the President of the Luxembourg Parliament for a preparatory meeting to be held in Luxembourg in May. This proposal is now being studied, and has created a great deal of interest among Canadian Parliamentarians.

Up to now, these various initiatives have developed spontaneously. If we want to make sure that "La Francophonie" develops in an effective and coherent manner, it seems to me essential that such initiatives should be carried out in future in a more systematic way; they should be encouraged and co-ordinated. I think that the most suitable instrument for this purpose would be an international organization of an essentially private nature, based on national associations of the same character, which would be independent from one another and from their governments but would work closely with the latter and would enjoy their support. Such an international organization would permit co-operation in this field on the basis of complete equality among the various countries concerned and would supplement the activities of governments by mobilizing the resources and initiatives of individuals and private organizations. The Canadian Government is convinced of the value of this idea,