

Far from wishing to restrain such exchanges, we hope that they will grow and increase to the benefit of Canada as a whole. We recognize that the interest of Quebec is naturally stronger than in other parts of Canada, since Quebec has the highest proportion of French-speaking Canadians. As the External Affairs Minister, I consider the interests of all Canadians, whether the matter at issue be in the political, cultural or foreign aid field. I am glad to see advances in external policy which are in accord with the interests, obligations, traditions and sentiments of all Canadians.

I have come back, therefore, appropriately enough, after our tour d'horizon, to our own situation here in Montreal on the eve of your departure for overseas on your teaching assignments. I should like to say a few words in closing about Canadian matters. The effort required to carry through an extensive aid programme in many parts of the world, which really enlists the resources and talents to be found in all parts of our country, obviously makes the co-operation of governments at different levels and of private concerns of all types essential. This is a good occasion on which to express, as I have done before, my appreciation of what has been done by the provincial government of Quebec and by other provincial governments in the recruiting of people for special assignments. I am glad to note that some of you here today are from French-speaking communities in other parts of Canada.

There are critics who try to see opposing interests in this field or to assign exclusive responsibility for the carrying-out of some comprehensive programmes to one level of government or another. I cannot imagine Canadian obligations and interests of the scope of those I have been describing which would not be the concern of the Federal Government in its field of responsibility or not be the concern of a provincial government in its own field. The only question ever at issue is how to find the most effective means of co-ordinating the interests and activities of all concerned. I am encouraged by the effective work done so far to believe that appropriate means will always be found.

I should like also to repeat what I have said on other occasions about the need for more young French-speaking Canadians to take up careers both in our diplomatic service and in aid work. I refer particularly to a speech I made in Quebec City in June 1963 stressing the importance of recruiting young people who would help to present Canadian policy abroad in the appropriate bicultural and bilingual terms. It is clear that, if we are to expand our diplomatic representation in Africa, if we are to develop our aid operations, if we are to strengthen our relations with the Francophone world, we shall need urgently, both in Ottawa and at our posts abroad, more qualified bilingual personnel. The opportunity is there for those who wish to serve and to assist in implementing policies and programmes which will assert the bilingual and bicultural character of our country in Ottawa and in Canadian activities abroad.

In saying farewell to you and expressing the hope that you and your families will derive the greatest satisfaction from your time abroad, I am reminded of another occasion a few months ago. In participating in the opening of the Canadian Consulate-General in Bordeaux at the end of last year, I referred to the life of that great port, the arrivals and departures, the contacts with other lands and all the associations the city and the surrounding area had with Canadian history.