

(TEXT)

I am honoured and very happy at this opportunity to speak to the Common Law Section of the Law Faculty of the University of Ottawa. Since the Common Law Section was set up some 17 years ago, my Department has had close and mutually useful relations with you. These include lectures and even courses given by members of the External Affairs Legal Bureau, the loan of books, provision of texts, and seminars by faculty members for the officials of my Department. We have had a similar close working relationship for many years with your colleagues on the Civil Law side.

The cross-fertilization between Government and the academic community is an essential process. The dialogue which has been established helps, I think, your academic community to focus on current problems of law as seen by government. At the same time, the ideas and analyses coming from the academic side, are an important part of the process of evolving the underlying philosophies, which must be clearly and fully developed before practical policies can be formulated.

In looking over the alma maters of the officers of my Department, I am rather surprised to find that there are only two graduates on the common law side who have entered External Affairs. I would hope that more of you might consider a career in the Foreign Service, where your legal training will be of great value at this stimulating time of new and evolving concepts of international law. I hope you will give this possibility some thought.

(TRANSLATION)

The University of Ottawa is unique in Canada and even has a rather special place in the world as a whole, because of its bilingual and bicultural character. This particular element is underlined in a striking way in the Faculty of Law where, at the same time, lawyers are trained in civil law as well as common law.

In the Department of External Affairs, we do not regard bilingualism solely as being a fundamental requirement in the framework of the Canadian Confederation. We also see it as an essential tool of our trade. A Canadian diplomat who has a knowledge of our two languages is able to communicate with the great majority of his foreign colleagues and of officials of other governments. French and English, when one or the other is not the first language of a country, is certainly the second. In this way, our double heritage is a valuable asset in our foreign relations.

(TEXT)

I would like to discuss with you a question which lies broadly in the legal domaine and which has assumed great importance for Canadians, especially since the 2nd World War. Since the late 1940's, many millions of Canadians have taken the habit of travelling throughout the world. The statistics show that we are a highly peripatetic people. There are over 2 million valid Canadian passports in circulation and we expect to issue another 500,000 this year. Traditionally, of course, the great majority of the millions of Canadians who travel annually to the United States do so without a passport.