

Although our geography gives us a somewhat different perspective, Canada has, like Britain, a considerable direct interest in development in the continent of Europe. Simply stated, our interest lies in a stable Europe, whose internal difficulties do not constitute a threat to the peace of the world. Ultimately, this will require, among other things, a German peace settlement, and an end to the present division of Europe.

Apart from the vital questions of international peace and security, Canada also has interests in Europe arising from the fact that it is the source of so much of Canada's cultural heritage. In this respect, I think particularly of France, a country which is recognized by Canadians like Britain, as one of our founding nations.

Sharing as it does in the great traditions of French language and culture, Canada is determined to play its full part in the development of these special ties among the French-speaking countries of the world. In this endeavour, we are guided by considerations related to those which determine our attitude towards the Commonwealth, we seek to preserve, deepen, and apply, to the broad purposes of our external policy, traditional attitudes which are particularly meaningful to Canadians. It may well be that the experience, particularly in the cultural field, which we have gained in the Commonwealth will be of use in developing these new Canadian interests in relations with the French-speaking countries. The institutions which give continuous practical expression to the Commonwealth, such as the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, can perhaps serve as examples of ways in which the bonds between French-speaking countries can be strengthened. Indeed,