

co-operation between our two countries; the Canadian provinces can also benefit from this agreement. We have also striven to broaden our ties with the numerous French-speaking countries of Africa and Asia which gained independence after the last World War. We have increased our diplomatic representation in these countries and have rapidly multiplied our external aid credits. For French-speaking Africa, they will amount to approximately \$12 million for 1967-68. Our activities have been mainly in the area of technical assistance — in particular, education. At the moment there are more than 250 Canadian professors and teachers in French-speaking Africa and approximately 180 African students are studying in Canada. Canada intends to do even more in the future and to open new channels for co-operation.

From the very beginning, Canada has been interested in the efforts made to establish *francophonie* on an international scale. What a magnificent ideal is represented by this conception of a French-speaking brotherhood uniting the most diverse civilizations and races across the continents! The idea is taking shape. Many plans have been put forward both by governments and private bodies to provide an initial structure and means of carrying out the project. A founding member of the Association des parlementaires des pays de langue française (Parliamentary Association of French-language Countries), of the Communauté radiophonique de langue française (French-language Radio Community), of the Committee for the Promotion of the French language at the United Nations, and still others, Canada has supplied considerable financial support to AUPELF, which is an association of universities either wholly or partly French-speaking. Canada intends to participate actively in the development and spreading of *francophonie* in the world. Like *francophonie* itself, this effort has hardly begun. However, this beginning promises a rewarding future.

It is obvious that Canada's Department of External Affairs, more than any other in the Canadian Government, must reflect the bicultural character of the country to support this policy. The Department is undergoing a rapid development. Bilingualism, merely encouraged in the past, has become the rule for all officers today and a noticeable increase can be seen in the employment of French-Canadian elements. Thus increasingly favourable conditions are developing for the general use of French as a working language for officers and staff of French origin, whether stationed abroad or at headquarters. (We should mention in passing that our Department now has a Direction de la francophonie (Division for Relations with French-speaking Countries) to promote extensive co-operation between Canada and the French-speaking world.) Not only our diplomatic missions but also our delegations to the most varied international meetings include a large proportion of French-speaking Canadian delegates. Provincial representatives often form part of Canadian delegations to meetings which might be of interest to Canadian provinces. Like their Minister, Canada's representatives consider it an honour to speak on behalf of their country — especially in the United Nations — in the two official Canadian languages.