

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, was host at a luncheon today on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Association of Partially or Entirely French-speaking Universities.

This official luncheon brought together members of the Administrative Council and of the Secretariat of the Association as well as representatives of university and government circles in Ottawa. Among those present were Monsignor Irénée Lussier, founding president of the association, His Excellency Mohammed El Fasi, Minister of Cultural Affairs of Morocco, Mr. Etienne Lapalus and Ahmed Abdessalem, Vice-presidents, Jean-Marc Léger, Secretary General, Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Dr. Maurice Chagnon, Vice-Director of the University of Ottawa and Paul Tremblay, Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In his address Mr. Sharp noted that when it was founded at Montreal on September 13, 1961, the Association was comprised of 33 universities whereas now it enjoys a membership of 68. He paid tribute to the previous directors and to their successors and to the pioneering role played by the association in the French-speaking world. He stressed the particular attachment of Canada to the association since its foundation attested by Canada's annual contribution (\$50,000) and its participation in the international fund for university cooperation to which Canada has contributed the sum of \$500,000.00.

Finally, delivering a toast in honour of the tenth anniversary he declared " the balance sheet of action accomplished by your organization during its first ten years has not disappointed the hopes which we placed on the future of the association."

In his reply the Vice-President, Mr. Etienne Lapalus, who acted as the spokesman of the Council in the absence of the President, Mr. Claude Renard, detained by illness, expressed the deep appreciation of the association for the substantial assistance which had always been forthcoming from the Government of Canada for the work of the association and he paid particular homage to Canada's support in the international fund for university cooperation which had been the decisive factor permitting the association to achieve certain of its major aims including the development of university libraries for research projects and particularly the establishment of professorships for cooperation studies. "The presence of the Council of the association in the national capital today is primarily to express a great debt of gratitude towards Canada" concluded Mr. Lapalus.