

or economic necessity "compel" them to co-operate with each other. On the contrary, the Agency resulted from the will of its members, who chose freely to establish new forms of multilateral co-operation, to their mutual advantage, based on their common language.

We need only look round the table to see what an excellent forum for meetings and consultation our governments have thus created; of the states represented here, some are members of the Organization of African Unity or the Common Afro-Malagasy Organization, others of the Arab League, still others of the European Community and the Commonwealth. Each organizes its foreign relations as its particular needs require; and thus each perceives the aspirations common to various regional and international groups and so is able to make the other members of the Agency aware of them. Finally, they all meet in other world bodies, such as the United Nations and its affiliated organizations. In this way, the Agency has antennae in all corners of the world but may be said to transcend all the organizations to which its members belong, without seeking to supplant any of them.

Another original feature of the co-operation begun in the last five years within the Agency is that it is oriented towards cultural and technical development. So many specialists, from all countries and in all fields, have in recent years deplored the bricks-and-mortar emphasis in development that I need hardly emphasize the importance of these commonly-neglected forms of international co-operation. A society that, in trying to develop, contents itself with land cultivation and the exploitation of natural resources will necessarily remain an incomplete and dependent society in its relations with the world; it is only by cultivating minds with equal determination and exploiting brains with equal efficiency that a community can reach its full potential and achieve truly autonomous development. We Canadians are in a position to know this, because, until recently, our experience with development was too narrow -- that is, too much oriented towards agriculture, mining, forestry and industry -- so that, in recent decades, we have needed to work at double speed to accelerate our cultural development.

In the third place, the Agency's undertakings in the cultural and technical fields are unprecedented because these activities use the French language as their vehicle. In the end, it is perhaps from this that the historical necessity of the institution launched at Niamey derives. We all know of what treasures this language is the repository, and how efficient it is as a means of communication between peoples, for the French language is deeply rooted in one of the civilizations that have done most to enrich the heritage of mankind.