

Canadian society. Our Red Book bears witness to this with these words: "The federal government, however, can and should support and facilitate the national effort to prepare Canadians to compete in the world."

I read with great interest the recent Commission of the European Communities White Paper, *Growth, Competitiveness, Employment. The Challenges and Ways Forward into the 21st Century*. In it, the Commission draws on themes which we developed in our own Red Book. We recognize the importance of education, research and development and new technologies in economic recovery. Both documents hint at possible avenues of co-operation.

We must forge transatlantic links of co-operation and partnership in the various fields of higher education. The Government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien wants to give Canadians the tools they need to shine in this new international economy based on information and knowledge. Internationalization of higher education is one of these tools. I am confident that we will be able to take the necessary steps to make increased and structured co-operation with Europe possible in the crucial fields of education and training.

Moreover, education is one field which the Transatlantic Declaration aims at developing, along with the economy, research and development and audio-visual. The Prime Minister and Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, confirmed this at their Ottawa meeting last week. The Canada-Europe Round table, held at the invitation of the European Community two weeks ago in Louvain, Belgium, is an important step forward in our efforts to forge close ties of co-operation in higher education and manpower training as we look ahead to the 20th century.

Our foreign policy review provides an opportunity to take a second look at our international activities in support of higher education, research and training.

Institutions of higher education provide an essential contribution to the development of Canadian society, and are key partners in the national effort to maintain our competitiveness. In this twofold capacity, higher education plays a leading role in the pursuit of Canada's interests abroad.

In recognition of the importance of this role and of the excellent co-operation between our two levels of government in this area, I wish to involve the provinces closely in this effort to review our international activities in higher education. The resulting dialogue should provide a unique contribution to the general review of Canadian foreign policy.

I have thus invited Minister Jacques Chagnon, Chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, to consider this matter during