

incomparable opening to the world. In its concern to preserve and develop its European heritage, Canada is taking advantage of the two channels abroad offered by its origins. In this way it hopes to ensure the development of its national cultures and its distinctive identity while sharing in the universal mission of French and English civilization. It follows, as a matter of course, that our relations with France — and also with other French-speaking countries — are one of the foundations of our foreign policy.

However, we cannot limit the ties between France and Canada to the traditional attachment toward the mother country and the moving recollection of our common struggles on the battlefields of the twentieth century. A solid substructure of shared interests and concrete relations must be added to the bonds which history has woven between us. In recent years, after far too long a period of mutual lack of understanding, we have been working to build just such a substructure. Following Prime Minister Pearson's trip to Paris in January 1964, Franco-Canadian relations underwent a deep change. In the cultural, scientific and technical areas, the "umbrella" agreement signed between France and Canada in 1965 marked the beginning of a co-operation which has since been extended to the whole of Canada. In addition, the agreement offered the Canadian provinces — Quebec in particular — the opportunity to multiply exchanges of this nature with France. Thus, ever-increasing contact with French culture has resulted in Canada, while in France an expanded awareness has been brought about of Canadian possibilities and achievements. I can list only the areas of co-operation: creation of the France-Canada Interparliamentary Association; expansion of commercial exchanges through special missions and regular consultations; a programme of scientific co-operation; a recent agreement signed for research in the field of defence; frequent consultations at all levels; exploration of the possibilities for co-operation offered by the atomic and space age. These activities represent a vast effort which has already given a radically new character to Franco-Canadian relations. Does it mean that these results are sufficient? On the contrary, I believe that much remains to be done and that our relations with France can and must undergo another phase of expansion.

During this next stage, we must look at the relations between the two countries within an enlarged context, within the very dimensions of the future we are building in Canada. Our country is, in fact, moving towards a reorganization of its institutions which will enable the French community to radiate fully across the country on equal terms and to associate freely with other communities in a joint effort. To achieve this end, it is not only necessary to develop relations between France and Quebec but also to exploit to the fullest all chances for co-operation with the other provinces and the Federal Government.

Canada's contribution to French culture must also be felt in the French-speaking world. Through bilateral measures, Canada is seeking to expand its relations with all the French-speaking countries in Europe. We have recently signed a cultural agreement with Belgium which offers broad opportunities for