

the current issue of an interdisciplinary scholarly journal the very existence of which indicates how good relations between the two countries could be. *Études canadiennes/Canadian Studies* has been published annually in Bordeaux since 1975 by the Association française des études canadiennes. Pierre Guillaume's article, "Montaigne et Shakespeare: Réflexions sur le voyage du Président Vincent Auriol au Canada en avril 1951", describes Mr Auriol's official visit and compares it with de Gaulle's visit in 1967. The author also very effectively explains how General de Gaulle's view of Canada evolved from 1940 on.

Guillaume argues convincingly that in 1951 Mr Auriol, President of a France weakened by war and in quest of support from a rich and united Canada for French positions within the Atlantic Alliance, made a point of acting in the same way towards English- and French-speaking Canada and of publicly honouring such myths as Canadian unity and the equality of the two languages and two linguistic groups within Canadian society. Guillaume links Auriol's attitude and behaviour not to personal factors but rather to his conception, as President, of his country's national interest. The author shows, however, that, even if the national interest of France in 1951 had not required a united Canada under a strong Federal Government, the ideological and personal preferences of this socialist with little interest in Catholicism would in all probability have precluded the development of closer relations with a Quebec whose political and religious élites did not hide their disapproval of the kind of France he represented or their fond memories of Pétain, the Vichy regime — and even the Ancien Régime.

According to Guillaume, from 1940 onward General de Gaulle displayed an entirely different attitude. This difference can doubtless be attributed in part to his ideological and personal predispositions: de Gaulle, in 1940, presented himself to French Canadians as a Frenchman and a Catholic. It must primarily be linked, however, to the fact that in 1958 he became President of a France that was stronger than the France of Auriol, a France whose national interest, in de Gaulle's view, no longer required a united Canada and whose mission was to aid and unite French-speaking peoples all over the world. It should be pointed out here that the Gaullist position on Canada is quite logical and should give Canadians cause for reflection on some points, as Guillaume's article shows. It is time to change the

popular Canadian image of de Gaulle as a lunatic or monster. Guillaume also serves a paradoxical liking for Canada de Gaulle's part. It is not a question of "forgiving all" but rather of developing a clearer perception of history in order to understand it better.

#### New policy

Although Guillaume refrains from discussing the present state of relations between Canada and France, he has very effectively described the historical context so essential to our understanding of the. In spite of the fact that Giscard d'Estaing may now appear to be merely vacillating passively between the opposing types of Canadian policy that have successively been adopted by France — Auriol's pro-federalist position and de Gaulle's pro-separatist stand —, to believe that this is really the case would probably be to underestimate the President of the Republic. He seems, in fact, to be one of the most active promoters of the West's evolution towards what he explicitly envisages as a "new world order". That, precisely, what one would wish for: not a return either to Auriol's policy or de Gaulle's but rather the elaboration of a new, clear position that would take present realities into account.

Future development of French policy towards Canada and of relations between France and Canada will depend on what the two countries feel their national interest lies. Mr Trudeau's desire to establish closer links with the European Economic Community while increasing Canada's dependence from the United States is important in this regard. This two-fold development will probably also depend on the changing Canadian constitutional and political situation. However natural, and even highly desirable, close economic and cultural ties between France and Quebec may be, it is much to be hoped that France will not overlook this exceptional opportunity to establish, in every field of endeavour, very cordial, and even special relations with English-speaking Canada as well. The national interest of both countries is at stake.

Improved official and economic relations could easily be built on the excellent relations that already exist between the two peoples. The governments of France and Canada bear a great responsibility in this respect; it is not normal for relations between two countries so closely linked by history, culture and the sufferings of two world wars, as well as present and future mutual interest, to be fraught with uncertainty and even suspicion. However