

effort - we have gained from it and so have the provinces. Right now in international fora, our special brand of federalism is making us stronger. There is no question in my mind that a Canada divided or forming some species of common market, as some would have it, could never play a role even remotely comparable to the one we are playing now. Think of our relations with the United States! Already it is no mean feat for 22 million of us united to follow a path in our foreign policy which is different from and sometimes opposed to that of our great neighbour. Think of the implications for the hundreds of different agreements between Canada and the United States. What would happen to that whole structure, that whole fabric so carefully woven over the years. And just think of the disruptive effect a fractured country would have on our economic relations with the United States which involve, as you know, billions and billions of dollars? That is perhaps the most striking example of the destabilizing effect of fragmentation - just the threat of it is already hurting us, but such a move would have repercussions over the whole range of our international relations. A fragmented Canada could not but have a weaker voice and less influence in international affairs in - whether it be in discussions within the U.N., OECD, in the north-south dialogue or the participation in an economic summit.

One of the most revealing illustrations of Canada's endeavour to express the reality of its pluralist society and provide ways and means for French-speaking Canadians to play a meaningful role in the world is our involvement in activities of the "francophone" world. Canada has developed an increasingly close relationship with this group of countries through its participation in their cooperation agency and a series of their ministerial conferences. The government of Quebec is closely associated with these activities, which loosely parallel those of the Commonwealth. At the same time Canada has developed, within its overall programme of aid, one of approximately \$100 million annually involving French-speaking African states. Here again the government of Quebec is closely associated with our activities, in certain instances having overall managerial responsibility for projects.

The Canadian Government's aim in this area is to manifest, internationally, the french element of our society, but putting the full weight of the country behind it. These activities have added an important dimension to Canada's international role. Would a divided Canada have the same motivation? Would Quebec find the resources to do it on its own? The figures I have just quoted indicate the extent of the Canadian Government's involvement, and the importance we attach to these activities. Surely the french element of the Canadian population has found and should