

But at the present time (it may have always been so and certainly will be so far into the future) our paramount interest is to ensure the political survival of Canada as a federal and bilingual sovereign state. This means strengthening Canadian unity as a basically North American country. It means reflecting in our foreign relations the cultural diversity and the bilingualism of Canada as faithfully as possible. Parallel to our close ties with the Commonwealth, we should strive to develop a close relation with the francophone countries. It means the development of procedures so that Canada's external relations can take even more into account the interests of provincial governments in matters of provincial jurisdiction.

There are many ways of serving that paramount interest. Some of them are already abundantly apparent in the policies and methods which the Government has been promoting for some time. I have indicated throughout this statement our determination to explore every opportunity for applying such policies with maximum effect. They will be projected in the world of today and tomorrow.

. . . Our search, our exploration, our reassessment, are motivated and directed by a desire not for new approaches for the sake of novelty but for better policies and better methods which will keep Canada effectively in the forefront of those international endeavours which realistically lie within our national resources - active and potential.

While this broad review has been set in motion by the Government, we have taken some immediate steps which will give the Canadian people an indication of the direction the Government will follow and these are:

We have decided to send before the end of 1968 a special mission at the ministerial level to tour Latin America. This mission will be designed to demonstrate the importance the Government attaches to strengthening our bilateral relations with leading Latin American countries.

In order to exploit more fully the opportunities inherent in our bilingual country, it is our intention to open five new missions by 1969 in French-speaking countries. A substantially increased share of our aid will be allocated to francophone countries as an important investment both in improving bilateral relations and in contributing to national unity.

Within the general review, we have set up a special task force on our relations with the countries of Western and Eastern Europe. Its purpose is to prepare detailed recommendations concerning ways in which co-operation could be further strengthened with European countries, from which so many Canadians have originated. It will study the whole range of our economic, political and cultural ties with Europe, together with the presence of Canadian military forces in Europe.

In order to stress the true objectives of our aid programme, we shall change the name of the External Aid Office to Canadian International Development Agency. Aside from removing the resentment that might be felt by some