

sustained military operations between China and the Soviet Union, with one or the other seeking the benevolent neutrality of the West. Similarly, major upsets in India, Burma, Thailand or Indonesia, or another outbreak of hostilities in Korea, would have important repercussions for Canada. Finally, any major overhaul of the security arrangements covering the region following the termination of the hostilities in Indochina could make Canada a candidate for a role as supervisor, observer or guarantor.

These possibilities are of such moment as to point up Canada's need for adequate strategic, political and economic information to permit the Government to keep its assessment of Canadian interests in the region fresh and up-to-date, and to make adjustments to the changing realities of the situation in the light of Canada's interests and capacities.

American influence in the Pacific, in virtually every sphere of activity, is so very great and all-pervasive that it must be regarded as one of the most significant "givens" in any consideration of alternatives; Canadian interests and policies are almost everywhere affected by it. At the same time, there are other important conditioning factors which impart special qualities and opportunities to Canadian activities in the area.

Canada has the advantage of sharing common governmental and other traditions with the Commonwealth countries in the Pacific. There have been fraternal links with Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore for some time. Recently there has been a rapid movement toward self-government and independence among the Commonwealth island territories of the South Pacific: Western Samoa, Nauru, Tonga and, later this year, Fiji; with others to follow in the coming decade.

There are a number of Commonwealth organizations which maintain the links between members: the meetings of Commonwealth prime ministers (the next to be held in Singapore in January 1971), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Foundation and others. Canada has used these organizations to keep alive its traditional connections with Commonwealth countries, and that is reflected in the Pacific.

Canadian *francophone* capacity is a unique and positive factor in facilitating an approach to relations with the approximately 45 million in Southeast Asia, for whose countries—the states of Indochina—the French language is an important means of international communication. French is also the official language of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, and is used with English in the New Hebrides. The possible future relevance of the concepts and objectives of la Francophonie for parts of Southeast