

being of benefit to Canada as a whole. I see relations with France in the same way. The position of France in Europe, in Africa and many other parts of the world, in the fields of culture, technology and commerce, when considered along with our distinctive Canadian reasons for close contact with a country of origin, lead us to pay special attention to relations with that nation.

I believe that by developing this newer dimension in our policy we are helping to consolidate national unity in our country. We develop thereby our sense of purpose as a nation and we open up new channels for our diplomacy in the world.

In speaking to our sense of purpose as a nation, I have introduced some other considerations about current policies and concerns which deserve to be mentioned in these reflections on the broader perspectives of our diplomacy.

The first of these I have already anticipated to some extent in referring to our relations with France. The bilingual and bicultural nature of our country must be reflected, not only in relations with France but with the rest of the world.

In the development of bilingualism within our foreign service, in our recruitment and training of staff as well as in the direction and emphasis of foreign policy we try to follow the logic of our bicultural society. A small but perhaps interesting example lies in the fact that all our formal international agreements must be in two equally authentic languages, English and French. This was, of course, the case with the cultural agreement signed with France in November and with the Air Agreement signed with the United States a few weeks ago.

We have also been taking a particular interest in the federal character of our country as it affects foreign policy. New activities, a steady increase in the challenges and commitments of world affairs require us to assess fundamental responsibilities.