

I should like to point out that the policy of cultural exchanges is not limited to French-speaking countries. I believe that it is in the interests of all Canadians to develop our cultural exchanges, particularly with Europe. I was particularly happy to be able to announce in the course of my trip to Europe last November the opening of negotiations with Italy and the U.S.S.R., which we hope will lead to cultural agreements with them.

In the field of scientific co-operation with France, a group of leading Canadian figures directed by Mr. Gaudry, rector of the University of Montreal, recently went to Paris to agree on a sizable programme of scientific exchanges.

In the economic sphere, there has also been greater co-operation between France and Canada. A Canada-France commission will meet each year to discuss questions of mutual interest. An important Canadian economic mission visited France last year to discuss with the French authorities ways of improving exchanges between the two countries. The commission has just distributed an important report on this subject across Canada.

Many other projects are in progress. I might mention, for instance, an exchange of officers between the French and Canadian armed forces. More and more civil servants are being trained at the French National School of Administration, while in return we have been welcoming French civil servants on study tours. Both countries are studying the possibility of mutual co-operation in the field of defence production. We are also studying a proposed exchange of young people which Mr. Marchand has suggested. There is a constant movement back and forth of commissions and delegations who are doing pioneer work. Impressive results have been obtained since the Prime Minister visited Paris. When Mr. Couve de Murville came to Ottawa last September, we agreed that this was only a beginning.

While we have tried to intensify and diversify our traditional relations with France and to extend the scope of our exchanges with Belgium and Switzerland, we have also sought to establish close links with the many developing French-speaking countries which have gained independence since the last war. Canada has shown its interest in being represented in these countries in Africa by establishing embassies in Cameroun, Congo (Kinshasa), Tunisia and Senegal. Through multiple accreditation, we now have diplomatic relations with all of French-speaking Africa. Although we have no formal diplomatic missions in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, our participation in the work of the International Control Commission since 1954 has allowed us to have useful contacts with these countries. I hope that in the near future our financial and personnel resources will allow us to expand our network of diplomatic missions in French-speaking countries.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of these missions. Without their administrative help and presence in the field, we could not achieve our objectives; they have enabled us to achieve mutual comprehension without which we could not lay the foundation for effective and long-lasting co-operation or work closely with the governments which are interested in "La Francophonie".