

In recent years, exchanges of visits between Canada and countries of the Soviet bloc, particularly in the scientific, cultural and technical fields, have been increasing to a limited but promising degree.

The Canadian Government is in favour of broadening this interchange on a generally reciprocal basis throughout the spectrum of human activity -- not only because such exchanges will be of practical and mutual advantage, but also because a free international interchange of ideas and information is a goal of the highest principle to which Canadians generally subscribe.

An accumulation of personal contacts can do more than an infinity of words to communicate the quality of life, ideas and attitudes, through exchanges in science, culture and education, and in the course of tourist visits. Thus, so long as visits are positive in purpose and are of genuinely mutual interest and advantage, the Government is always ready to encourage such exchanges.

In September 1958, I advocated in Montreal, at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference, the setting up of a system of fellowships and scholarships to be made available to teachers and students in 25 Commonwealth countries. This plan was accepted by the Conference, and recently, in July, a Commonwealth Conference on Education attended by leaders of education, including Dean Leddy, was held at Oxford, which laid the foundation for progress in this field. Under this plan, 1,000 students and teachers will be receiving, in the next few years, scholarships and fellowships provided by the nations of the Commonwealth, with Canada paying one-quarter of the cost.

The U.S.S.R. is stepping up its programme to provide students from Asia and Africa with schooling in the U.S.S.R. or other countries inside the Iron Curtain. The free world can do no less, if it is to meet the communist world competition to mobilize mankind which, whatever progress is made towards the maintenance of peace, will continue in intensified form for many years, if not generations.

There is a need in Canada for understanding the ways and thoughts of people in other nations. An understanding of the communist system is, of course, essential, and most universities in Canada make provision for such studies. But it would be shortsighted to concentrate on communism and neglect an understanding of other regions. A greater effort should be put forth to understand Asia and Africa.

The placing in Canadian universities of greater emphasis on Asian and African affairs, perhaps by setting up additional facilities in these fields, and by establishing chairs