

tial contemporary man' of whom General de Gaulle said: 'He is one of the most exceptional men I have known.'

"And so, today, the Minister for Cultural Affairs is at once the perennial man of action, the novelist and the humanist who has made humanity conscious of its own grandeur, which survives man in his culture, art and thought. Indeed, your political role has provided you with practical means of carrying into effect your cherished idea of enabling the people to share the cultural and social heritage of the Western world, which should not be restricted to an elite. The greatest creations of man will now be placed within reach of the people, while the vitality of French culture and the perfection of new works in every realm — of thought, of literature and of art — will continue to excite the admiration of the world.

Contribution of French Canada

"Need I add that nearly a third of our population participates in French culture, and embodies it, with the special characteristics conferred by our North American environment, in an increasingly dynamic way? Nor need I recall how much the unity and independence of Canada, and its identity as a separate state, owe to the French-Canadian contribution. I had the opportunity last June in Quebec of emphasizing the great importance and indispensable character of this contribution. Here let me simply remind you of three examples of it on the international level:

(1) Canada is a member of several international organizations that bring together the representatives of French-speaking countries. (2) A growing number of French-speaking students from abroad are attending French-Canadian universities and colleges, attracted by the quality of their teaching, which, while inspired by universal spiritual values, is yet thoroughly adapted to the contemporary world. French Canada alone, I believe, offers a living synthesis of the Latin and North American spirits. (3) Nearly 20 per cent of the Canadian experts serving abroad — teachers, technicians and others — come from Quebec; this proportion is obviously greater in the new French-speaking states. On the other hand, the cultural ties — and from today those of an economic and technical character as well — that bind Canada to France and the French-speaking countries are being drawn tighter every day.

"We are happy that increasingly friendly bonds are being created between France and Canada. As I pointed out last May to Mr. Couve de Murville, when I had the great pleasure of meeting him at the NATO ministerial conference, we intend to give increasing attention to our relations with France, which we wish to intensify in every sphere.

Examples of Co-operation

"Measures have already been taken to increase our cultural and technical exchanges. One of these is the co-production agreement recently negotiated by the 'Centre national de cinema francais' and the National Film Board, which I had the pleasure of signing with you a few minutes ago. 'Radio-Telediffusion Fran-