

However, I think that we Canadians who did not have the benefit of absorbing French culture and traditions at our mother's breast, have been lacking in generosity and vision and imagination in making use of the openings which our common language and cultural heritage can give us with what I would call the commonwealth of French-speaking countries. This French-speaking commonwealth is more cultural than constitutional, but it is none the less a fact for all that. It is, I think, quite understandable that many of our French-speaking compatriots feel that the proportion of Canadian aid which has in the past gone to French-speaking countries has been less than it might have been considering the proportion of Canadians of French culture and the amount which they contribute to our economy. It is also reasonable that many of them feel that we have less than sufficient diplomatic missions in French-speaking countries. I hope and believe that both these complaints will be met as we develop our external relations.

All Canadians will benefit from the added contacts and the wider understanding and friendships available to us, by making full use of both these series of potential links, and it is not unreasonable to hope that in the exciting new continent of Africa, Canadians, being both French and English speaking, can contribute something to the training in cooperation of the French and English speaking elites of new African countries.

Meanwhile it is good to know that men of initiative and vision in Quebec, that land whose renaissance is so exciting and so essentially promising an aspect of modern Canada, have reached out to develop international associations of French-speaking universities and periodicals. The task of implementing the vision of Commonwealth is not a monopoly of governments, or of those whose mother tongue is English.

There are many challenging tasks in the world, for our generation. And there is every reason to believe, on the basis of sober analysis as well as in the light of faith, that Canadians -- of both languages, and all national origins -- will continue to play a creative part in meeting them. The future is full of problems, but it will not be dull.

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