

has given us at this stage in world affairs and to do all that we can to assist those developing countries in which English or French is the second language.

### **French-speaking Europe**

In addition, we must strengthen and develop our relations with the French-speaking countries of Europe, first of all with France itself but also with Belgium and Switzerland. For the past two years, the Government has been rapidly increasing resources devoted to promoting cultural and educational exchanges with the French-speaking countries of Europe. On the basis of the promising start made last year with the allocation of \$250,000, the Government has recently decided to spend during the current fiscal year \$1 million on these exchanges, most of it to bring students and some professors from the great French-speaking universities of Europe to our universities. In return there will no doubt be increasing opportunities for French-speaking students from across Canada to study in European universities. At the same time, there will be an increasing flow of cultural visits and exchanges in both directions. Meanwhile, we are negotiating general cultural agreements with both France and Belgium and hope to have mixed commissions of experts representing both countries who will plan the expanding programmes to take account of the principal interests and opportunities on both sides. . . .

Practical arrangements to give effect to the expansion of contacts and exchanges of all kinds between France and Canada at the federal, provincial or municipal levels have been facilitated and promoted by the Federal Government. Far from wishing to restrain such exchanges, we hope that they will grow and increase to the benefit of Canada as a whole. We recognize that the interest of Quebec is naturally stronger than in other parts of Canada since Quebec has the highest proportion of French-speaking Canadians. As the External Affairs Minister, I consider the interests of all Canadians, whether the matter at issue be in the political, cultural or foreign-aid field. I am glad to see advances in external policy which are in accord with the interests, obligations, traditions and sentiments of all Canadians. . . .

There are critics who try to see opposing interests in this field or to assign exclusive responsibility for the carrying-out of some comprehensive programmes to one level of government or another. I cannot imagine Canadian obligations and interests of the scope of those I have been describing which would not be the concern of the Federal Government in its field of responsibility or not be the concern of a provincial government in its own field. The only question ever at issue is how to find the most effective means of co-ordinating the interests and activities of all concerned. I am encouraged by the effective work done so far to believe that appropriate means will always be found.

### **Need for Bilingual Personnel**

I should like also to repeat what I have said on other occasions about the need for more young French-speaking Canadians to take up careers both in our diplo-