

# Marcel Cadieux

**A** veteran of nearly four decades in Canada's Foreign Service, Marcel Cadieux was a consummately skilled diplomat. But he was also a diplomat by instinct, and his views on the great issues of the day derived not so much from textbook or tradition as direct experience.

An example is his stance on the Cold War. Cadieux was known for his uncompromising anticommunism. This position had its roots in his political and religious convictions, and also in his on-the-job experience as Canadian adviser to the International Control Commission in Vietnam in the 1950s. He was shocked by the brutalities that accompanied the introduction of a communist regime in the North, and by the efforts to block the departure of Catholic refugees for the South.

On the issue of Canadian unity, this native of Montréal was both a committed federalist and a true Quebecker. As Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs during the 1960s, he always encouraged young Quebeckers to consider a career in the Canadian Foreign Service. In a handbook he authored for aspiring young diplomats, he wrote, "French Canadians can play a useful and unique part in the administration while remaining loyal to the spirit of their race. Their Latin background sets them apart in particular to serve as interpreters of Canada in the countries of Latin America and widely in Europe."

He showed the same qualities at other points in his career. In the early 1970s, Cadieux was Canada's first Francophone Ambassador to the United States. A former colleague who served with him in Washington says, "During the Trudeau years, we were always trying to demonstrate to Americans the distinct identity of Canadians. Most Anglo-Canadian ambassadors just blended in with the Americans. He always kept his distinctiveness."

Cadieux was a tough, shrewd diplomat and a trained lawyer. In 1970, he represented Canada with extraordinary effectiveness in negotiations on Canada-U.S. maritime boundaries. He was a tough but common-sense negotiator who always stood firm on matters of principle.

But Cadieux was also a versatile diplomat who could win a game even with an unpromising hand. In 1972, when the Nixon administration slapped a hefty surcharge on imports into the United States, Prime Minister Trudeau flew to Washington to argue for a Canadian exemption. The negotiations that followed were tense. Cadieux was known as a legal expert but had no track record in economics. Despite this, he performed impressively—so much so that his next posting was to Brussels as Canada's first Ambassador to what was then the European Economic Community.

Marcel Cadieux died in 1981. He is survived by his wife Anita and two sons. ●—

*French Canadians can play a useful and unique part in the administration while remaining loyal to the spirit of their race. Their Latin background sets them apart in particular to serve as interpreters of Canada in the countries of Latin America and widely in Europe.*

—Marcel Cadieux

