

represented as well. In this way the problem of the French-speaking community would be of concern not only to French-Canadians or to the Quebec Government but to all Canadians. Is this utopian? Perhaps. Yet five years ago, if anyone had said that Ontario would become a bilingual province, he would have been called a dreamer. Why should it be thought advisable for Quebec to participate in the Fourth Commonwealth Conference on Education and inadvisable for New Brunswick, for example, to participate in a similar conference dealing with education in the French-speaking countries?

The basic ideal for French-speaking people, and, in particular, for the people of Quebec, is to develop their culture as far as possible. However, in order to do this, we must go out into the world, not shut ourselves in. Going out into the world does not mean locking ourselves safely inside our own little world but, on the contrary, being seen and felt in as many areas and places as possible. It is important for French Canada, all of French Canada, to be represented in the French-speaking community, but it is also important for it to be represented in Washington or at the United Nations. That is what we are trying to do in the Department of External Affairs. In the field of foreign relations, the policy of the Government and its officials is very clear - it is to reflect abroad, to an ever increasing extent, the image of a bilingual Canada.

If this action is to be pursued and developed, the Federal Government and its officials must obviously maintain contact and co-operate with the provincial governments and their officials. And that is precisely the intention, and increasingly the practice, of our Department. When an international conference which may be of interest to the provinces is announced, the provinces are informed and invited to appoint someone to the national delegation. If a group of provincial officials wishes to negotiate some arrangement with a foreign country, we facilitate the matter. What more can you ask in the way of co-operation? All we ask is to be consulted in time, so that we can assure ourselves that the projects do not conflict with Canada's national policy and that the arrangements observe the proper forms and respect Canada's international personality. And I am not speaking here of what we intend or plan to do, but of current and accepted practice.

... In closing, I wish to say that the Department of External Affairs is your Department and that it is trying to serve the interests of French-Canadians, as well as those of all Canadians. This task it cannot do alone. If Quebec and the other provinces are to make their presence truly felt in world affairs, the Department needs their co-operation. With this co-operation, the Department can succeed in ensuring that Canada, all of Canada, will always be represented on the world scene, serving the interests of all the people of Quebec and of all Canadians.