

practising race discrimination, and to make the need of the recipients the primary criterion for economic assistance. The ministers gave less support to the use of aid to promote exports, but more to the combating of Communism. Their political sensitivity was displayed in their relatively high support for domestic cohesion as an objective of aid policy, and the related strengthening of ties with La Francophonie and the Commonwealth. Politicians may be more inclined than bureaucrats to shade their responses to cater to the presumed views of the interviewer, and several volunteered that they would go further to meet Third World demands if they thought public opinion would tolerate it. Nevertheless, especially in view of the strong statements by the Prime Minister, it seems regrettable that Canada's Third World policies are closer to those advocated by the bureaucracy than by our Cabinet respondents.

The only non-governmental élite interviewed was a group of 36 academic specialists in international relations. They proved less likely than the Ottawa élite to concur that peace depends upon closing the rich-poor gap, and, perhaps in consequence, fewer of them attached importance to using aid to promote stability. They were the least likely of our sub-élites to agree that Canada's aid has been essentially altruistic, but approached CIDA in their support for a doubling of the program, and were relatively strong in support of cutting tariffs on Third World exports. On most points, academic views did not differ greatly from those of the politicians and officials.

The interviews were conducted late

in 1975 and early in 1976 — before the shock of November 15, 1976. It would be comforting to believe that Ottawa perceptions have evolved in the interim, and are now more sympathetic to the needs of LDCs. With the persistence of Canadian economic tribulations, however, and the renewed threat of domestic disintegration, this hardly seems likely. Canadian standards remain very high by global standards, and we consume more than is good for our health, to say nothing of our souls. Worry about the threat to national unity is understandable, but obsession with the problem can be counterproductive. One way to counteract the centrifugal forces is to shift attention from domestic issues, which frequently divide, and to concentrate on the global concerns that can only be tackled effectively if all Canadians pull together. In the postwar years, the so-called "golden decade" of Canadian diplomacy, Canadian contribution to international causes was second to none. A revival of its internationalist vocation could strengthen institutions in Canada and support for its centrist impact upon world problems.

To be internationalist in the Seventies, however, means to contribute seriously to the establishment of equitable economic conditions for all peoples — help bridge the North-South gap that is the greatest scandal of our time. This will not happen without cost. Since the Ottawa policy-making élite does not perceive a vital Canadian stake in this cause, it will have to be persuaded to act by a manifestation of popular demand far exceeding anything we have yet seen.

What does the future hold for Canada-France relations?

By Neil B. Bishop

What does the future hold for relations between Canada and France? In order to answer this question, it would be helpful to know the present state of these relations. Canada is one of the many countries

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with which France has fairly close contacts, but its relations with France are among the most difficult to analyse and the most seriously threatened by later instability. Indeed, any discussion of them may be likened to a stroll across a stretch of quicksand.

This instability understandably surprises the average Canadian and the average Frenchman. It is, of course, the task of Quebecers and Frenchmen to describe the relations between their two groups