

Visit to Canada of Mr. Malraux

MR. ANDRE MALRAUX, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs of the French Republic, visited Canada from October 7 to 15, 1963. Though the main purpose of his visit was to open the French Exhibition in Montreal, it also served to emphasize the close bond that has always existed between France and Canada, as well as the hope of still closer relations. An example of this spirit of co-operation was the signing by both countries of a convention for the joint production of films.

Several times during his visit, Mr. Malraux recalled the wealth of the French heritage in Canada. On the occasion of a dinner given in Montreal on October 13 by the French Embassy, he urged Canada to join his country and others in the creation of a new culture, a richer and deeper one, that would respond to the challenge of the scientific revolution. "We expect all men," he declared, "who consider intellectual values indispensable to unite and together create that civilization which tomorrow will be the only civilization, and which, for the time being is a matter of fraternal rivalry among all the nations of the free world. That, Canadians, is why France extends you its hand not from out the past but face to face with the future."

In his reply, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stressed Canada's desire to strengthen the bonds between the two countries by means of their common heritage. The text of his address follows:

"The magnificent panorama we have been offered since this morning by the French Exhibition in Montreal enables us once more to wonder at the magnitude of the post-war achievements of France in all spheres of human action. Not only has France for some years been astonishing the industrial and technical world, but it continues to be the beacon and vanguard of our Western civilization. Indeed, does not the grandeur of France stem from precisely this ability to combine the vigour of its culture and its civilization with its economic vitality and its sense of reality?"

Embodiment of a Civilization

"You, Mr. Minister, are the very embodiment of that civilization admired by all, for you have permitted within yourself no divorce between action and thought, between the world of affairs and the realm of the spirit. You are the writer whose great works have changed the course of the stream of literature, the prophetic humanist whose indictment of man's condition has turned into a tribute to man's dignity — the novelist and critic, seeking, first in action and then in thought and art, the weapon that will conquer death. But you are also the man of action who, on two continents, has taken part in more than a single battle, the Resistance fighter and commanding officer of the last World War, the 'essen-