

a visit by Mr. Basdevant, Director-General of Cultural and Technical Affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, in November 1964;

Mr. Hellyer's visit to Paris in February 1965;

in the communiqué issued after the last meeting between Messrs. Couve de Murville and Martin, there was mentioned "the advisability of sending a Canadian economic mission to France and the possibility of a meeting of the Franco-Canadian Joint Committee".

I do not forget the tremendous amount of work done by the Quebec authorities -- the opening of Quebec House in Paris in September 1961, the many voyages of Messrs. Gérin-Lajoie, Filion, René Lévesque and Gérard Lévesque, culminating in the visit of Mr. Lesage in 1964.

THE RESULTS

Cultural Agreements

Is all this activity without purpose? Certainly not. We have already achieved demonstrable results. To begin with the cultural side - first of all between Paris and Quebec, since it seems normal to me that there should be a particularly close association between Paris and Quebec in cultural affairs.

Quebec is 80 percent French-speaking, and autonomous in educational matters. What could be more natural than a cultural understanding between Quebec and Paris?

And, while we are on the subject, Quebec as well as Ottawa possesses authority in matters of trade and industrial promotion. What then could be more natural than a "Maison du Québec" in Paris? What could be more natural for this establishment than a legal status resembling that of the Provincial Houses in London?

Ottawa has permitted and has encouraged these relations. I am not saying that all this was done with the smile that marks my speeches. Each of us is a conservative at heart! To be a liberal requires an intellectual effort!

Faced with the results so far achieved, some are shouting "victory" as though a Bastille had just been toppled. Others are crying "defeat", as though the Austro-Hungarian Empire had just been restored. For my part, I call this merely progress, political wisdom, federal-provincial co-operation. (You have been wondering from the start how I was going to introduce the idea of co-operative federalism; well, I've just done it!) Our constitutional writs are not codes of slavery. Unfortunately, too many of those who wish to break loose from the ancient codes have only one desire -- that is, to write new codes just as arbitrary, with one difference -- that they express their own particular viewpoint. To achieve balance has always been a most difficult political exercise, and one which most rarely is successful.