

France could play only a secondary role. The minimal participation of French-speaking Canadians in the formulation of foreign policy would do nothing to alter this power structure.

This is all the more evident in the light of the rather tenuous bilateral relations between Canada and France. Exchanges on the economic level, as well as on the cultural and social levels, tended to be superficial. There were almost none with English Canada. While exchanges with French Canada were not completely lacking (recent studies show that certain notions in this regard will have to be changed), they were unrelated to the real nature of French-Canadian society. In any event, France was not regarded by any level of that society as essential to its survival.

A similar situation existed for the French Government. Canada played only

a minor role in France's general foreign policy strategy. The sincere gratitude French felt towards the Canadian people for their participation in the two world wars did not alter this view. To the political leaders of France, Canada was a somewhat remote country and Quebec a vague memory from the past.

De Gaulle's visit

General de Gaulle's visit in 1967 would change all this. On the governmental level he raised, though in a rather negative way, the entire question of France's place in Canadian diplomacy. With France as a possible threat, however indirect, to the political order in Canada, Franco-Canadian relations took on unprecedented importance for Ottawa. We may deplore the method used by de Gaulle from a legal and moral standpoint. Politically, however, it gave a significance to Franco-Canadian

And then a visit to Mr. Ford

By Duart Farquharson

WASHINGTON: — Prime Minister Trudeau's brief working visit here December 4 and 5 was a moderately useful exercise in re-establishing Canadian good will with a new President. It had at least one advantage over the last two meetings between Prime Minister Trudeau and former President Nixon. There was no exaggerated claim of accomplishment made, and thus no consequent let-down after the event.

In his departure press conference this time, Mr. Trudeau did not boast of a "fantastic breakthrough" as he had in December 1971. Instead, he bluntly acknowledged continuing differences with the U.S. on beef and cattle, and supplies and prices of Canadian oil. Nor was there any attempt to announce some major new agreement such as the bilateral accord to clean up the Great Lakes signed by Mr. Nixon and Mr. Trudeau amid all the pomp and ceremony Ottawa could muster in April 1973. On this occasion, the Prime Minister politely but firmly reminded the new President that Canada expected the U.S. to honour clean-up commitments on which it had been lagging.

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Canadian officials laid great stress on the warm personal rapport they saw Mr. Trudeau achieved with Mr. Ford at their first meeting. The President invited the Prime Minister upstairs alone to meet the family after a stag dinner at 30 in the White House. They reportedly spent most of their hour together talking about skiing. Mr. Trudeau always appeared to get along swimmingly with Mr. Nixon too, despite their contrasting backgrounds, which were as different as the Canadian's is from Mr. Ford's. Certainly, Canadian officials always claimed they did. The Prime Minister said he wanted the President to phone him from time to time just the way his predecessor had done. We know now, through the Watergate tapes, how insulting Mr. Nixon really regarded Mr. Trudeau even when putting through or cancelling a call.

The Ford friendliness the Prime Minister encountered was, of course, a unique gesture towards Canada. All the allied leaders who met the President at year's end, according to a *New York Times* survey of their home capitals, found him warm and personable. Mr. Trudeau was the only one quoted as making a critical comment. He found the President, an aide told the *Times*, "not very articulate".

The "working visit" format was officially said to be the choice of both