

reality which must be developed and reflected abroad. By working in co-operation with the Federal Government, Quebec gains in two ways: first, by ensuring its contacts with the world French-speaking community just as though Quebec itself had dealt with these countries directly; secondly, by helping to develop the French fact in Canada in association with other provincial governments and with the Federal Government.

You may, perhaps, be familiar with the document entitled Federalism and International Relations. From the legal point of view, this paper makes a number of clear-cut statements. Indeed it asserts, and supports the assertion with evidence, that only the federal authorities may represent a federal state in its relations with other states. I repeat that this is true for all federal states and that the Canadian federal system is as flexible in its attitude toward the provinces as any. However, in the manner in which it recommends that this federal control be applied, this document is very broad and flexible. The document, in fact, opens the way to all possible forms of co-operation with the provinces and allows them full scope in this area, on the condition that a certain form of procedure or, better still, a certain attitude, be respected.

I mentioned a moment ago certain provincial delegations abroad which were set up with the approval and co-operation of the Federal Government. It was also the Federal Government that authorized the cultural exchange between France and Quebec. This exchange was negotiated directly between Quebec and France but, following the usual practice, before it was initialled, federal approval was given in a diplomatic note to the French Government. Why should it be otherwise? In substance, this agreement benefits Quebec and, by the same token, Canada. In form, the result would have been the same if Quebec had signed the agreement itself, but with this difference - it would have been contrary to practice and to international law and, above all, the signing would then have had solely provincial, rather than national, significance. By initialling the exchange of notes, the Federal Government signified its approval of the policy of closer relations between France and Quebec, which, of course, was and still is in line with the Federal Government's policy of drawing closer to France.

That simple gesture of initialling had a symbolic value. It was a sign of co-operation.

So it is in the other fields of international politics. If Quebec is represented in a national delegation to an international meeting, the Federal Government is thereby aided by Quebec in developing the Canadian "French fact" to the fullest extent on an international level, by ensuring that the interests for which the provincial government is responsible will be directly represented.

Moreover, the interests of French-Canadians are not limited to the French-speaking world. These interests include all areas of external affairs. Conversely, the French-speaking world should not interest only Quebecers, or even French-Canadians, but all Canadians. When the Commonwealth Conference on Education was held in Ottawa in 1965 (and another will soon take place in Lagos), it was not only English-speaking Canadians who took part. French-Canadians were also there. This is only reasonable. In addition, the Quebec provincial government is invited to appoint representatives on such occasions, and does so. For my part, I should like to see the French-speaking world do the same: allow English-speaking people and provinces with English-speaking majorities to be