

cadre signed by Canada and France in 1965 has made this possible, not only between France and Quebec but also between France and any of the Canadian provinces. Exchanges, between France and Quebec in particular, in the fields of education, culture and technology are of first importance to the enlargement of the French contribution to Canada's culture.

A cultural agreement has also been signed by Canada and Belgium. Moreover, beyond Europe, Canada has begun to play its part as a highly-developed, technologically-advanced French-speaking country in providing development assistance to the French-speaking countries of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean (Haiti). This is a logical evolution of Canada's international assistance programme, which had its origin in the developing countries of the Commonwealth. Canada is a founding member of L'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique, and a major contributor to it. It seems likely that the main interest of the developing countries of la Francophonie will lie in generating an increased flow of development assistance. This underlines further the desirability of Canada co-operating closely with France, Belgium and French-speaking countries generally.

Canada's relations with French-speaking countries in Europe and elsewhere are particularly significant in the context of strengthening national unity and reflecting in foreign policy the bilingual nature of Canada. The Government has given high priority to cultural relations, public information and immigration programmes, especially in France; it is making solid efforts to develop trade and investment, as well as scientific and technological co-operation. While Canada's relations with France have assumed special priority, the Government believes that they should be developed as part of a broader policy encompassing Britain and West European countries generally, but particularly those from which major elements of the Canadian population derive.

Concentration on the Economy

In the late sixties, there has been growing concern in Canada—shared by government at all levels and by Canadians generally—about the state of the national economy. This concern has been reflected in policies and activities—internal and external—pursued by the Government of Canada. It has a marked influence on how the Government views its international relations generally but especially those with the countries of Europe.

Canada's economic ties with Europe have not developed to the extent justified by Europe's increasing importance in the world whether measured against its economic growth or its expanding share of world trade. In the