

The Heads of Government of both organizations will meet in Canada next year - la Francophonie in Quebec City in September, the Commonwealth in Vancouver in October. These are more than alliances of language or tradition. They cut across the categories of wealth or colour or region which can divide the world. They allow us to exercise a status that is virtually unique to Canada - as a developed country, without colonial antecedents or ambitions, trusted by the developing world. That is important in diplomacy, as when we seek reform of agencies of the United Nations, or try to develop common policies to seek peaceful change in southern Africa. It is important in trade, as when we are able to get agreement on the inclusion of agriculture, or of services, in the GATT. It is significant in establishing joint ventures, or securing development projects, as Canadian entrepreneurs have discovered in Africa and the Caribbean.

We are accustomed to thinking of our French and English heritage in relation to the European cultures they reach back to. It is time for Canada to give more attention to the developing countries they reach out to. We are a unique country in the world, and ought to build on all our assets.

Allow me one concluding observation. This country is blessed not only by the resources we have here at home, but also by the reputation we have earned abroad. Canadians came from everywhere, to settle in this country. We reach out to everywhere, in our development activities, and our diplomacy, and our trade. We are welcome everywhere. In an age when no nation can stand alone, these are substantial assets.