

questions, relations between developed and developing, aligned and neutralist nations, and in particular Canada's interests, commitments and policies in the Commonwealth and including perhaps the French-speaking countries of Asia, Africa and the Caribbean which were former colonies of France.

Here is a thought to which little, but some, deliberation has been given—and why should we not give some thought to such a development? We in Canada are in fact a biracial and bicultural people, and as such we may in time want to fulfil our bicultural mission to the extent of showing concern and of lending assistance to those developing countries of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean where the French language is spoken. This is not a new thought; it has already been developed to the extent that our program of aid to underdeveloped countries has been extended to the French-speaking new nations that I have just referred to. They are now receiving aid from Canada in a manner similar to that extended to countries of the Commonwealth.

For those who may perhaps feel that this resolution may have less meaning to people in French Canada than in other parts, let me quote the words of the Premier of Quebec on a certain day last October. Mr. Lesage said:

...the Commonwealth remains, for the whole world, an inspiring example of how nations can get along together despite differences in outlook and of how they can pursue common objectives, albeit by differing ways and means. And...the Commonwealth, in the relations that exist between its various members, affords to Canadians a striking illustration of collaboration based, not upon uniformity, but of a community of purpose born of mutual respect and understanding.

I would now like to say a few words about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. One of the numerous governmental organizations of the Commonwealth is the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This association came into being in the years 1948 and 1949, and was a successor to the former Empire Parliamentary Association which had been formed as long ago as 1911. It should be of great interest to us in this house to recall that in 1949 the General Council of the association met in Ottawa and that its President at that time was none other than our colleague, Senator Roebuck, and that later, in 1950, Senator Roebuck presided at a general conference which was held in New Zealand in that year and at which the new constitution of this body was adopted.

The last conference of the C.P.A. was held in Kingston, Jamaica, in November 1964; and among other delegates to this conference from Canada were two members of this house, Senator Roebuck and Senator Grosart. I have read the speeches made by these colleagues which are contained in the report of the proceedings of the conference, and I want to say that their remarks are of a high order and that these gentlemen deserve the commendation of this house for the capable manner in which they represented this body at the conference.

It is of interest also to observe that there were represented at this conference no less than 66 parliaments of the Commonwealth, coming from 38 states and representing approximately 750 million people.

Another point of interest to us is that the 1966 meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held in Canada. This pending event may have had something to do with the selection of this topic of the Commonwealth for the consideration of the Standing Committee on External Relations.

I commend this resolution to the house. Before it goes to committee, I am sure that it would be of much value if other senators saw fit to express their views upon the merit or otherwise of this project.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, may I, in the first instance, thank my colleague who has just spoken for the kind remarks he has made with regard to Senator Grosart and myself. May I also compliment him on giving this incisive personal thought to this great subject of the Commonwealth.

Too long has the Standing Committee on External Relations been quiescent. I am sure other honourable senators will remember, as I do, that the one activity of this committee has been the excellent speeches heard from Senator Gouin when he was its chairman. Otherwise it has been stagnant. In my view it is the most important, or one of the most important, of the standing committees of the Senate. Therefore, I compliment the honourable senator who has just spoken for his incisive thought, for the originality of his approach and for the prospect of something worth while to come from this committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Roebuck, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I move, with leave of the Senate, that