

Canada and France — a long-standing privileged relationship

In a speech to the France-Canada Convention in Caen, France on May 14, Canadian Minister of State for External Relations Charles Lapointe spoke of the privileged relationship that had always existed between the two countries which, he said, he was pleased to be able to "perpetuate and to solidify". In his address, the minister touched on the existing joint economic projects of the two countries as well as three new agreements which were about to be signed — two in joint cinema production and one in television.

Mr. Lapointe referred to the Canada-France committee of businessmen, initiated at the time of Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to France last November, which will promote an awareness of trade practices and help bring about commercial exchanges and industrial co-operation. Two groups comprise the committee and the Canadian group is expected to visit France this month. "I think we can rightly place high hopes in this committee of businessmen and what it can accomplish in the way of achieving fuller understanding and co-operation between the economic agents of our two countries," said Mr. Lapointe.

La Francophonie a unique link

A subject of common interest which, said the minister, could not be disregarded was la Francophonie. "The future of la Francophonie is something Canada and France are directly involved in," he stated and, by way of the Francophone



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community, Canada would like to see established a "free dialogue, direct exchanges between the non-aligned and members of various alliances, and between developing and industrialized countries". Despite the great distance yet to be covered, he continued, "the Francophone community already provides a unique link that is eminently suited to bring about the rapprochement we all desire to see and the co-operation required for harmony between nations.

Co-operation between Francophone countries must go beyond culture and technology and into the political realm otherwise, said the minister, there could

be no "genuine and complete Franco-phone internationale".

Cartier celebrations

Mr. Lapointe described the joint celebrations to take place next year in France and Canada in commemoration of the four-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the first voyage of Jacques Cartier to the country that was to become Canada:

"Among the various activities that will highlight the year 1984 is the voyage of the Tall Ships from Saint-Malo to Bermuda, then from Bermuda to Halifax. These superb ships will sail up the St. Lawrence to Quebec City, by way of Gaspé. In August, the great Quebec-Saint-Malo race will bring together the world's most renowned class A ships and their crews. There will also be an interprovincial sailboat race from Toronto to Prince Edward Island, along with the national and international championships for sailing dinghies and windsurfers on the St. Lawrence.

"In Canada there will be colourful celebrations of all kinds at the local level: entertainment and other activities in Halifax, Charlottetown, Kingston and all along the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf.

"In France, as well as the assembling of your own Congress for 1984, the Association française des Études canadiennes will dedicate its annual symposium to Jacques Cartier, and several activities of a cultural nature are already planned: these include exhibitions on his

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Future Commonwealth diplomats

The Canadian government sponsored a diplomatic training seminar for officials from Commonwealth Caribbean countries in Bridgetown, Barbados, from April 17 to 29. The participants (above), were from Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. The course was directed by L.A. Delvoie (left) and administered by J. Devlin (right). Guest speakers included the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, the Chief Justice of Barbados, the Director-General of the Caribbean Development Bank, the Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and the Canadian High Commissioners in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

