

however, as an agency for technical and cultural co-operation. The Commonwealth began as a political organization, as an organization of those countries that had once been colonies of the United Kingdom. And it is only in recent years that the Commonwealth has set up Commonwealth fellowships and exchanges and economic co-operation. Similarly, the Francophone agency has no preferential trading arrangements whereas the Commonwealth began with preferential trading relationships, but those are disappearing, and if Britain enters the Common Market, presumably a lot of them will disappear--may vanish altogether in the long run. And yet there are some parallels and I think that if the Commonwealth survives and the new agency prospers that they will become very much more similar, simply because they will be engaged much more in co-operation in cultural matters, in education and in scientific and industrial exchanges. But at the moment there are some very big differences. For example, the meeting that is going to be held in Singapore is concerned with political questions, in other words it's concerned with discussion by the heads of the governments of world questions affecting the Commonwealth--affecting the members of the Commonwealth. It's a place where the heads of government can get together to discuss informally the questions that are discussed more formally, say, in the United Nations. It's a sort of microcosm of the United Nations. The Francophone countries, on the other hand, are not of that character at all. The agency has been created specifically for the purpose of promoting cultural and technical exchanges.

Q. Our own relations with Francophone countries have seen an emphasis on development assistance, particularly for those countries in Africa. Will this become a much larger part of our development programme?

A. Yes. Quite deliberately so. A few years ago the government came to the conclusion that the distribution of development assistance neglected, relatively, the Francophone countries, and one of my former colleagues, Lionel Chevrier, went on a tour of the Francophone countries and at that time established the basis for the programmes that are now getting under way. It's taken a little time to get these programmes under way, but now they're moving quite quickly and I expect that the proportion of our aid going to Francophone countries will rise quite steadily. Of course, this is not the only place where this will happen. The whole emphasis of our programme is changing. It began with the Colombo Plan countries many, many years ago--India, Pakistan, Ceylon were the biggest recipients, still are the biggest recipients of our aid. They're growing less rapidly whereas our aid to the Caribbean countries, to the Francophone African countries and to one or two other areas is being given new emphasis.

Q. Do you see any hope that Canada can reach the goal set in Mr. Pearson's report to the World Bank of .7% of official aid?