mpt to step up these activities, though ge of the would be surprising if this were to be ostentatiously. International relay to take are far from a priority in the Parti bécois program, especially since the ile contine dealing with this matter is quite mplete and subject to reservations c's intended by the party leadership; this ion will certainly be re-examined in the few years in the light of experience as a result of a more practical view of nile it settemporary strategic and international ities by party activists. Also, until a foreign rendum is held, the Quebec Departd of an it of Intergovernmental Affairs will 's interpably devote more of its energies to sturbed, ral-provincial relations than to intermany of onal relations.

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rs demonnout taking up in detail the sequence ncophonvents, it should be recalled that Quebec French-strengthened its position in the French-I emphaking community since 1960, and in

Deven created a precedent in becoming ough mearticipating government" in the ebec natince de coopération culturelle et technce on Cie (ACCT), which had a Québécois, States an-Marc Léger, as its first secretaryarticularization Quebec is no longer isolated ed Stateshologically from the French-speaking n Columinumity. The contrast with the 1950s is nationalizing In addition to participating in itime ProT. Quebec contributes to many mulerican logeral institutions, such as the Confercreate is of Ministers of Education (Africa and is more lagascar) and the Conference of Minis-Frenchs of Youth and Sports, not to mention eeling of dozens of non-governmental organizah debates such as the International Association Liberal **rench**-speaking Parliamentarians, the wing the ciation des universités partiellement rebec omntièrement de langue française (AUcompanie F), the headquarters of which are in ecially the Association des éditeurs de Federal ue française, the Communauté radioich becnique et télévisuelle de langue franmmental and numerous professional associane Genera of journalists, doctors, economists, d the coprians, geographers, sociologists, writwith Frand so on, from the French-speaking of 1965.d.

nson (19**On the bilateral level, Quebec has set** Bourassa network of general delegations and s were ee missions in a number of other couner count It now has official representatives in nstitutiope (Paris, London, Brussels, Milan, uence ane, Dusseldorf), the United States iebec. Ww York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los at all leples, Lafayette), Asia (Tokyo, Beirut), tionalize^a (Abidjan) and the West Indies ivities. t-au-Prince). Special mention should t the Pa be made of the role of the Office é Lévesc^{0-québécois} de la Jeunesse, which

since 1968 has been opening international horizons to thousands of young people of all backgrounds. In addition, Quebec contributes directly, or indirectly through private institutions, universities and business, to the implementation of numerous co-operation projects in Asia, Latin America, the West Indies and Africa (especially in French-speaking states) undertaken by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) and numerous voluntary associations.

These are the established facts, undeniable and irreversible, which, following Expo 67, the visit of French President Charles de Gaulle the same year, the events of October 1970, the Olympic Games and the Parti québécois victory in 1976, have put an international stamp on the special character of contemporary Quebec.

Despite some hesitations and many disappointments, Quebec's international activities have continued to grow to the point where they have been cited as a precedent in several recent textbooks on international law.

After a number of "noisy" years, Québécois have now realized that it is first and foremost through their competence that they will gain acceptance and respect on the international scene.

Individual or state?

Competence is thus the key idea, but the question is, what sort of competence? The human or professional competence of the individual or the institution in a given field, or the legal jurisdictional competence of Quebec as a state in embryo? Or both at the same time? Below the swells (1964-71) and the froth (1971-76) that have stirred and capped Quebec's international waters, two undercurrents - the two strategies on the subject of competence - have met and pulled against each other, sometimes churning the water to produce no mere semantic foam but a true political tide-race, with constitutional and diplomatic whirlpools. A given set of words may, according to the place, the individual and the circumstances, describe different behaviours, objectives or realities, and, of course, may be used deliberately with this intent. The debate on Quebec's international competence is a case in point.

The experience of recent years has shown that, when seen as a stage in development and in the sharing of "human and professional competence", Quebec's international relations have not given rise to much opposition in Ottawa. As a lever and an instrument for broadening jurisInternational activities now cited as precedent

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