

or a willingness to acquire it at government expense within a reasonable time, will normally be required.

For this reason also, the Department has established a number of practical procedures designed to develop a comprehensive approach to bilingualism in the foreign service. These procedures are already beginning to bear fruit. Last year's figures show that among our foreign service and administrative officers 28% can be classed as bilingual, and a further 20% have a good knowledge of both languages. It is also estimated that during the past year alone one-fifth of all departmental employees attended language courses.

These accomplishments must, however, be seen against the broader background of the basic requirements of Canadian foreign policy. If you read carefully the White Paper Federalism and International Relations and its supplement Federalism and International Conference on Education you will recognize that one of the main purposes for writing these papers was to outline the steps being taken by the Federal Government to frame and implement a policy which meets the requirements of the two major linguistic communities in Canada. In that way the White Papers contribute to constructive consideration and discussion of the implementation of the Canadian system in the field of international relations. They also provide an opportunity for an examination, not only by experts but by the public at large, which can only serve to enhance Canadian unity and the interests of all Canadian citizens.

Canadian foreign policy must not only be consonant with the interests of Canadians across the country but must also take account of our distinctive Canadian cultural and linguistic heritage. Thus, in framing and implementing foreign policy, the Canadian government must recognize the traditions which both French and English speaking Canadians seek to maintain and develop within the fabric of the Canadian federation. Accordingly, it must be based upon equal status for the two official languages across the range of operations of the