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THE HONOURABLE PIERRE DE BANÉ
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
ADDRESSES A DINNER MEETING OF
THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON CANADA AND LA FRANCOPHONIE
MONCTON, MARCH 23, 1982

A major speech on Canada and La Francophonie was delivered on March 23 in Moncton by the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister for External Relations, at the invitation of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

"La Francophonie, just like the Commonwealth, is the business of all Canadians, even though francophones are naturally more involved in it," said the Minister. He went on to point with satisfaction to the contribution of New Brunswick francophones and their government to the many international activities, governmental and otherwise, of La Francophonie in Canada, which "extends to the francophone regions outside Canada, to our solidarity with them, and to the sharing and mutual assistance brought about through our co-operative programmes."

The Minister went on to say that there was an important need for Canada's policy to bear the imprint of the country's French component, and this was why, when these countries became independent in the sixties, the federal government set up a development co-operation programme in francophone Africa of the same quality and scope as the Commonwealth Africa programme. In addition to this large-scale aid programme, the Canadian government is seeking more and more to develop trade with the francophone countries, as it is with the English-speaking countries.

The francophone element of Canada's foreign policy, continued the Minister, is exemplified by the role played by the federal government in the creation of Niamey, in 1970, of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, dedicated