

interdependence, the shared defence of the continent and the growing homogeneity of North American society. The United States is, by a wide margin, Canada's largest trading partner. American investment in Canada is preponderant and growing. Canada contributes to its own defence, but, like the countries of Western Europe, relies ultimately on American military power for its security. The cultural influence of the United States is powerful and pervasive. American periodicals and television blanket English-speaking Canada and penetrate deeply into French-speaking Canada. Cultural attitudes in the United States are imported into Canada, particularly by the younger generation.

All these factors bear upon the nations of Western Europe; Canada faces them in more acute and immediate form. The maintenance of an adequate measure of economic and political independence in the face of American power and influence is a problem Canada shares with the European nations, and in dealing with this problem there is at once an identity of interest and an opportunity for fruitful co-operation. Nevertheless, Canada seeks to strengthen its ties with Europe, not as an anti-American measure but to create a more healthy balance within the North Atlantic community and to reinforce Canadian independence. The United States is Canada's closest friend and ally and will remain so.

Renewal of French Canada

The renaissance of the French fact in Canada, so striking during the past decade, has had profound effects within Canada and upon its foreign relations. Canadians of French expression no longer see themselves as a small disadvantaged minority in an English-speaking continent but rather as an essential element in the great international French culture, the most significant group of *francophones* outside metropolitan France. For Canada this has meant a long period of difficult readjustment, a period that has not ended, a period in which Canada is finally coming to terms with its essential bilingual character. In terms of foreign policy, this involves much closer relationships with France but has also raised some difficulties between Ottawa, Paris and Quebec.

Present indications are that these difficulties may become less formidable as France comes to accept and understand both Canada's interest in promoting the French fact and also Canada's sole jurisdiction in international relations. It is for the benefit of the whole of Canada that links between France and Quebec should be close and productive and that they should develop within the Canadian constitutional framework. The *accord-*