

The Commonwealth has thus provided for us in Canada special connections with countries in far continents and has helped us to see beyond our own borders, our own continent and our essentially European traditions. It has increased our insight into the values of other civilizations and societies and our understanding of the aspirations of the peoples of Asia and Africa. I believe that in this process others have come to know us better. In an era when nationalism sometimes breaks the bounds of reason, an association which stimulates international and intercontinental understanding is invaluable. The Commonwealth has been, remains, and will be a basic element in Canadian foreign policy. The Ottawa Conference provides dramatic evidence, if such is needed, of its essential meaning. The real values of the Commonwealth lie not always in what we say but more often in what we do. We are discussing at this Conference the challenges which the newer member countries are endeavouring to meet in the field of educational development. I believe we are coming to understand these problems more fully.

* Thus the Commonwealth has helped us to understand ourselves and to find solutions to our own problems. As you are already aware, Canada is a land of contrasts, and its most important feature is, in my opinion, its bicultural character. You have probably been more familiar with the educational system of English-speaking Canadians, and I am sure that many of you were unaware of the excellent system that is being organized for French-speaking Canadians. As the Honourable Gérin-Lajoie told you himself last Saturday in Quebec City:

* "We know that education, by providing Quebec with the skills it will require, will ensure the continuity of its growth. Education will also enable Quebec to assert itself more effectively, to increase its contribution to the welfare of our country, and to occupy its rightful place in the Canadian federation and in the world."

* It is not without some pride, therefore, that I emphasize the fact that Canada can offer to its students, at the elementary, secondary and university levels, valuable instruction in French and in English.

* Up to the present, our efforts in the field of educational assistance abroad have been directed mainly toward Commonwealth countries where we have sent teachers of mathematics, science, industrial arts, and of French or English as a second language. However, in April 1961, the Canadian Government decided to organize for the French-speaking countries of Africa, a bilateral plan of co-operation similar in principle to that which is applied in Commonwealth countries. With an annual grant of \$300,000, a programme of assistance was set up the main objective of which was the assignment of Canadian teachers at the secondary-school level. The recruiting of our teachers went on successfully thanks to the joint efforts of the External Aid Office and the Department of Education of the Province of Quebec. Here I should like to mention the gesture of