

Mr. Vincent Massey has agreed to accept the office of president of this meeting, and this is yet another example of his high sense of national duty and of the valuable contribution he has made to Canada. The Canadian Government, provincial departments of education and the whole educational community are giving their full support to this important conference. The activities in the field of educational co-operation which will be discussed at the Ottawa meeting have already brought benefits to all Commonwealth members, and provide an example of the constructive partnership for which the Commonwealth stands.

I should like to say that much thought is being given these days in many places to the Commonwealth. It is a unique institution, as we know, which has evolved along lines which are capable of promoting the interests of its members and the improvement of international understanding. Admittedly it faces problems which may test its adaptability and cohesion, but we have no doubt it will weather these storms. The Prime Ministers' Conference in July will address itself to many of these problems. There will be a continuing search for methods to maintain its character and its purpose. It could be that the Commonwealth Education Conference provides the kind of activity needed to realize these objectives, as we pointed out to Mr. Sandys, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, when he was here in Ottawa a few days ago.

#### Relations with the German Federal Republic

At the end of The Hague meeting, I accepted an invitation from the German Foreign Minister to go to Germany. No Secretary of State for External Affairs had visited Germany since the war, apart from attendance at a NATO ministerial meeting held in Bonn. It was thought that it would be desirable for me to pay a visit to this leading allied country at this time, a country which has so successfully constructed a modern democratic state on the ashes of Nazi tyranny.

Our relations with the German Federal Republic are important. We have more trade with Germany than with any other European country, nearly \$200 million more than with France, for example. There are in Canada now almost a million people of German origin, while we have in Germany, if we include the families of our soldiers and airmen, about 25,000 Canadians.

I therefore agreed to go from The Hague to spend some time with the German Foreign Minister, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, in Bonn and to spend a day in West Berlin before returning home. I can say that Mr. Schroeder gave me a full and clear account of the thinking of his country on the great problem which must preoccupy all Germans so long as their country remains divided. That, of course, is the problem of German reunification. He said again, as his Government has said countless times, that modern Germany has renounced the use of force as a means to attain its objectives. I said that the Government of Canada understands and supports the Federal Republic of Germany in every peaceful effort to reunite its peoples through the exercise of their right of self-determination in freedom.

I think there are many points of similarity in the Canadian and present German outlook on the future of Atlantic co-operation. Like us, they want to see European integration pursued within an Atlantic framework. Like