



Bulletin

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THE LANGUAGES OF CANADIAN DIPLOMACY

The following is part of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, to a seminar for officers of the Department of External Affairs on August 26:

...You will no doubt be familiar with the statement made by Mr. Pearson in the House of Commons in April 1966 on "Bilingualism in the Public Service of Canada". Let me say at the outset that the guidelines set forth in that statement remain an important part of the Government's policy on bilingualism in Canada and that I, for my part, will do my best to see that they are implemented in our Department.

I do not intend to review Mr. Pearson's statement in detail today...Nevertheless, some of the main points are worthy of special attention because of their implications for all members of the Department, and particularly for officers starting out on a career in the Government service. In describing the Government's goals in this field, Mr. Pearson noted that within a reasonable period of time it was the Government's objective to realize four basic and very significant steps in the public service:

(1) That, as a matter of practice, all internal communications whether oral or written should take place in either English or French, depending on the language of the person concerned;

(2) That all communications with the public should normally be in either language as appropriate;

(3) That, in matters of recruitment and training, the values of both linguistic communities be given full weight; and finally,

(4) That it should be a general objective to create a climate in which civil servants of both linguistic groups can work together towards common goals, using their own language, and on the basis of

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their own cultural values, while at the same time appreciating those of the other linguistic community.

I will return in a few moments to the implications of these objectives for the foreign service. I should underline here, however, that they are not merely, or even primarily, a matter of achieving impressive statistics with respect to the percentage of fluent English-speakers or French-speakers. They relate rather to the fundamental human concern of ensuring that every Canadian, and particularly those in the employ of the Federal Government, can feel fully at home working in his own language.

I said...when I was Minister of Finance that "the aim of the present Government is to give every Canadian the right to express himself in either French or English and be understood when he deals with his Federal Government, at least in the capital of the country". I also went further stating that "for the first time Canadians whose mother tongue is French will be able to compete on an equal footing with English-speaking Canadians". It is clear that these goals are of fundamental importance within the Government service itself.

PROFICIENCY GOALS

My immediate concern as Minister of External Affairs, and yours as members of the Department, must be to ensure that they are met as fully and as rapidly as possible both in Ottawa and abroad. For this reason, our Department anticipates meeting two important deadlines in the Government's declaration of principles, which means that by 1970 in the case of appointments from outside the service, and by about 1975 in the case of promotions, bilingual proficiency, 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 per cent can be classed as bilingual, and a further 20 per cent have a good knowledge of both languages. It is also estimated that, during the past year alone, a 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 that 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.

LANGUAGE EQUALITY

Canadian foreign policy must not only be consonant with the interests of Canadians across the country but 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-speaking 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 Department of External Affairs. It must also promote the interests of all Canadians of both major linguistic communities. Particularly in the projection of the Canadian character abroad, it implies that Canada must make a special effort to establish a proper balance by increasing its relations with *francophone* countries not only in Africa, where our programme has been stepped up, but also in Asia and in Europe. It also entails pursuing the effort that is already under way to reinforce and promote the use of the two official

languages in international organizations and agencies. This we are doing.

At the same time, if our intention is to create a climate and conditions that will enable every officer to serve his country in either of the official languages, we must continue to encourage the use of the officer's own language as a working tool and to ensure that both English-speaking and French-speaking officers have a sufficient knowledge of the two languages to be able to comprehend each other in day-to-day working situations. Especially in the performance of their duties abroad, our officers should be a living illustration of the Canadian linguistic duality. They must also meet the requirements of their fellow citizens travelling outside Canada.

MORE FRENCH-SPEAKING RECRUITS

All this means in practice that, in our Department and others concerned with Canadian activities abroad, there is a particularly striking need for officers to be competent in both official languages. We therefore have to be very sure that this need is being met as effectively as possible. I think your presence here today, together with representatives from other departments which share in the important task of representing Canadian interests abroad, testifies to the importance which all of us attach to this task.

Over the past few years, we have in fact accomplished a good deal towards translating the principles of bilingualism into practice. Our recruitment of junior officers, as you know, has been particularly successful in terms of their ability to work in the two official languages. We have also been fortunate in recent years in being able to bring about a substantial increase in the proportion of new officers speaking French as their mother tongue. In the last three years, close to a third of the new entrants have been French-speaking. Because these groups, taken together, involve some 140 officers, they have improved the linguistic balance in the service as a whole. This is of vital significance, for bilingualism cannot possibly flourish unless both groups are well represented.

In promoting this policy it is important to keep in mind that French-Canadian diplomats, in the same way as English-speaking officers, should be assigned to a great variety of functions in all our missions and divisions. It is not the policy of the Department to have one or other group specialize in particular fields, or particular geographical areas, to the exclusion of others. There should be no functional or geographical area where either French-speaking or English-speaking officers cannot be asked to serve. This in itself will entail for the future a solid competence in both languages for all our officers....

In brief, we want French-speaking Canadians to make greater use of their language as a living instrument. We do not want our linguistic investment to go to waste. The Government and the Department can go only so far in assisting individuals in their attempts to master their second language. Thereafter it will be for each individual concerned to ensure that he develops his potential to the maximum....

PEARSON HEADS WORLD BANK COMMISSION

The former Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, recently accepted the invitation of the President of the World Bank, Robert S. McNamara, to head an international commission to examine past and future world development.

In announcing the appointment "with very great pleasure", Mr. McNamara said he had been concerned for some time with two problems: aid and development strategy for the next three decades and the role of the Bank in this strategy. "We have begun to see the way ahead for the Bank in the immediate future - a sharp increase in loans for development - but the broad strategy for the future is not clear," he said. "It is to that Mr. Pearson's commission will turn its attention." "I feel confident," Mr. McNamara declared, "that a man of his long political experience will recognize that this is one of the gravest problems facing the leaders of the richer nations, and that concerted action by them all in partnership with the

developing countries is essential."

Mr. McNamara recalled that his predecessor, George D. Woods, had proposed last year, in a speech in Stockholm, that "the dozen or more leading world experts in the field of development be invited to meet together, study the consequences of 20 years of development assistance, assess the results, clarify the errors and propose the policies which will work better in the future".

This commission is a direct result of that initiative.

In accepting the leadership of the commission, Mr. Pearson said he appreciated the importance of a complete survey leading, he hoped, to practical and constructive recommendations. The report should be completed before the end of 1969. "It is a privilege to take part in such a challenging and important task," he declared.

CANADIAN COINS MINTED IN U.S.

Mr. E.J. Benson, Minister of Finance, recently announced that, to relieve the present shortage of 10-cent coins in Canada, arrangements had been made with the United States Mint to produce 75 million new Canadian 10-cent coins.

Mr. Benson said that the Royal Canadian Mint was working at full capacity on the production of the new nickel coins. Temporary arrangements with the U.S. Mint would enable the present demands of the Canadian public to be met much more quickly.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WAR

Mr. J.E. Dubé, Minister of Veterans Affairs, announced recently that the Government of Canada would commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War with ceremonies in Ottawa and in Europe during November.

The planning of these events, which will conclude the series of ceremonies recognizing the fiftieth anniversaries of historic battles fought during the First World War, has already begun under the direction of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department is planning the ceremonies through an inter-departmental committee which includes representatives of the Departments of External Affairs, National Defence and of the Privy Council.

It is proposed that a delegation of Canadian survivors visit the Canadian battlefield memorials in Belgium and France. The Canadian delegation will include about 100 survivors of the battalions and corps which fought in France and Belgium as part of the Canadian Corps. It will also include survivors of the naval and air forces and representative survivors of the Senate, House of Commons, the major veterans

associations and some winners of the Victoria Cross.

Canada has 13 battlefield memorials in France and Belgium commemorating the exploits of Canadian and Newfoundland troops in the First World War, including the majestic Vimy Memorial. The Menin Gate Memorial, in Ypres, Belgium, commemorates 7,000 Canadians who were "missing" in the fighting in Belgium.

Selection of veterans to go to Europe in November, and of an equal number who will participate in the Ottawa events, will be made by the colonels-commandant and commanding officers of the present-day units and corps that perpetuate those which fought with the Canadian Corps in the First World War. The officers concerned have already been alerted and the instructions are being sent to them by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TORONTO HOUSING LOANS

Approval of \$5.2 million in two federal loans to the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company Limited for the construction of low-rental housing projects in Metropolitan Toronto was announced recently by Mr. Paul Hellyer, Minister responsible to Parliament for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

These loans, provided under the National Housing Act, will help construct 580 housing-units for older people. The terms of the loans are 50 years with interest at 6 7/8 per cent.

A loan of \$3.2 million will assist in the construction of a 340-unit project consisting of 74 hostel, 198 bachelor and 68 one-bedroom units in the City of Toronto; and a loan of \$2 million will assist in the construction of 240 units consisting of 216 bachelor and 24 one-bedroom units in the Borough of North York.

The Federal Government will bear half of any operating losses incurred, while the other half will be met by the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company Limited, which will be responsible for the construction and administration of the project.

AID TO ALGERIA

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that Canada will give \$3-million worth of wheat to the Algerian Government to be used in its Full Employment Programmes, under which workers on government development projects receive half their salary in the form of food. The grant from Canada's international development assistance programme will help to offset food shortages in Algeria, freeing for development purposes foreign exchange that might otherwise be diverted to food purchases.

The gift is the second of its kind. In 1966, following a severe drought, Canada supplied \$1-million worth of wheat flour to Algeria.

Under the development assistance programmes of the Canadian Government, at least 16 French-speaking Canadian teachers will be working in Algeria this year, compared to the six assigned last year. Provision has also been made for a substantial increase in the scholarship and training awards available for Algerian students in Canada.

The Canadian Mission to French-speaking African States, led by Mr. Lionel Chevrier last February, agreed to finance a number of development projects in Algeria.

LECTURE COURSES TAPED

"If the student can't come to the classroom, let's take the classroom to the student." At the University of Waterloo, this attitude will result in the introduction during the coming autumn of a series of taped lecture courses.

The courses being offered are post-degree lectures in physics, specially designed for high-school teachers trying to improve their qualifications. "For a number of years we have held Saturday morning classes for high-school teachers and they have been coming from within a radius of approximately 75 miles," explains Professor J.D. Leslie, coordinator of the new project. "That means they would drive for a couple of hours to get here, listen to two hours of lectures, have lunch and drive back again. It took virtually the entire day. Bad weather created further problems.

"We began to feel the travel time represented a considerable waste of effort for them and we have been anxious to find a better way of offering these courses. This tape system should solve the problem and at the same time make upgrading courses available to high-school teachers in remote areas of the province without access to a university"

Four courses will be available: electricity and magnetism, quantum physics, astronomy, and

electronics. Each will consist of 40 taped lectures and each lecture will run from 40 to 45 minutes.

VISUAL AID

"Through tapes we are able to provide audio information as well as the printed information in the textbook," Professor Leslie says. "In addition, the professor will also prepare the equivalent of black-board illustrations on a sketch pad, at the time he prepares the tape. He will note equations, figures, numerical calculations and so forth on the pad, and these will be copied and sent to the teachers.

"Thus, in a sense, we shall be providing visual as well as audio materials. The impact will be much like attending a lecture - better perhaps, because the teacher-student will be able to replay the tape for things he does not grasp the first time through."

Problems will be assigned, to be turned in every two weeks for grading. At this time the professor will prepare a short "tutorial" tape on the performance of his teacher-students which will deal with any difficulties that may have arisen. Examinations, which will also be held by correspondence, will usually be supervised by the principals of the participants' schools.

Waterloo was assisted in developing the project by provincial grants.

"The project is experimental," admits Professor Leslie. "I think this is the first time such a system has been used by a Canadian university, but we have heard of a taped lecture system in use at the Argonne National Laboratory in the United States."

BAHAMAS STUDY AIRPORT EQUIPMENT

Two senior ministers of the Bahamas Government were in Canada recently studying the possibility of incorporating Canadian airport equipment in facilities planned for the Bahamas.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Trade and Industry Arthur D. Hanna and Communications Minister Arthur Foulkes, whose visit was part of a continuing government-industry programme to promote the export of Canadian airport equipment, examined installations and equipment at Toronto and Montreal and discussed Canadian capability with officials of the Departments of Transport and Trade and Commerce in Ottawa.

The two ministers came to Canada at the invitation of the federal Department of Trade and Commerce when it was learned that the Bahamas was planning new airport facilities to meet anticipated air-traffic increases.

The William McNabb family, who live near Edenvale, Ontario, received a Good Citizen's Award from a Toronto radio station in July for an outstanding contribution to forestry. Over a 30-year period, they planted and cared for thousands of trees on 139 acres.