

particularly if these minority groups are to be given the means to preserve and strengthen their identities.

"If commitment to the concept of a Canada united in linguistic duality and cultural diversity is shared by the provincial governments, the Federal Government believes they will also be willing, as a condition of the continuing existence of Canada as one country, to recognize the principle that the English and French languages are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status in the country.

Basic rights

"It is not possible to propose to French-speaking Canadians that Canada is their country from coast to coast and from the American border to the Arctic seas unless that principle is accepted. Within that principle, there will be differences of situation from province to province, but in those provinces where the majority is English speaking, the basic rights of French-speaking Canadians must be respected. And in the same way, in the province of Quebec, where the majority is French speaking, the basic rights of English-speaking Canadians must be respected. If that principle of equality is not accepted in spirit and in practice across the country, there can be no enduring community of our two peoples. There will be rather two separatisms that must lead ultimately to the political reflection of that fact.

"The Federal Government is already providing assistance to the provinces to give Canadians the right to have their children educated in the official language of their choice. It is prepared to discuss with each of the provinces ways in which it can assist in the full realization of this objective, particularly with regard to marginal situations where there is a question as to whether the actual numbers warrant the provision of necessary facilities for the exercise of this right.

"It may be that arrangements for federal participation in such circumstances could be crystallized through experience into new constitutional provisions designed to enable the Federal Government to assume a direct constitutional responsibility if that seems to be desirable.

Principles of the Federal Government's official languages policy

A National Understanding, *the Federal Government's review of the two official languages, tabled in the House of Commons on June 21, sets out the following principles which the Government hopes "will be accepted by all Canadians and by the provincial governments as the statement safeguarding the fundamental linguistic duality of Canada within the framework of its cultural diversity."* The principles are:

- . Every citizen in his or her private capacity has the right to speak any language.
- . The English and French languages are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status,
- . The English and French languages are a fundamental expression of the Canadian heritage, and public policies, federal and provincial, should provide assurance that this linguistic heritage will be preserved and developed so that, in particular, where official language minority groups exist in Canada, they will be assisted and encouraged by public authorities to retain and preserve their language.
- . Subject to circumstances which may make a deferment of application necessary, Canadians have a right to have their children educated in the official language of their choice, and the necessary facilities should be provided wherever numbers warrant.
- . Knowledge of the two official languages of Canada, by those Canadians who may choose to learn them, is desirable as a personal and national asset so that members of the two official language groups may be able to communicate with each other, understand and cherish each other's diverse ways of life, and serve as a natural link between the two linguistic communities.
- . Canadians should be able to communicate with, and to obtain service from, the federal institutions of government in the official language of their choice and arrangements should be made to this effect wherever there is sufficient demand for it.
- . Subject to the previous principle, Canadians of the two official language groups should have equitable opportunities for employment and a career in the federal institutions of government and to carry out their work in the official language of their choice.

Feeling of insecurity

"The Federal Government is very much aware of the fact that, outside the province of Quebec, actual freedom of choice is possible only in certain parts of the country. This *de facto* situation has, in addition to other factors, created among French-speaking Canadians a considerable feeling of insecurity concerning the future of the French language in the province of Quebec as well as in Canada generally.

"The Federal Government, as a matter of principle, strongly favours a policy that gives to English-speaking Canadians the choice, wherever in Canada it is reasonably feasible, to send their children either to an English-language school or to a French-language school. Similarly, French-speaking Canadians should have the choice, wherever in Canada it is reasonably feasible, to send their children to a French-language school or to an

English-language school.

"It is unacceptable in Canada that Canadian citizens should be deprived, either by the failure to provide facilities, or by force of law, of the right to send their children to the public or separate school of their choice, or at least to a school of the official language group to which they belong. Measures in Quebec designed to force parents of French-language background to send their children to French-language schools only would have the paradoxical effect of permitting less choice to French-speaking parents than to English-speaking parents in the province.

"It is incompatible with the unity of Canada that Canadian citizens should not be able, when they move from province to province, to send their children to schools where they are taught in their own language. The Government believes that necessary