

looking outward, and approaching the international community, we should try to achieve a unity of purpose, and not simply export our differences. What may appear at home to be a healthy diversity of views may seem to strangers to be evidence of a dangerous degree of disunity.

There is a simple and sensible approach to ensuring that provincial interests are taken into account in relation to Canadian participation in international organizations. I might use Canadian participation in the International Labour Organization as an example, especially as the distinguished President of the Canadian Labour Congress, Mr. Claude Jodoin, has been honoured by you today and as I myself have attended its conferences.

As labour is a field of direct concern to both the federal and provincial governments, we have for many years included provincial officials as advisers on the government delegation to the annual conference of the ILO, and have, in addition, invited provincial governments to send their ministers of labour or senior officials as observers. In developing the Canadian position before each conference, the federal authorities have discussed with the provinces those matters likely to arise which would interest them, and have sent relevant documentation to them. In 1964, the Federal Government consulted the provinces to seek their support for the ratification of the convention against discrimination in employment, the provisions of which fell within both the federal and provincial jurisdictions. Since then, two more conventions of this sort have been ratified, after federal-provincial consultation, and studies are in progress about the possibility of ratifying others. As a result of this approach, Canada has a record which compares favourably with that of other federal states in signing and ratifying ILO conventions requiring action at the provincial as well as the national level.

We are always considering how such arrangements can be improved. We are also studying the extent to which these or different methods can be adopted to broaden and strengthen the participation of provincial governments in the work of Canadian delegations to other international conferences. In recent years, a growing pattern has emerged of having provincial representatives included in Canadian delegations to a wide variety of international conferences. Last year, for example, the delegation sent by the Federal Government to the annual conference on public education, held in Geneva under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education, included representatives of Canadian education whose names were suggested by the standing committee of ministers of education of the provinces. This has been done in a manner which is consistent with the Federal Government's overall responsibility for the conduct of the country's foreign policy, and it increases the benefit which all Canadians gain from the work of these organizations.

I mentioned earlier that we have been consulting the provinces about international agreements which require action on their part in order to be honoured. As an example of how this is done, I might refer to the United Nations Covenant on Human Rights.

One of the principal purposes of the United Nations is, in the words of its Charter, "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in