

[English]

Canadian unity and Canada's economic prosperity in a highly competitive world are linked. The forum will invite Canadians to talk about that too. Canadians will be invited to discuss the relationship between Quebec and the rest of the country, and the accommodations required in today's Canada for the needs of both linguistic majorities and minorities to be respected. Canadians will be encouraged to re-examine the impact of regionalism and of multiculturalism on Canadian unity and on economic development.

The forum will facilitate contacts between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians to discuss how the aspirations of Canada's first peoples can be met within the Canadian Constitution.

Canadians will be invited to consider what in contemporary society is best done by governments and what by individual Canadians themselves. Canadians will be invited to discuss as well the questions that underlie all of these issues: how to ensure that the country's institutions, particularly Parliament, designed in the 19th century, will work effectively and well in the 21st century and, at the same time, whether the division of responsibilities among the federal and provincial governments needs to be changed. If so, how and when?

We hope that this process will help bring Canadians together and help us come to a common understanding on what we can expect from our country and what we owe to our country.

This is not going to be a formal process designed for high priced consultants and high pressure interest groups. It will be informal and easily accessible to as many Canadians as possible from all walks of life. Every Canadian who wants to will be able to have a say.

[Translation]

The Forum will reach out to the people, not wait for people to come to it. It will travel to every province in the country and the territories. It will bring groups of Canadians together to meet and talk with each other—to understand each other's concerns and hopes and priorities.

### *Government Orders*

It will, also convene regional meetings, hold public debates and solicit views of Canadians in writing. It will use modern Canadian communications technology, today's electronic railroads, to bring people together. With the extraordinary communication technology now available in Canada, it is possible to listen to and involve almost all Canadians in this great national debate. This is what this government and this Parliament want.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Spicer will report to the government on the Forum's findings by next June 30.

[English]

The government will not control the forum or seek in any way to dictate its findings, but I intend to state my own views from time to time, as I know other party leaders and indeed all members of the House of Commons will either do before the commission or seek to do across the country.

I stand for a strong, united Canada that is fair, tolerant and free. I stand for Canada that is great enough and confident enough to assure Quebec its place as a full, respected and valued partner, confirmed eventually by Quebec's willing endorsement of all of Canada's constitutional instruments so that all Quebecers feel a full and ir retrievable commitment to this nation called Canada.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

• (1540)

**Mr. Mulroney:** I stand for a Canada that is flexible enough to reorganize itself to adapt to the times and whose national institutions, including both Houses of Parliament but especially the Senate, can be reformed to serve the interests of all Canadians more fairly and more effectively.

I stand for a Canada that speaks abroad with one voice, that can protect the nation's sovereignty and security and that can play a constructive role in the world. I stand for a fiscally sound and economically competitive Canada whose development respects our natural environment.

I stand for a compassionate Canada that gives all of its people the opportunities they need to develop and prosper and gives the needy the support they require to live and grow old with dignity. I stand for a new deal for Canada's first peoples, one that will at last translate promises into reality.