

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

172. Federal-provincial cooperation is an area where the Committee feels substantial changes in practice are required. Vigorous efforts are needed to involve the provinces more closely in order to ensure that immigration policy reflects varied regional requirements. The Minister advised the Committee that he is committed to doing this, and it is apparent that serious efforts in this direction are being made. Quebec, the only province with an immigration act and an immigration department, is far ahead of the other provinces in assessing its needs and making them known at the federal level. The Committee is aware that the federal government would welcome other provinces following Quebec's example and hopes that collaboration will develop along the following lines:

- a permanent joint federal-provincial committee to coordinate the development and implementation of immigration policy including a consultative mechanism for identifying "designated communities" and for elaborating deportation and "required to depart" procedures;
- a provincial presence in immigrant selection; this could involve sending officers abroad for counselling and promotional duties under arrangements similar to those provided by the Lang-Cloutier and Andras-Bienvenue Agreements between Ottawa and Quebec;
- collaboration on scrutinizing teaching institutions receiving foreign students and on fixing the numbers of foreign students accepted by each institution;
- cooperation on immigrant services beginning with a joint evaluation of needs as requested by an ad hoc committee formed by Toronto Mayor David Crombie (041).

173. The Committee paid special attention to the political problem faced by Quebec as a result of the decisive fall in the fertility rate in the last 15 years. In the past, the high fertility rate of French-Canadians had compensated for the consistently small francophone immigration to Canada. To forestall a decline in the size of the