

Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State with the exception of those proposed by the federal cultural agencies which will be administered by the agencies concerned but co-ordinated through an Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee.

Program I

Multicultural Grants

A grants program has been developed to meet specific recommendations in the commission report and the demonstrated need of cultural groups. Grants will be made to activities which meet some or all of the four parts of the policy outlined in Part B.

Activities eligible for federal assistance will include multicultural encounters; organizational meetings for new cultural groups; citizenship preparation and immigrant orientation programs; conferences; youth activities; cultural exchanges between groups as well as other projects. Grants will also be made available for multicultural centres in areas where there is a demonstrated need and desire from the community for such a facility. Existing multicultural centres, like that in Winnipeg, have proven their value in providing services to help new immigrants adjust to Canadian life, and in promoting inter-ethnic activity on a continuous basis.

Program II

Culture Development Program

A culture development program will be instituted to produce much-needed data on the precise relationship of language to cultural development. It will provide essential information on the extent and nature of the demands of individual cultural groups for language retention and cultural development. It will examine existing organizations and facilities, including educational institutions, the press, radio and television to determine the part they now play and their potential role in cultural development. The study will incorporate those recommendations directed to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission for studies of the best means by which radio and television can contribute to the maintenance of language and cultures.

The program has been designed to produce results within one year. The data will serve as an information base for some of the other programs and for future long range planning by the Citizenship Branch, the cultural agencies, and other government departments.

The government is initiating steps to help provide textbooks for non-official language teaching, since Book IV of the royal commission's report found there are almost no textbooks suitable for teaching a third language to children living in Canada. The acquisition of the ancestral language is an important part of the process of developing a cultural identity, and the federal government proposes to discuss this with the provinces to find a mutually satisfactory way to meet some of the costs of preparation and production of third language textbooks or audio-visual aids for language teaching.

Although the commission made no formal recommendation regarding the ethnic press, aside from advocating

the continuation of existing government support in the form of advertising and information, the culture development program will also undertake a study of the ethnic press and other media which could be better utilized to carry essential information to those persons who use languages other than English or French. We recognize that the ethnic press plays an important part in bringing information to recent immigrants and elderly people who have difficulty reading Canada's official languages, as well as in helping to develop Canada's cultures.

Program III

Ethnic Histories

A clear need exists for the writing of objective analytical, and readable histories of the ethnic groups in Canada, and for the distribution of these works to as wide a readership as possible. The Citizenship Branch will commission 20 histories specifically directed to the background, contributions and problems of various cultural groups in Canada. The program will offer visible, effective and valuable recognition of the contribution of our diverse ethnic groups to Canada. It will promote knowledge of and respect for the cultural heritage of the groups concerned, as well as providing invaluable resource material for students, writers and government agencies.

Program IV

Canadian Ethnic Studies

The need exists, and was recognized by the commission, for systematic and continuous study of Canada's multi-ethnic society. The Department of the Secretary of State will therefore undertake a detailed investigation of the problems concerned with the development of a Canadian ethnic studies program or centre(s) and will prepare a plan of implementation.

Program V

Teaching of Official Languages

The federal government already assists the provinces in the teaching of English and French to adult immigrants, and accepts in principle recommendation four of the royal commission relating to special instruction in the appropriate official language for children who enter the public school system without a knowledge of that language.

The federal government therefore proposes to undertake discussions with the provinces to find a mutually acceptable form of federal assistance towards the teaching of official languages to children.

Program VI

Programs of the Federal Cultural Agencies

The government asked the federal cultural agencies referred to in Book IV to respond to the recommendations of the report. The programs they will be under-