

In mid-1967, I think that Canadians recognize as, the Prime Minister said recently that:

"there were ... two founding races and languages and cultures in Canada - the British and the French - and with that foundation our country can only survive, let alone develop, on the full acceptance by the English-speaking majority of the French-speaking minority as a special linguistic, racial and cultural element in this state, Canada. Where the 'Franch fact' has full scope for its development and expansion .., it does not need any separate political entity to enshrine its' cultural and linguistic identity."

We should also recognize that, with the preservation of this identity, French-Canadians are prepared to work on a basis of complete equality with all Canadians toward national objectives.

Yet a total preoccupation with the differences between English- and French-speaking Canadians would not reflect an accurate image of our country or of current issues. More than a quarter of our people descended from or came from neither the British Isles nor France. Canadians with different backgrounds from those of the two founding races have a significant contribution to make to our national life as individuals and as groups and their presence is bound to exercise an increasingly important influence on Canada's development.

The problem of unity in Canada existed in 1867; it is with us today; and I expect that it will still be with our descendants a 100 years from now. But despite the problem Canada became a reality in 1867; it is a strong and dynamic country today; and I have confidence that Canada will be even stronger in its second centennial a 100 years hence. Canadians - of different origins and outlooks - are determined to make it so.

In all our provinces and among all our groups we are prepared to make sacrifices for our country - in our own way.

Our progress in the past was attributable to Canadian endeavour and imagination. Our progress in the future will also depend entirely on Canadians.

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