

continue to find an avenue for its expression in Canada's international relations and foreign policy. I would not want to suggest it is the only avenue but is a particularly appropriate and visible one.

I think, sincerely, that the capacity of French Canada and in particular Quebec to preserve its language and culture could be weakened if Quebec separated. If separation should occur, the basic arithmetic - 6 million in a sea of 250 million - would not be altered but as the Prime Minister said in Washington - it would merely increase the exposure and that would be considerably more difficult to cope with. Today, the linguistic sphere of influence of French Canada is national in scope while internationally it has or should have the full support and encouragement of Canada. This is, I believe, of no small value to Quebec of course but also to the rest of Canada. We have come a long way in recognizing the importance of the French fact in Canada. Let us not stop there - let's all try each in his or her area of endeavour to develop a more positive attitude towards the diversity of our country and not just vis-a-vis the French fact. Only then will we be able to take full advantage of the richness that it brings.

I have tried to underline some of the principles which are fundamental to Canada's international relations, and the way they reflect our collective interests and responsibilities. The wide range of accepted provincial international activities; the interplay between the will of the federal government to embody the bilingual and multi-cultural character of Canada and the determination of Quebec to develop its economic and cultural "specificity"; the division of economic power in Canada; the increasing number of international meetings and organizations dealing wholly or in part with subjects touching provincial interests and responsibilities in Canada; the increasing call on provincial human and natural resources to ensure the fulfillment of Canada's international commitments, form a canvas of great complexity.

All this has been done. More is possible within the framework of the constitution. The Canadian Government has, in my view, shown itself open, receptive and imaginative in dealing with this dimension of Canada's international relations. Despite what some have said, we have accommodated and promoted many provincial interests while retaining of course our responsibility for the conduct of Canada's foreign policy and international relations. You will agree