



CANADA

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## A PROGRAMME FOR CANADA'S INDIANS

Speaking to the Third Annual Conference of the National Indian Council of Canada at Winnipeg on August 15, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Guy Favreau, said that "the vast and intricate range of the problems of Indian administration - legal, economic, social and psychological - is a stimulating challenge that I have accepted... is acutely conscious that, though Indians are the original inhabitants of this country, many have yet to gain in full the rights and material advantages enjoyed by other Canadians". Describing "the full integration of the Indians - but *freely assented to* - into the main stream of Canadian life, while encouraging them to maintain their own cultural identity" as "one of the fundamental and long-range objectives of Government policy", Mr. Favreau said that he did not underestimate the difficulties in the way of such a policy. The balance of his address, which follows in part, was concerned with the Government's plan of attack on these obstacles:

"...It is most gratifying that an increasing number of Indians, particularly in recent years, have succeeded through their determination and perseverance, sustained by the assistance given to them by the Indian Affairs Branch and other levels of government, as well as by private agencies, in adapting themselves to a new life which holds the promise of a bright future. Their example will undoubtedly continue to be a strong encouragement to the younger Indian generations to follow in their footsteps. It is equally heartening to me, as I know it must be to you, to see evidence that the stirring of the national conscience

towards our compatriots of Indian origin has aroused a new spirit of enquiry which goes much beyond the bounds of natural compassion. Today, more Canadians than ever before are striving to understand the Indians as human beings and partners with whom they share a common destiny, to learn about their culture and to grasp the true sense of their grievances and aspirations. And it is only fair to recognize that the press and the other media of public information, by focusing attention upon the undesirable and, at times, deplorable conditions under which some Indians were forced to live, have contributed effectively to the awakening of that sense of solidarity and responsibility which all Canadians must feel towards their Indian brothers. Leaving aside overstressed sensationalism on occasion, the public information media, in their untiring efforts to combat discrimination and injustice, to foster mutual understanding and goodwill, to bridge the gap between the Indian and non-Indian worlds, are performing a national service in the true tradition of their profession. They are your friends.

### CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE SUBSIDING

"One must accept as a good omen the fact that a greater measure of integration between Indians and non-Indians has freely taken place in the past few decades than in previous centuries of contact. I would wish to see in this a significant indication that the crisis of confidence... which has vitiated for too long the relationship between the Indians and the authorities responsible for the administration

(Over)