

Internal Pressures Never Greater

At this conference you have been studying a document which discusses the nature and extent of international studies in Canadian universities. You are meeting to study the implications of this report at a time when the internal pressures upon Canadian universities have never been greater. Too many students and too few professors, too many legitimate needs and too few dollars - this is the cruel dilemma facing Canadian universities today. And yet, in spite of this dilemma, I think we all recognize that the evolution of the international character of all our institutions today demands every determination and every sacrifice of which we are capable. Whatever may be the difficulties, the universities must be in the vanguard of mankind's march towards a true international order.

The university at its best throughout the centuries has always displayed an international character. Since ancient times, when Horace and the younger Cicero left Italy to take advanced studies in Athens and later when the scholars of the Near East journeyed to Alexandria, this trend has continued down through the centuries. Perhaps it reached its finest hour in the early Middle Ages, when Paris, Bologna and Oxford exhibited a cosmopolitan character, the very recollection of which still presents a sense of excitement and exhilaration.

In this century the movement of international students and the stimulus to internationalism which they represent has developed into one of the most positive and priceless aspects of the "jet age". I am glad to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to a new organization which has recently been established in Canada, known as the Canadian Service of Overseas Students and Trainees. This organization, which has assumed responsibility for continuing and extending most of the national services for overseas students and trainees that have previously been provided by the National Committee for Friendly Relations with Overseas Students (FROS), World University Service of Canada (WUSC), and the joint FROS-WUSC Overseas Students Reception Service, is most welcome. It has a highly important and valuable role to play in providing friendship and guidance to international students, and the Government deeply appreciates this initiative and assures this organization of our fullest co-operation.

Today we often hear cliches about the challenges of the contemporary world. The ever-apparent crisis of the moment is always upon us. However, there is no doubt that today we are living in the most rapidly changing world in all history. The pace of change is breathtaking.

Crisis of Rapid Change

These are days in which the old terms of reference as we used to know them are no longer adequate, days in which new power centres are coming to life in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America and in other parts of the developing world, days in which the whole nature of the international structure is in the process of transformation, days in which some of the old traditions upon which most of our learning has been based may need to be re-examined.