

to the normal provincial grant to the university. The government is prepared to consider grants for this purpose and to review with the provinces the amounts which might be involved and the manner in which they might be made.

Recommendation 25 proposes that the federal and provincial governments reach agreement on measures required to meet the special needs of French-language universities. In the government's view, this recommendation appears to require special treatment. Our consideration of the matter leads us to believe that it would be difficult to judge the extent of these needs without further study. We have therefore suggested to the provinces that studies be conducted into the nature and dimensions of these needs and the manner of meeting them within available resources. The federal government would be prepared to consider participating in the financing of such studies.

Recommendation 30 proposes that there be a federal grant to provinces in respect of official minority-language universities which would amount to 10% of the provincial grants to these universities. Again, the government is prepared to accept the principle of federal grants for this purpose and to work out the modalities in consultation with the provinces.

Recommendation 44 suggests that the federal government meet the cost of a one-year transfer programme for university students specializing in the second official language. Within limits which will need to be agreed upon, as to the number of students who could be involved in such a programme and the cost per student, the government is prepared to accept this recommendation as well. We would hope to examine the possibilities for such a programme with the provinces.

e) Language Research Council

Recommendation 46 proposes that a language research council be established by the federal government. We are ready to accept this recommendation and to consult interested parties on the implications of establishing such a council, as well as to the manner in which it could best serve to meet the requirements of improved minority-language education and second-language training.

III. SECOND-LANGUAGE LEARNING

A study of the recommendations of the commission which are addressed to the federal government shows that they are intended

to cover both minority-language education and second-language learning. The first of these priorities is designed to redress an imbalance which has existed for many years and to ensure access to education in the minority, as well as the majority, language across Canada, wherever this is feasible. The second priority goes beyond this and looks to a future in which there will be an increasing opportunity for all Canadians to learn their second official language.

The government accepts both these priorities, and our acceptance of both is reflected in our willingness to provide financial assistance in both areas in the light of the commission's recommendations. We believe, however, that the further effort which may be required to improve the quality and the quantity of second-language instruction requires experience and knowledge of curricula, facilities and other matters of concern to educators in the provinces. As a result, we believe that further action in this field will require the closest consultation with the provinces on the dimensions of a rational programme in this area, and the means available to meet the needs once the latter are determined.

IV. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Based on our studies, we believe that the recommendations which I have just reviewed can be met, insofar as a federal contribution is concerned, by financial participation in the order of about \$50 million for a full year of operations. This amount could increase, within limits established in terms of available resources, as the programme expands with enhanced participation on the part of the provinces. As far as we are concerned, the programme could go into operation in January of next year.

The government naturally envisages a series of further discussions and consultations among federal and provincial representatives on financial aspects of the programme. It was considered desirable, however, to provide a reasonably clear indication at the outset of the limits which financial considerations place on the potential federal contribution.

V. CONCLUSION

The government regards the problems which have been examined by the royal commissioners, with respect to minority-language education and second-language learning, as being of fundamental significance to the future of Canada. The extent to which the