

As far as the expression "English-speaking Canada" is concerned, we use it for want of a better term when describing the majority of Canadians who are not French-speaking. It is not intended to denote a monolithic English-speaking entity. And in no way should it be interpreted as reflecting a lack of regard or concern for the cultural rights of the large number of Canadians whose mother tongue is neither English nor French.

It is difficult to predict how our society - which contains two broad linguistic communities, which is British in many of its institutions, which is heterogeneous in its cultural and make-up; which is North American by geography - how this society will develop. I can say, however, that it is the Government's intention that the country's development will take place freely. In our view the interplay of various cultural forces will create a Canada in which there will be strong unifying factors existing alongside equally strong factors of diversity. But diversity does not mean division. In Canada, diversity is the guarantee of, not a threat to, our national existence.

Not only individuals have linguistic and cultural rights. Recent trends suggest that there is growing international recognition of the idea that there are group rights to protection of language and culture. This more liberal concern over the existence of cultural groups is reflected in the U.N. conventions on human rights. Canada cannot stand aside, no province can stand aside, from the movement for the acceptance of these broad international norms pertaining to the rights and well-being of groups within larger societies. Canada must remain in the forefront of the drive to recognize and implement these rights.