

Thanks to effective consultations between the federal and provincial authorities, the provinces have been able to make a generous contribution to the Canadian aid effort, by recruiting teachers and advisers for service abroad and by offering education and training in Canada.

In addition to taking part in federal programs, some provinces have established their own programs of aid to developing countries. The Federal Government is delighted at this provincial support. The Federal Government's only aim is to ensure that the whole of the Canadian program is maintained and developed in a coherent manner, without splitting Canadian sovereignty abroad. It is, therefore, necessary to work together so that Canadian assistance forms a program which is co-ordinated by the Canadian Government, in which provincial support receives the credit it deserves.

The merits of this formula and of these methods of consultation are that they are compatible with a viable federalism, ensure an appropriate dialogue in Canada with the provinces in the fields of interest to them so that a Canadian policy can be defined, and open the way to a provincial presence and action abroad within a Canadian presence. That is a positive policy which respects the reality of Canada. It is the Federal Government's policy.

Conclusion

The constitution, and the flexible way in which we are applying it, ensure to the provinces that they can take part in the field of foreign relations, together with the Central Government. No doubt this system needs to be improved and developed. These improvements must be defined in Canada by Canadians. These questions are too complicated and too important to us to be the subject of a fight abroad.

We are ready to talk with those who have other opinions. We do no doubt their good faith. But this dialogue must take place in Canada, in a reasonable manner, through agreements between governments and through constitutional discussions. We must arrive at solutions which take into account not only the rules of international law and the realities of the modern world but even more the principles of an effective, viable federalism. Our success -- for we shall succeed -- will serve the interests of the provinces, of the Central Government and of all Canadians. It will offer a fine example to a divided world.

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