

"Unity in Canada" is the subject of the section.

"We are also inseparable in the sense that hundreds of thousands of English-speaking Canadians reside in Quebec, and nearly a million French-speaking Canadians live outside Quebec. This latter fact has been officially recognized by the government of Quebec, when it created a Department of Cultural Affairs. Quebec, in this sense, is more than a province, it is a motherland — but a motherland in a Confederation, in a national partnership.

#### PROGRESS SLOW BUT REAL

"The bringing together of the two groups requires, amongst other things, that English-speaking Canada be more conscious of the aspirations of French-speaking Canada and that the latter be not too impatient if it finds that this consciousness seems slow to express itself. Real progress is being made from one generation to another. For example, the Bourassa doctrine on Canadian nationalism, which was attacked as a heresy, a generation ago, is now accepted by practically all of English-speaking Canada. In short, if we do not advance at the same pace, we move at least in the same direction. This, I believe, is essential.

"It is necessary to recognize that, in the historical and cultural sense, our country is mainly formed of two races and that these two races must have equal rights and an equal opportunity in the expansion and in the control of the economy. But we must also recognize that a Canadian nation exists which, precisely, unites these two people who have founded and developed our country. When we no longer talk of Canadian unity in this country, Canada will have ceased to exist and then our two cultures will be in great danger.

"At this time when we are preparing to celebrate our centennial, it is advisable that Confederation should be reshaped to meet the requirements of the present hour. We want a 1963 model.

"Our federalism must be conceived in such a flexible way as to permit the existence of a Canadian Government strong enough within the limits of its jurisdiction to play its part fully among the great nations of the world, while ensuring the progress and welfare of the Canadian population.

"But we also want to give the provinces all the attributions and powers granted to them by the Constitution and the means to exercise such powers. I wish to repeat that we must bring about a co-operative federalism; that is to say, a federalism free from any spirit of an unacceptable centralization.

#### ENTERING A NEW ERA

"At the end of the recent federal-provincial conference, the Premier of Quebec emphasized that the Confederation had now entered a new era. I am convinced that, in this new era, more frequent discussions will enable the leaders of the provincial and federal governments to find solutions to present problems. I have no doubt that a permanent agency can also play an important part in federal-provincial relations. All this will ensure better understanding of our separate problems, as well as of our common problems. It is on such understanding that good relations, friendship and co-operation are based.

"I know, as well as you do, that the Province of Quebec is different from others, because, while being a province of Canada, it is the motherland of people living in other provinces.

"Quebec needs the means to keep its own identity; Quebec must have the means to act, to meet its present needs and also satisfy aspirations dating many centuries back.

#### UNITY IN DIVERSITY

"But Canada also needs the means to keep its own national identity and to act for Canada, on the domestic level as well in the international field, especially in the effort to safeguard peace and security in the world. In order to give a new impetus to our economy as well as to continue our role in the world, we need a united Canada. Unity in diversity, unity of action as partners, equal partners. It is within such a healthy Canada that Quebec will be in a position to realize its aspirations...

"...I place great hope in the Royal Commission on Biculturalism we have just created, which will clarify problems, recommend solutions and help government take the necessary action.

"We have already taken steps to have the French language not only recognized officially in the Government of Canada but also — and this is important — to give it a more and more current use. It is our desire that, in all sectors of the federal administration, French can be used as well as English. I know we will achieve this anticipated result and a bilingual Civil Service.

"An increasing number of English-speaking Canadians are realizing that learning the French language is not a regrettable concession to our national circumstances but an enriching cultural experience.

#### MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

"There is no more important problem facing this country, apart from peace and work for the people, than the maintenance and development of the Canadian Confederation, on the foundation of equal partnership, the only foundation that makes possible the Canadian nation. Such a nation, strong and united, is essential if we are not to be absorbed in some continental society and thereby lose our own separate traditions and cultures, French and British.

"I have already spoken about the problem of preserving this Canadian nation, of maintaining our Canadian identity, against the inevitable pressures from the U.S.A. — all the stronger because they are friendly and, in many ways, have had good results for us.

"Some Canadians, however, are beginning to ask themselves: Why should we worry about 'saving' Canada from the American 'invasion' if we don't believe in a Canada to be saved, a Canada which is greater than its parts?

"I believe that there is such a Canada, of which we should all be proud to be citizens, whether we speak English or French.

"I believe that there can be a Canadian nation within which the two basic cultures can develop in full and equal partnership.

"I know that this can only be done if each group respects and understands the position of the other

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