

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to express my thanks for this invitation to address your Annual Meeting and I should like to take the opportunity to outline some of the views of the Canadian Government with respect to Unesco and recent developments within the Organization. I further wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Lawrence Cragg, to Professor Napoléon Leblanc, and to Mr. David Bartlett, who by their qualities of mind and spirit have made such a great contribution to Canadian involvement in Unesco and who deserve a good deal of the credit for the excellent reputation that Canada enjoys with the Agency. I should also like to mention Dr. James Harrison who unfortunately could not be here today, and to whom much credit is due for the success of Unesco's science programmes. Dr. Harrison has just retired from his post as Assistant Director, General Science, and he will be sorely missed.

I am also pleased that the Secretary General of Unesco is represented in the person of Mr. Zemi Lijady and, last but not least, I am happy that Ambassador Gagnon, our Permanent Delegate to Unesco, was able to come over from Paris for this important meeting.

It is hardly necessary to stress to you that since its beginning, Canada has firmly supported Unesco and continues to do so. We do so because we believe in the aims of the organization and because we believe in the high ideals so eloquently stated in its Constitution. Allow me to quote the words which I have in mind because I think they bear repeating. "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." It is a sad but inescapable fact that this necessity remains, and that the purpose for which Unesco was created must still be pursued, and, I quote again, for "the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind".

Of all the U.N. specialized agencies, Unesco perhaps reaches deepest into Canada's grass roots. Through the Canadian Commission for Unesco, individuals and organizations throughout Canada are associated with Unesco programmes in Canada, and interested and involved in the international activities of the Organization.

Thus, I need hardly remind this particular assembly that Unesco is unique among the specialized agencies of the U.N. system -- unique in the sense that a major portion of its activity is devoted to an area of primary interest to provincial governments. I am referring of course to the field of education. While Article VII of the Unesco constitution makes no specific reference to the particular circumstances of federal states which are members of Unesco, the Canadian Commission for Unesco has, for some time now, wisely included as a permanent member of the Commission, and as a permanent member of its Executive Committee, a representative of