

The achievement of these two objectives -- in reality the inculcation of that worn but still indispensable expression "unity in diversity" -- requires of all Canadians the highest qualities of understanding, sympathy and goodwill.

The situation vis-à-vis French Canada is only one dimension of the unity question. Equally important is the recognition of the multi-ethnic nature of Canada. Unfortunately, the vocabulary of politics is insufficiently rich to provide us with precise terms to describe its many complex conceptions. So often we must resort to analogy and metaphor more appropriate to the physical than the political world -- we speak of the "mosaic of Canada", its "patchwork quality", the "flower-garden", the "rainbow" or the "kaleidoscope". These similes, although much overworked, do give us a picture of the plural nature of our society.

Although the vocabulary of Canadian politics is imprecise, and necessarily so, there are some basic points which should be clarified.

For example, there must be no confusion in our minds about the meaning of the terms "English Canada" and "English-speaking Canada". Of course, no one for one moment would deny the influence of Britain -- or more specifically of England -- on the institutions and cultural mores of Canada. Regardless of our origins, we all share the benefits of this political, legal and social heritage. At the same time, however, this country has been shaped by its North American environment and by the contribution of people -- as groups and as individuals -- from scores of countries around the world. In addition to the specific gifts which each ethnic group has brought to Canada, the presence of many ethnic groups has given it a character which makes the term "English Canada" completely outmoded in 1967.

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 make-up and North American by geography -- 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