

It would be possible for them to play off provincial interests against one another, to adopt client states, to make use of Canada freely, with a good conscience and with our permission. You just have to remember the recent events which took place in our country to prove this assertion.

(d) Effects in Canada; Canada's internal life would be threatened:

The most serious aspect of this affair is that the theory of the external sovereignty of the provinces, if it were adopted, would threaten the internal life of Canada. The sharing of external sovereignty would permit perpetual intervention in the constitutional and internal affairs of Canada. Canada's future would be decided not through rational constitutional debate, shaped by Canadian public opinion in the light of all the problems, but through the changing and divergent interests of the international community. As a result, we should have a constitution which was made abroad. Could Canada survive? It would have an excellent chance of disintegrating, without its voters being consulted.

It is high time for the population of Quebec to realize that, even if it does not want to be separatist, those who hold this theory are pursuing a policy which can be fatal for Canada. Those who aim at this result should admit it; those who are opposed should stand up.

(IV) Formula according to which the provinces can take part in the foreign policy of Canada.

I think it is clear that the Canadian provinces will have enough commonsense to work within the Canadian framework and to avoid policies that threaten to break up Canadian foreign policy and the country itself. Should they, therefore, be resigned to taking no part in our foreign relations and to playing no role on the world scene? Is it Ottawa's policy to keep them out of our foreign relations? It is necessary to sacrifice the provinces and their interests on the altar of national unity? Not at all.

It seems to me that the provinces want their aspirations and interests to be reflected in the formulation of Canadian foreign policy, to participate when appropriate in presenting and carrying out these policies abroad, to be present at conferences and in international organizations and to have their role and contribution -- whether in education, culture or technical and social co-operation -- receive adequate recognition as part of a common Canadian effort. To achieve this they do not need to claim a disastrous sharing of external sovereignty.

Canadian federalism offers them all the scope necessary. Within the present constitution, the Federal Government has begun to work out a flexible formula for co-operation with the provinces. It is not a concession which the Federal Government has made out of pure virtue; it is a practical necessity which federalism has imposed upon us. We have already worked out areas of consultation and co-operation. The federal formula has the potential to permit increased provincial participation in the Canadian presence abroad. Rather than waste our energy in sniping at one another abroad, it would be much more profitable for the provinces to work with the Canadian Government to expand and define methods of consultation and co-operation.