

nature of our geographic, social and economic environments.

"The task force also recognizes that Canada and its present federal system are under great stress. The creation of the task force is itself a testimony to this. All regions of Canada are reflecting and expressing this malaise. The most pressing questions are being raised in Quebec and the task force intends to give these high priority. Nevertheless, the concerns of other regions are vitally important and will be given our full attention.

"The task force has been given a clear mandate by the Government to develop its own initiatives and ideas and we intend to do this. It is our intention to assemble concepts and policies which could constitute some of the elements of a third option for Canada. The members of the task force do not feel bound by existing legislation and practices nor are they committed to views of any federal or provincial political party. Our mandate required us to advise the Government and we will do so but we will also make our views public, not seeking conflict with any groups, but aware that our autonomy is essential to our credibility and usefulness.

"We intend to function in a spirit of receptiveness and conciliation. We will work closely with the Canadian people. Throughout the period of our mandate, we intend to carry on a conversation with citizens of all regions and with experts in all disciplines, listening, attempting to understand, discussing both old and new concepts. We will be mindful of and will solicit the views of the federal and all provincial governments.

"In accordance with our mandate, we intend to listen to and provide a forum for those associations of all kinds which are specifically searching for the terms of a better Canada. Such efforts represent a spontaneous and generous spirit which must be encouraged and which can provide Canadians with a very useful instrument for the consideration of our problems.

"The task force will learn a great deal from these organizations and will give particular encouragement to those who wish to think about changes which can improve our political, social and economic systems. We will encourage such policy formation in every way and particularly through the provision of speakers and publications which might stimulate discussion.

The mandate of the Task Force on Canadian Unity has three basic elements:

- (a) "To support, encourage and publicize the efforts of the general public and particularly those of (voluntary) organizations, with regard to Canadian unity.
- (b) "To contribute the initiatives and views of the commissioners concerning Canadian unity.
- (c) "To advise the Government (of Canada) on unity issues."

Activities of the task force

"Within the period of our mandate and within the over-all framework of a dialogue with the Canadian people, we intend to do four things. To some extent, these activities will be taking place concurrently.

"First, we intend to listen and attempt to understand the real concerns of all Canadians on the functioning of our social, economic and political institutions as they relate to our mandate.

"Secondly, while we recognize the existence of tensions and the need for reforms, we intend to point out the positive aspects of the Canadian experience, both material and emotional, its flexibility and its potential for improvement under the pressure of enlightened public awareness.

"Thirdly, we hope to be able to inform the Canadian people effectively about the complex issues at stake in creating a more satisfying country. We propose to clarify the options available and the advantages and disadvantages related to them.

"Fourthly, we intend to make recommendations for changes in structures, concepts and attitudes which are required in order to make our Canadian institutions more consistent with the needs of our times.

Timetable

"During the early months of the life of the task force, the emphasis will be on listening. We intend to visit centres in all the Canadian provinces to discuss the

issues, face to face, with the public. In this way, we will acquire a greater sensitivity to the current opinions and feelings of Canadians. Concurrently, the staff of the task force will be studying and analyzing the key issues in the unity debate in order to prepare background papers on some major aspects of our current problems and the range of possible improvements which might be made.

"During the second phase of the task force's work the emphasis will be on study and consultation with specialists. The task force and its staff will discuss the issues in an attempt to assemble concepts and policies which will provide Canadians with some new directions. Concurrently with this period of study, the task force intends to publish information papers on important issues for the Canadian people, outlining the options which are available.

"During the third and final period of the task force's life, the members plan to integrate their views and propose objectives and policies to the Government of Canada and to the Canadian people for their consideration.

"The task force expects, in the months ahead, to make a contribution to a better understanding and resolution of our current problems. Where these problems are more perceived than real, we intend to promote understanding. Where they are more real than perceived, we intend to promote change.

"And we earnestly ask for the understanding and support of our fellow citizens."

International science co-operation

In a statement to the first conference of ministers responsible for science policy of member countries of the Agency for Technical and Cultural Co-operation held in Luxembourg on September 23, Jeanne Sauvé, head of the Canadian delegation and vice-president of the conference, pledged Canada's "unqualified support" for the proposal for intensified scientific co-operation between member countries

of the Agency.

Mrs. Sauvé proposed several ideas to define a specific role for the Agency in this area as well as suggesting the Agency's share for scientific co-operation be increased within the general budget.

The Minister also emphasized the determining role of science and technology in the economic, social and cultural development of member countries of the Agency, particularly those of the developing countries.