

language-training resources further over the next four years on a scale sufficient to meet the objectives announced by Mr. Pearson, to which I will refer in a moment. This will require an increase in the number of classrooms from 76 to 133 and an increase in the number of teachers from 175 to 339.

There is no easy way to competence in a second language but, in three and a half years, enough such competence has been acquired by many senior officials to permit both English- and French-speaking participants in conferences and committees to use their mother tongue, confident that they will be understood. We have every assurance from this experience that the objectives of the Public Service Language-Training Programme will be reached.

On April 6, 1966, Mr. Pearson made a policy announcement in this House on bilingualism in the Public Service of Canada. He stated that the Government "expects that within a reasonable period of years a state of affairs in the Public Service will be reached whereby: (a) It will be normal practice for oral or written communications within the Service to be made in either official language at the option of the person making them...; (b) Communications with the public will normally be in either language having regard to the person being served".

At that time he announced a number of measures to promote these objectives. I should like to mention the progress to date on three of them.

- (1) A salary differential has been paid since 1966 to those holding secretarial, stenographic and typist positions in which both languages are required and where both are used.
- (2) A special programme for improving bilingualism among senior executive officers was also begun in 1966. Under this programme each year some 20 English-speaking civil servants with their families spend a year in Quebec City, while some ten French-speaking civil servants and their families spend a year in Toronto.
- (3) In 1967 reasonable proficiency in the two official languages, or willingness to acquire it through appropriate training at public expense, became an element of merit in the selection of university graduates recruited for administrative trainee positions where the need for bilingualism exists.

At the end of 1967, the Laurendeau-Dunton Commission issued the first volume of its report, which made a number of important recommendations on language rights. The report stated: "We take as a guiding principle the recognition of both official languages, in law and in practice, wherever the minority is numerous enough to be viable as a group."

At the Constitutional Conference held in February of this year, the Federal Government announced that it accepted the objectives set by the Royal Commission, that it would take steps to implement the proposals applicable to the Federal Government, and that it hoped the provinces would implement those requiring provincial action. We also stated: "The Government of Canada will be prepared to help in the implementation of these proposals if we are asked to do so. We will be glad to join the provincial governments in devising the methods by which our assistance could be made most effective."