

Canada, Quebec intends to fulfil its moral responsibilities towards them, as it has started to do, for that matter, despite its limited means.

• Courts

"Naturally, the Quebec courts will be the only ones to administer justice in Quebec. All judges will be appointed in accordance with Quebec laws, and judges who are now on the bench will remain in their functions. However, a joint court, constituted through the treaty of association between Quebec and Canada, will have the power to interpret this treaty and decide on the rights that result from it.

• External relations

"Quebec will continue to be bound by the treaties to which Canada is now a signatory. It may withdraw from them should the occasion arise according to the rules of international law. Consequently, Quebec will respect the agreement on the St. Lawrence Seaway and will become a full partner in the International Joint Commission. As for alliances such as NATO and NORAD, Quebec will respect its responsibilities and offer its contributions in accordance with its aims.

"In order to fully play its role on the international scene and defend its interests, Quebec will ask to be admitted to the United Nations and to its specialized agencies.

"Finally, while developing its relations and its co-operation with Francophone countries, Quebec will consider remaining a member of the British Commonwealth.

Association

"...The Quebec government intends to offer to negotiate with the rest of Canada a treaty of community association, whose aim will be, notably, to maintain the present Canadian economic entity by ensuring continuity of exchange and by favouring, in the long run, a more rapid and better balanced development of each of the two partners.

"This treaty will have an international status and will bind the parties in a manner and for a term to be determined. It will define the partners' areas of common activity and confirm the maintenance of an economic and monetary union between Quebec and the rest of Canada. It will also determine the areas where agreement on goals will be considered desirable. Finally, it will establish the rules and institutions that will ensure the proper functioning of the Quebec-Canada community, and determine its methods of financing...."

Federal and provincial reaction to the white paper

Quebec Opposition Leader **Claude Ryan** dismissed the document's analysis as biased, falsified and truncated". "They (the Parti Québécois) are systematically silent, on all the interesting and beneficial aspects of federalism such as the system of equalization payments and the health and hospital insurance scheme which are the envy of other countries in the world and which we have largely as a result of leadership from the central government." Mr. Ryan said the Parti Québécois's position was based on a pessimistic outlook and a misunderstanding of Canada's regional nature. "They (the Parti Québécois) see Canada as being made up of ten separate entities," he said. "They fail to recognize Canada's regional nature and the fact that if we are going to reconstruct Canada it must be on the basis of the different regions, each of which has a distinct character and distinct need."

Prime Minister Joe Clark said at a press conference, November 2, that the Quebec government's paper proposed "an option that was incompatible with the continuation of [Canada's] federation. As such, it is a position that is absolutely unacceptable to the Government of Canada", he declared. Mr. Clark said that the paper would not be the end of the debate on sovereignty-association. "From our point of view on the side of the Federal Government, we have already begun a significant renewal of Canadian federalism.... We are going to have to continue to demonstrate as the Federal Government that federalism means change," he said. "...The good sense of the people of Quebec will prevail in opting for a federal system," said the Prime Minister, "particularly now that the government of Quebec's position is so clear and particularly if we continue to do our job effectively of demonstrating specific changes in the direction of a renewed federalism."

Federal Opposition Leader Pierre Trudeau said the paper was "essentially a tactical document to get the people of Quebec to give a 'yes' vote in the referendum without frightening them. It's the old thing of having your cake and eating it too. That's done by saying in the document that a 'yes' vote is for a mandate to obtain sovereignty and association and that one will not be obtained without the other". The paper described the benefits of economic union with Canada, but not what would happen if independence did not include such economic links, said Mr. Trudeau.

New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent warned that the white paper was shrewd in the "psychological sense" by suggesting Quebecers could vote 'yes' in the upcoming referendum and still enjoy all the benefits of being a Canadian. "It's suggesting you can have it both ways," Mr. Broadbent said. "Quebecers will see the implications."

Ontario Premier William Davis responded to the Quebec government's white paper in the Ontario Legislature calling it "a limited and shortsighted response to the continuing challenge of cultural development, which places isolation and internationalization above all other objectives". The Premier said that Ontario "will not be part of this denial of future, this constraint upon potential for French Canada. We will be part of working with Quebecers to change Confederation, to enhance its uniqueness as an adaptable political framework through which every legitimate social, cultural and economic goal is attainable for all Canadians".

The premiers of the four Western provinces, **Sterling Lyon** (Manitoba), **Allan Blakeney** (Saskatchewan), **Peter Lougheed** (Alberta) and **William Bennett** (British Columbia), responded to the Parti Québécois's proposal of sovereignty-association saying that it was "neither in the economic interests of Western Canada nor in the broader interests of Canada as a whole". However, they also said that they were willing to negotiate constitutional changes within the framework of Confederation. "...We certainly want to make it clear to everybody who may wish to know that we will not in any sense feel bound to negotiate the details of sovereignty-association just because a referendum passes in Quebec," said Premier Blakeney.

Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan said his province did not support the white paper because it would create two levels of Canadians — one which would be independent but would also have special association with the other. However, he said, the province would be "prepared to make Canada work in a fractured sense if Quebec separates".

In Charlottetown, Premier Angus MacLean of Prince Edward Island said the Quebec government's paper was an attempt to persuade the people of Quebec that "they can have the best of both worlds". He said he had serious reservations about the viability of Quebec's concept of sovereignty-association.