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FEDERALISM AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES

The Prime Minister has announced that he has sent the provincial prime ministers and premiers a document entitled *Federalism and International Conferences on Education*, which has been prepared under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This is a supplement to an earlier study entitled *Federalism and International Relations*, issued by the Government of Canada at the constitutional conference of last February.

The question of provincial participation in international conferences, according to this paper, raises important questions of principle which are of concern to all Canadians. The conduct of Canada's foreign policy cannot be divided into watertight areas some of which are within the competence of the Government of Canada and others of provincial or local concern. To challenge the integrity of Canada's external personality inevitably entails a challenge to national unity.

Within this basic framework there is wide latitude for collaboration between the federal and provincial governments with respect to intergovernmental conferences and other areas of international co-operation which can give full scope to the interests of the provinces and of individual Canadians of both major language groups. This has been shown in the past in connection with Canadian participation in a variety of international organizations and conferences of interest to the provinces, particularly in relation to education.

The policy of the Federal Government in arranging for Canadian representation in international organizations and at international conferences on education is to work closely with the provincial authorities to establish balanced delegations which take account of both federal jurisdiction in external affairs and provincial jurisdiction in relation to education. The practice followed with respect to Canadian representa-

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tion at international conferences held under the auspices of the Commonwealth, UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education, provides a clear illustration of the feasibility of this approach. The Government hopes that existing procedures of federal-provincial co-operation in this area can be expanded and improved.

The Government has also put forward a number of suggestions with respect to intergovernmental meetings on education within the framework of *la Francophonie*. These proposals give full recognition to provincial jurisdiction over education as well as to the special interest in *la Francophonie* in the Province of Quebec and other provinces with large French-speaking minorities. At the same time, they respect the requirements of national unity. Canadian views on these matters have been communicated to other governments concerned.

The Prime Minister has suggested to the provincial prime ministers and premiers that the present study be regarded as a working paper for the constitutional conference. The Government's proposals and suggestions regarding provincial participation in international conferences, and related matters concerning education and international co-operation, are submitted for discussion in this context.