

federal and unitary, to mediate between the weakness and splendour of individuals and the larger, rarer, undifferentiated atmosphere of any imaginable world community. There will long be a need for some intermediate political environment where an individual can live and breathe and know himself in surroundings richer, more familiar, more native to him, than the more rarefied atmosphere of the international world.

Of all the countries in the world that stand in this way between man and his global environment, between the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future, there is none that has the promise of Canada. Ours is one of the richest. Everything that is possible in the world is possible here. Canada's expanse is broad and breathtaking. Our wealth in natural and human resources is great. We have men and women of ability, skill, energy and resolve.

But I am also thinking of deeper things. I am thinking of how Canadians have built and worked together for more than 100 years to open up and develop this country and bind it closer. I am thinking of how, in good times and bad, Canadians from different parts and of different origins have managed to compose their differences with only a minimum of violence or bitterness. I am thinking of the achievements - greater than we realize - that we have had already in the realm of the mind and the spirit. And I am thinking also of what I detect among our young people today - a desire to outstrip those achievements.

Those are some of the reasons why Canada must be dear to us all. But there is a simpler reason for my feeling than all this. It is simply that Canada is ours; that it belongs to us, and - in a deeper sense still - that we all belong to it. We all have our individual memories and our local loyalties that tie us to this land. For each of us those memories and loyalties are different. But they are overlapping. And it is that overlapping tissue of loyalties, involving our hearts more than our minds, which, more than anything else, constitutes this country: To tear apart these loyalties would be to destroy the country and to leave us all diminished.

We all know that French Canada today feels a deep dissatisfaction with its place in Confederation. The reasons for that are complex and of varying significance. I have said in the past, and I repeat now, that I believe most of those reasons to be entirely justified. But this is not the occasion either to try to analyse why there is discontent in French Canada or to weigh judiciously everything that has contributed to produce that result. What is far more important is to admit that this dissatisfaction is a fact and to recognize that, if it is allowed to continue without remedy, it could lead to separation and to the end of Confederation.

Equally important is to recognize that it lies within our power to prevent this, to remove the causes of discontent, to lay the groundwork for a great new act of accommodation which will ensure the hopes and aspirations of all Canadians. It is to nothing less than this that we must commit ourselves at this conference.

Most of you know me well enough to know that, whatever gifts I may have, eloquence is not among them. But I wish this morning I had some of the