

mand and maintain public support. That is why, without abdicating our responsibilities as a government, we intend to involve Canadians fully in the new imprint we intend to give to Canada's foreign policy....

#### Europe of prime importance

"I do not want to anticipate the outcome of the review, but there is one point that I can make to you with complete confidence: Canada's relations with Europe, which have always been of central importance, will continue to be so. As a country whose soldiers have crossed the Atlantic in two succeeding generations, we know that our security is inseparable from that of Europe. As a major trading nation, we are bound to take account of the coalescent of the largest trading community anywhere in the world. And as a people whose roots are undeniably embedded in Europe we shall continue to attach great importance to our links with countries that have contributed so much to Canada's cultural heritage...."

Miss MacDonald took the opportunity to talk about the Clark Government's approach to domestic policy, and in particular, about federal-provincial relations as they affected the major issues of energy and national unity.

#### National unity

"Many of our domestic problems are, of course, similar to those faced by all countries in the developed world," she said. "Inflation, unemployment, rapid social change, and of increasing preoccupation, energy — these are as familiar in France as in Canada. In addition, however, we have certain problems of governmental management that result from our Constitution as a federal state that just do not apply in such a unitary country as France. And I must emphasize this difference in organization of government between our countries, because it is fundamental to a complete understanding of the Canadian political scene.

"Even though the division of powers between the provinces and the Federal Government are laid down in our written Constitution, the political reality is that our federation is characterized by perpetual evolution. At some periods in our history the powers of the provinces have been overshadowed by the imperatives of the responsibilities given to the Federal Government. At other times the rights and responsibilities of the provinces have,

for a variety of reasons, been more vital to the current concerns of our nation....

#### Energy

"Undoubtedly the major preoccupation in Canada today, as in many countries, is the question of energy. We happen to be in the fortunate position of being an energy-rich country — one whose resources ensure that our over-all needs can be met for the far foreseeable future. We are even able to export substantial quantities of energy in the form of uranium and natural gas. Our problem at the moment is oil. Our production is less than our current requirements, though we predict that in a decade non-conventional sources of oil from such resources as our tar sands will bring us complete self-sufficiency in that area as well.

"Under our Constitution natural resources are a provincial responsibility. This means that we as a Federal Government have had to undertake a long and often very difficult process of negotiation with the oil-producing provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan to develop a national oil policy that will recognize the interests of the people who live in the oil-

rich regions of the country, and at the same time ensure that the whole country will have an adequate supply both now and over the long term...."

"Another example is in our approach to Quebec, and its desire to maintain its linguistic and cultural position in North America.... We want to help the people of Quebec to satisfy, within the framework of the Canadian federation, in every way we can, their desire to maintain and foster their own identity. In those fields which fall within federal responsibility, the Government in Ottawa must speak for all Canadians, those from Quebec, from Newfoundland, or from the Territories. But when the people of Quebec express special needs arising from their own heritage and their deep-rooted sense of their own identity, the Federal Government cannot impose on the Quebec government a standard, or even a point of view, which would unnecessarily hinder their progress and the attainment of their objectives. Our Constitution is comprehensive and flexible. If necessary, it is changeable. In domestic affairs as well as in international relations, we recognize the need for innovation...."

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### Quebec sovereignty-association question announced

Premier René Lévesque announced in the provincial legislature on December 21 the question that would be put to the people of Quebec in a referendum to be held in the spring. It reads:

"The government of Quebec has made public its proposal to negotiate a new agreement with the rest of Canada, based on the equality of nations;

"This agreement would enable Quebec to acquire the exclusive power to make its laws, administer its taxes and establish relations abroad — in other words sovereignty — and at the same time, to maintain with Canada an economic association including a common currency;

"Any change in political status resulting from these negotiations will be submitted to the people through a referendum;

"On these terms, do you agree to give the government of Quebec the mandate to negotiate the proposed agreement between Quebec and Canada?"

#### Reaction

Mr. Lévesque had indicated in the past that one referendum would be sufficient

to implement sovereignty-association if negotiations with the rest of Canada were favourable.

Quebec Opposition leader Claude Ryan said that the question on the referendum was "a complete fraud" which attempted to "camouflage" the Parti Québécois's goal of independence.

He added that "total confusion" surrounded the wording and that the question should read: "Are you for or against the political independence of Quebec?"

Prime Minister Joe Clark rejected the wording of the referendum, declaring that his Government would not negotiate sovereignty-association. "Personally, if I were a Quebecer," said Mr. Clark, "I would vote no to this question."

Federal Liberal party leader Pierre Trudeau stated that two sovereignty-association referendums could rend the fabric of Quebec.

New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent said that the question gave the people of Quebec two choices: *status quo* or independence.