

*Government Orders*

today gives it the means. The agreement reached with Quebec in this respect will be protected by the Constitution.

Quebec already has exclusive power over education. The agreement grants it sole jurisdiction over job training and manpower development, which are natural extensions of that responsibility granted in 1867.

The agreement also calls for the establishment of an agreement on telecommunications, and stipulates that Quebec will have, within its territory, jurisdiction over culture.

With responsibility over education, training, immigration and culture, the Quebec government will have in its hands all the power it needs for its linguistic and cultural affirmation within Canada, one of the world's leading economic forces. Therefore, any objective analysis of the consequences of this agreement must conclude that it grants Quebec society what is clearly a greater degree of cultural security. It cannot be denied that it answers, and answers admirably, Quebec's historical demands.

In giving so many cultural guarantees and new powers to the Government of Quebec, as well as to the other provinces, can it be that we are unwittingly diminishing its attachment to the Canadian federation? Without the slightest hesitation, I say that it is quite the contrary. In all the constitutional negotiations we have gone through in Canada and there have been quite a few the representatives of Quebec have almost always wanted to maintain Quebec's participation in national institutions. Such was again the case in the round that ended on August 28 in Charlottetown. The agreement we now have in our hands will enable Quebecers to assume their full historical role in our federation.

The guarantee of three Quebec judges on the Supreme Court, a reality which arises from a legal system that is different from the other provinces, a minimum of 25 per cent of the seats in this House, a double majority in the Senate for matters affecting the French language and culture and the veto which it shares with other provinces, over any changes to our national institutions are examples of major advances for the protection of the interests of Quebec and of francophones within the Canadian federation. These gains correspond to and in some cases surpass the demands expressed by Premier Bourassa's government in 1986 and contained in the Meech Lake accord.

They also correspond in large part to the list of claims put forth by Premier René Lévesque who in 1985 was prepared to take the risk of a united but substantially reformed Canada. In fact, this is how the last paragraph of the proposed constitutional agreement presented by Mr. Lévesque as premier of Quebec read: "The will expressed by the Prime Minister of Canada to correct the errors of the past has inspired, there as well as here, hope for a better future. The people of Quebec and their government, in response to the openness that has been shown, reach out their hands to their neighbours. In a spirit of mutual respect and good faith, and following such honest negotiations, we firmly believe in the possibility of creating better conditions for our future."

I believe that the Charlottetown agreement fulfils this wish of Mr. Lévesque, while at the same time meeting the expectations of the current Government of Quebec. Yet these provisions also ensure the ability of Quebec to participate, with full confidence, in Canadian political life because—we do not see it too often in the newspapers—we must never ever forget that the great majority of Quebecers have a deep love for Canada. This agreement finally allows all Quebecers to assert the pride they feel in the country that they created, that they built and that they have loved for so long.

As a distinct society within Canada, Quebecers have put their faith, their courage and their special genius into this country. They have put into it their very soul. In 1608, French was already being spoken in Quebec City. In 1642, 350 years ago, French was being spoken in Montreal, today the second largest French-speaking city in the world. In 1763, when Canada was ceded to England, the 90,000 French people living here openly feared for their future. However, today, more than five million French-speaking Quebecers, the inventors and the guardians of French culture in America, are affirming through their pride in a heroic past their sure belief in a brilliant future. Long, long before Confederation, the ancestors of this country called themselves Canadian, a name that generation after generation of pioneers bore with pride. Today, as the world's second largest francophone community, Canada stands alongside France as one of the chief pillars of the international Francophonie. It is by determining together the kind of country that we want that we will be able to achieve the great destiny our ancestors began preparing centuries ago. This agreement, enables a new generation of