

THE C.B.C.AND THEREFERENDUM DEBATE

During the next several months the CBC will be called upon to play a vital role in this critical period of Canadian history ... that of communicating to Canadians generally and to Quebecers in particular the information, the ideas and the arguments which they will need, and will want to consider, in settling upon the course of Canada for the future. The Board of Directors of the CBC and I, along with senior management in the Corporation, began many months ago to consider the role the CBC should fulfill during the referendum debate, and settled upon a course of action during the months of June to October. I welcome this opportunity of presenting to Parliament, through the House of Commons Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, our conclusions as to the role which should be played by the CBC during the referendum debate, as well as some indication as to the manner in which we plan to discharge our responsibilities.