

One of the aspects of the UNESCO connection which I want to emphasize is the Commonwealth support for the institution, its aims, its rejuvenation, Commonwealth Heads of Government in Nafssau recently stated the value they placed in the reinvigoration of international organizations more generally. Armed with this, Commonwealth High Commissioners, including Canada's, wrote to UK Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Friday November 15, 1985 to restate the value the Commonwealth places in the UK's membership in this valuable world body. They did this because Commonwealth members realize that many of the models institutionalized in our societies in the fields of education, science, and culture, are founded upon developments initiated by through international cooperation. UNESCO needs the wisdom of our British friends as well as from all of the peoples of the world.

The results of this General Conference are clear. We have examined these results against the Canadian position on reform. The Canadian Government is very pleased with the progress achieved to date in the reform of UNESCO. I can state emphatically that we will continue to work from within the organization for its reform. We will not abandon it. As the Prime Minister recently stated:

"We are not going to pull out of UNESCO. ... We have asked for internal reforms and we think they are coming. We want to bring about these reforms from within."

In short, Mr. Speaker, Canada, by remaining in UNESCO, intends to pursue the vision of those who created UNESCO.

It is clear that if no UNESCO existed, one would have to be invented.