

enced, because my family on my mother's side comes from Alberta. It is part of reality.

[*English*]

However, the other side of the coin is also true. Every anglophone has to feel at home in Quebec. Many of them have been there for more than three, four and five generations. They are Quebecers as much as I am a Quebecer. They have to feel at home there, otherwise they will not feel part of Canada any more.

[*Translation*]

I hope this agreement will encourage specific action to help French-speaking minorities maintain and develop the vitality of their communities. Provincial governments will have to act on their commitments, and the Parliament of Canada will have to ensure that provincial governments act on the commitments they made in Charlottetown to the Francophone minority.

[*English*]

We also wanted to make sure the charter of rights is protected. It has been the goal of all Canadians. It started a long time ago when the member for Prince Albert, John Diefenbaker, wanted to enshrine it in the Constitution. Now that we have achieved this, it has to remain there, to be protected and not destroyed. I am satisfied that it is there and it is still protected.

We have always stood firm on aboriginal self-government. It was part of our program at the beginning and we have never moved from it. It is a logical conclusion to what we did in 1982, when we enshrined in the Constitution, for the first time, the concept of aboriginal rights. This flowed from the royal proclamation of 1763, and it was a logical move. It has to be rooted in reality and self-government is a consequence of that. In the next few years we will have to make it work to make sure that self-government is within the confines of Canada, that it respects the reality of the provinces in Canada, and that the aboriginal peoples can themselves make the decisions for their own future.

• (1620)

As I say so often in my speeches, we have made enough mistakes for the aboriginal peoples that we might let them make a few mistakes themselves. When they gain confidence and when they gain their rightful place in Canada, I know that their goal will be to be good

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Canadian citizens. They want to be different and they will remain different. It is one of the qualities of Canada that we can be different and be equal at the same time. The aboriginal peoples care about their culture, their languages. They want to be very comfortable with themselves and, after that, they will share with us both the advantages and the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.

Another preoccupation—

[*Translation*]

—for us was always to ensure, in the documents we—presented, that Quebec's demands would be satisfied in this agreement. However, some deficiencies had to be corrected. We now have a definition of the "distinct society" with which we are much more comfortable.

We know that immigration, which was managed acceptably for many years after the Cullen-Couture agreement under an intergovernmental agreement, will now be in the Constitution, thus giving Quebecers greater security.

The Constitution also had to recognize the reality of Quebec's Civil Code, the Napoleonic code, which is completely different from the English common law. It had to be recognized in the composition of the Supreme Court. It had already been recognized in the Supreme Court Act for generations, but it has been put in the Constitution, as well as a mechanism to solve problems in case of conflict between the provinces and the federal government which had concerned many Canadians. Now we have such a mechanism.

Of course, the question of veto over institutions was settled. Perhaps requiring the 10 provinces and the federal government to agree is somewhat rigid. I would have preferred a rather more flexible formula, but one cannot have everything and we are prepared to go along with that veto.

[*English*]

I would like to talk about some of the problems we have with this agreement. It is my duty to talk about them because I am not happy with everything. I know there are a lot of Canadians that are not happy with everything in this agreement, but perfection is not something that is easy to achieve. Liberals had to make a decision about what to do. There are two elements that we are not very comfortable with. On reflection, I think