proposals of every province. But I would be less than candid if I failed to point out that there are certain federal positions which must be maintained. The Federal Government must be strong enough to carry out its responsibilities for moderating economic fluctuations and for promoting economic growth. It must be able to promote economic equality for Canadians in all parts of the country and for every economic region. It must maintain the right and the power to assist in research and in cultural developments. It must maintain the unity of Canada's foreign policy, as an indispensable attribute for any state that does not intend to allow itself to be divided.

I believe that the review which I am recommending will prove that there is large room for constitutional revision. But even now Canada has one of the more decentralized federal systems of the world. For us, this is right. But federal powers must not be so reduced that the Government of Canada will be unable to carry out the responsibilities it must discharge if the country is to remain strong, prosperous and united....

A NEW FEDERALISM

Let me recapitulate, then, the main elements of a programme to bring about a new federalism.

(1) Agreement at this conference to accept the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism recommending English and French as our official languages, and establishing the cultural and linguistic equality of the two groups who together made Confederation with constitutional guarantees in that regard.

(2) Agreement on the principle that certain basic rights should be constitutionally secured for all Canadians.

(3) Agreement to embark on a comprehensive process of constitutional review.

The nature of such a programme puts it above regional or racial or party interest or advantage. It is a programme for all Canada....