

The attitude of the Federal Government has recently been illustrated by the "entente" signed by representatives of Quebec and France in the field of education in February 1965. The Quebec and federal authorities cooperated actively in a procedure which enabled the Province of Quebec, within the framework of our constitution and our national policy, to participate in international arrangements in a field of particular interest to that province.

Thus, under existing procedures, the position is that once it is determined that what a province wishes to achieve through agreements in the field of education or in other fields of provincial jurisdiction falls within the framework of Canadian foreign policy, the provinces can discuss detailed arrangements directly with the competent authorities of the country concerned. When a formal international agreement is to be concluded, however, the federal powers relating to the signature of treaties and the conduct of overall foreign policy must necessarily come into operation.

The approach of the Canadian Government to the question of Canadian representation in international organizations of a social, cultural or humanitarian character reflects the same constructive spirit. We recognize the desirability of ensuring that the Canadian representation in such organizations and conferences reflects in a fair and balanced way provincial and other interests in these subjects.

I hope that the course which would commend itself to all Canadians is the course of confidence in our ability in this country to adapt our federal institutions to present needs in a spirit of cooperation and good will so that, drawing maximum strength from our united efforts, we can achieve together our national objectives."