

This primary objective, which is essential to the very survival of Canada, as we know it, will be attained when French Canada feels secure as a community throughout the country.

This is a task which must also take into account the interests and the levels of development in the different regions of Canada.

It is obvious that the administration of a country as vast as Canada, made up of regions whose levels of development differ in every area, must be aware of all the problems which exist beyond the limits of the capital, from one ocean to the other, including those of the smallest areas, whether privileged or underprivileged, developed or underdeveloped.

In this connection, we have received some extremely useful indications of the problems in the different provinces as a result of the conference which took place last week. We are now more fully aware of what the other provinces want. For us in the central government, the question does not arise solely in connection with Quebec.

This concern is necessary if the policies which are the responsibility of the central government are to be planned and co-ordinated to fit the various situations throughout Canada.

I realize that, in sum, all French-Canadians are seeking the means which will give them the best chance of survival and development. I can hardly be indifferent to this great adventure which has been going on now for several years, and I am convinced that this search and this questioning from all sides, and from Quebec in particular, will be of profit to Quebec and to Canada as a whole. We must not fear the reforms which become necessary.

There comes a time in the history of nations when there must be a renewal of national effort, when a new consensus must be found, and when old loyalties must be tempered anew. This renewal cannot come out of complacency. We shall achieve this renewal, despite the difficulties.

Quebec and French Canada have thrown a challenge to Canada. This challenge must be taken up if the Quebec team is to remain in the Canadian league. The game will be exciting and tight, but it will never come to an end. The teams will be strong and both must adapt their play to the rapid evolution of our society.

We must recognize that there is a serious basis for the grievances of the French-Canadians; that there is a long history of frustration and exasperation caused by a Canada which, in some ways, has more or less ignored the aspirations of French Canada; that French Canada, for many reasons, has not contributed sufficiently to the leadership of the country and the exercise of political and economic power.

However, we must also recognize that French Canada has enjoyed certain advantages as a part of Canada and North American society and, at the very moment when it is beginning to consolidate its development in every field, when it is beginning to assume its relative position in the modern world, some advocate its separation from Canada. Canada would lose by it, I am sure of that. Quebec would lose as well.