

national influences on domestic performance.

It must be pointed out that the work undertaken in the last decade, or even in the past 15 years in the various spheres of culture represents the continuum from which our present actions proceed. Whether it is in the national grid of museum activities, in staunch upholding of the performing arts, or in the conservation work of libraries and archives, government support will continue.

The research and development capabilities of the world of culture, and the knowledge and information aspects of culture are other fields in which new sciences and techniques are bringing about even greater change....

The networking of library and archival materials through these new techniques can have immense significance for artists throughout the country. Imagine the inspiration and usefulness to an isolated creator in, say, Flin Flon (Manitoba), to be able to have at his disposal the masses of material available from the total, accumulated resources of all the libraries and reference facilities in Canada.

The eventual establishment of a Canadian bibliographic network, a library resource-sharing network and other similar facilitators, will do just that.

The number of international cultural exchanges is growing and the demand for cultural products from other countries will increase as the technological means for their distribution advances. Although this development can pose a threat to the development of culture in Canada, it also offers a challenge to us to increase Canadian cultural consumption and to promote the export of Canadian cultural products.

The distribution of Canada's culture abroad will be achieved not just by the traditional means of government support to, or sponsorship of, tours or displays of cultural products, but also by using more commercial methods.

My colleague, the Minister for External Affairs, has already commenced a broad inquiry into the international activities, needs and requirements of the performing and visual arts throughout the country, as they bear on the programs of his department. This inquiry is being conducted with the help and co-operation of the provincial cultural departments, the educational and training institutions and the arts community itself.

While the government is preparing to increase its cultural exposure abroad, it is also necessary to strengthen the national cultural institutions in the National Capital Region particularly with a view to improving the accommodations of the national collections....

The cultural institutions of Ottawa are in the forefront of our national institutions. The National Gallery, the National Museums, the National Arts Centre, and the rest, are our showcase.

They provide an opportunity to reach a significant number of Canadians — and

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