

---

should make sure that the Agency's programs, while meeting the expectations of the majority of its members, maintain a certain equilibrium between technical development and cultural development.

In this regard, the organization of real exchanges appears essential. As my colleague, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, declared when announcing the Cabinet's adoption of a five-year plan for cultural exchanges, "the multiplication of contacts among artists of all countries, and between them and audiences of countries other than their own, will contribute greatly to bringing different cultures and peoples together and will, in the end, encourage the production of works that satisfy the aspirations of our era".

Given the linguistic, ethnic and cultural structure of its population, and its own historical experience, Canada must support the Agency's efforts to promote the national languages and cultures of those member countries that have chosen this path toward socio-cultural development. Our country takes its place among them; in fact, the federal authorities in Canada have for several years been applying a policy called "multiculturalism". A number of community development and subsidy programs, many still in the experimental stage, are designed to maintain and encourage a great variety of ethno-cultural traditions within minority groups: first the truly indigenous Canadian traditions, those of the Amerindian and Eskimo populations, and then the traditions of recent immigrants -- that is, the traditions carried by the successive waves of immigrants that have swelled the Canadian population over the last century.

In all, Canada's ambition with respect to culture is to become what it already is in geography, "another America". We all know what vigour and vitality the United States of America has gained from blending in a single crucible -- the famous "melting-pot" -- the great variety of cultural material that came to them from all continents, but especially from Europe and Africa. Canada intends to achieve the same vigour and vitality, not by repeating the American experience but rather by creating the "Canadian Mosaic". In other words, Canadians are not trying to melt down the variety of cultural heritages they have received into a single alloy but rather to keep the characteristics of each while putting them side by side in the grand design of multiculturalism.

The Canadian Government, however, retains the conviction that, in order to realize this great plan, programs to stimulate multiculturalism must not weaken the two major cultural affiliations (the British and the French) that have made Canada what it is today, and must not weaken the foundations of the country's two official languages, English and French. On the contrary, our general policy

---