

- 6.1 The Committee strongly recommends that international cultural, scientific, and educational affairs should be treated as a fundamental dimension of Canadian foreign policy.
- 6.6 The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada, with the collaboration of interested provinces, give high priority to developing a strategy for Canada's international cultural, scientific, and educational relations. Such a strategy should consider regulations and other means, including joint ventures with the private sector, of producing and distributing Canadian cultural output at home and abroad. The strategy should address the specific circumstances and proposals, as outlined in John Ralston Saul's paper and the Hon. Serge Joyal's report, regarding the major cultural industries such as publishing, music, art, sports, television, motion pictures, and theatre. The strategy, once completed, should be referred to the Foreign Affairs Standing Committees of Parliament.

Response

The Government agrees. We fully intend to pursue cultural, scientific and educational relations as key components of Canada's foreign relations. In a period of economic globalization, when societies are increasingly open to the competitive pressures of the international economy, the role of culture as a binding force becomes of vital importance. At the same time, as knowledge (in the form of technology, organization and innovation) is becoming a key element in international competitiveness, education plays a critical role as a contributor to prosperity.

Canada has unique advantages. Our culture is highly diversified and recognized internationally for its excellence and dynamism; it also helps give all Canadians a sense of shared identity. At the same time, our educational institutions are among the best in the world; as sources of research and centres for innovation and learning, they are increasingly aware of the role they play in enhancing our international competitiveness. The Government intends to support both sectors in the most effective and cost-efficient way possible.

Canada's cultural foreign policy seeks to:

- *make Canada a leader in the new world economy by projecting the image of a country that is unique, creative, innovative and hence competitive;*
- *protect our cultural sovereignty;*
- *undergird the Canadian identity by exhibiting its most creative aspects on the international scene; and*