



President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney will meet in Washington on March 18 for their second summit conference. The talks will consider a number of high priority issues, including acid rain, the NORAD treaty renewal and trade enhancement. The photo above was taken at their first conference, held in Quebec City last March.

Canada Today/d'aujourd'hui

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Quebec Liberals Win Over Separatists

The Liberal Party of Quebec won a clear victory over the Parti Québécois in December.

It was an election of historic interest since it marked the end of a tumultuous period in Canadian history.

The Parti Québécois took office in 1976 and its remarkable leader, René Lévesque, became the province's premier. The P.Q. came into being as the principal advocate of Quebec separatism, and the movement reached a climax in 1980 when a majority of the provincial voters voted "no" in a referendum on a P.Q. proposal that called for the separation of the province but the maintenance of an economic union with the rest of Canada.

With the rejection of the plan, Lévesque realigned the party toward more moderate goals, but radical members left the party and Lévesque resigned as party leader last June. He was succeeded by Pierre Marc Johnson, the son of a former Quebec premier. Johnson campaigned on a platform of economic renewal. On December 2 the P.Q. was defeated by the Liberals, who took 56 per cent of the vote to the P.Q.'s 30 per cent. The Liberal leader and new Quebec premier is Robert Bourassa, who was premier from 1970 to 1976, when his party was defeated by the P.Q.

In an editorial in *Le Devoir* Jean-Louis Roy underlined the significance of the election for Quebec's relations with the rest of Canada: "Pour la première fois depuis une décennie, les Québécois ont élu un gouvernement franchement fédéraliste. Les effets de ce choix devraient normalement être nombreux et significatifs . . . (pour) toutes politiques reliées à la dualité du pays."

The New York Times remarked editorially that with the P.Q.'s defeat the "debate about separatism . . . has lost its menacing rancor (and) Canada's union has survived a severe test."

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