

to pass the Summit torch to Argentina. A nation with which Canada, and all the members of *la gran familia* of the Americas, have excellent relations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come to close the Third Summit of the Americas.

As we leave, I want to say how much I look forward to seeing you in great numbers this coming September in New York when the United Nations convenes a Special Session on Children. A session that will give us a chance to reaffirm our commitment to meet the needs of our children.

And that will, I hope, attract the active interest of *la gran familia* of the Americas.

My friends, for both Aline and myself, and for all Canadians, it has been an honour to welcome you and to give you a taste of the many charms of our country.

Today, we begin a new era in hemispheric cooperation. The maturity and confidence we showed in 1998 has been enriched with unity and solidarity.

Such common purpose is a precious asset. An asset that we must use, from this day forward, to fulfil the hopes and dreams of the people of the Americas.

