

But two of these groupings have particular significance for Canada. One is the Commonwealth, and the other La Francophonie.

Canada is both a western country and a developed economy. But among that company, we are virtually unique in our reputation. Our only association with colonialism is that we were once a colony. Our interest in development, and our respect for different systems, are known to be genuine. Those are considerable assets, which should be applied, not simply prized.

This government has acted deliberately to give more prominence to the Commonwealth, as an institution uniquely able to cut across the lines that have come to divide countries. At Nassau, and in their historic meetings this August, in London, the Prime Minister and his colleagues, were able to make of the Commonwealth the one institution able to act with credibility in seeking an agreed non-violent solution in South Africa. The Eminent Persons Group was rebuffed by Pretoria, but their conduct moved the very institution of the Commonwealth out of the shadows of nostalgia, and into relief as an agency of real potential in this post-colonial world.

That same possibility exists with La Francophonie. The organizations will be different, because the original colonial powers were different, and so are the other members states. In one sense, the existence of the Francophone Summit is a direct result of the policies of national reconciliation adopted by this government in Canada. I don't exaggerate when I say that it is thanks to the present government that the first summit took place. For years people had talked about it but have never been able to convene the meeting -- in large measure because Ottawa and Quebec were unable to agree on participation of the province.

We have changed that. The Prime Minister has announced that the next Francophone Summit will take place in Quebec next September. This will be a major event in Canada next year. More than thirty heads of state or government will meet in the old city to discuss issues ranging from politics and economy to development and cooperation. During these few days in September the whole francophone world will have its eyes on Quebec and Canada.

I want to mention agriculture, not just because it is important, but because our success in agricultural trade demonstrates that, even in this highly complex world, determined initiatives can pay off.

The largest single threat to Canadian farms is the