

shared with Canada and his African colleagues a broad view of what the summit should be.

From Paris to Quebec

The Paris Summit of February 1986 was a historical event. It had been fraught with risks of failure. For Canada, it turned out to be a great moment for federal-provincial co-operation in the international arena. It showed that one could give Quebec its legitimate place in la Francophonie without tampering with federal primacy in international relations.

The Paris meeting also allowed the Canadian concept of political consultation "à la Commonwealth" to prevail, notably on South Africa. Similarly, an important resolution on the financial situation and food needs in Africa was sponsored by Canada and reflected the macro-economic perspective it thought this new international institution should provide.

On specifics, the Canadian-sponsored immunization program was extended to Francophone countries, and a program of scholarship was created. A technical training and assistance program in the field of energy was announced, and important measures were taken in telecommunications to widen the scope for Francophone expression. These areas are clearly those of particular Canadian expertise.

In Quebec City, the nature and intensity of the discussions of the political issues on the agenda clearly demonstrated how "real" this new multilateral institution was becoming. A healthy debate was carried out on the situation in the Middle East, and considerable moral support was provided by the summit to the struggle against *apartheid*. Furthermore, as a unique humanitarian gesture, the summit approved the creation of a scholarship program for the victims of *apartheid*. The Francophone Summit clearly established itself as a key actor in the formulation of policies towards South Africa. Its findings would contribute to a considerable extent to the decisions taken a month later at the CHOGM in Vancouver.

On the macro-economic side, considerable emphasis was given to assistance to debt-ridden countries in Africa. Canada erased the official development assistance debt of French-speaking countries south of the Sahara, a measure which foreshadowed a similar decision in Vancouver for Commonwealth countries in Africa.

Altogether, 13 Sub-Saharan African countries benefited from this attempt to ease their debt burden. One of the most forward-looking resolutions to date on economic co-operation was adopted by the summit participants, and new co-operative ventures were examined which

would lead to greater co-ordination among donor countries of la Francophonie. Again, the work carried out in Quebec City paved the way for the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade adopted by the Commonwealth.

In Quebec City, initiatives that were launched in Paris in February 1986 were confirmed or expanded, such as the Canadian-sponsored immunization program. On the "co-operation" side of the agenda, under the able direction of Premier Bourassa of Quebec, five major sectors of common endeavour were examined and practical work was done in the fields of culture and communications, agriculture, language industries, energy, and scientific information and technical development.

The Quebec Summit, inasmuch as it was the litmus test for the future of co-operation among Francophone countries, was a remarkable success. The Declaration of Solidarity adopted at Quebec not only set the long-term objectives of la Francophonie but reaffirmed as well its fundamental principles. La Francophonie now has a structure, a purpose and a framework. All this bodes well for the next summit in Dakar, Senegal.

Canada and la Francophonie: Benefits for Canada

Canada's involvement in la Francophonie aims at ensuring the flourishing of the French fact at home and abroad.

First, in Canada, for the seven million French-speaking Canadians who reside in Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, participation in la Francophonie adds an element of stability and harmony to the country.

Each member of la Francophonie contributes in some way to the development of the organization. Canada has been fostering research in linguistics to meet the specific requirements stemming from its bilingual nature. Canadians have developed sophisticated linguistic tools — data banks, French language software, automated translation, and language training among them — coupled with the high-technology communications systems needed to serve a population that stretches across a whole continent. This expertise is shared with, or exported to, other Francophone countries or institutions.

Canada's Francophone policies also aim at fostering the flourishing of French in the world as an extension, in the international arena, of its own domestic reality.

More specifically, Canada seeks to promote a free and open dialogue among very different, yet equal, partners in order to establish direct