

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

COMMUNICATIONS

Context

The Francophone Summit will be addressing the subject of communications, focussing mainly on new technology. This technology provides a means of strengthening linguistic and cultural bonds among Francophone countries and a modern tool of development.

On the initiative of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, a conference of Ministers of Communications was held in Cairo in February 1985. Building on the accomplishments of this meeting, the Summit will undoubtedly show a particular concern for the enhancement of the Francophone dimension of communications. Discussions will be aimed at relating the technical aspects as closely as possible to both the content of the messages and the purpose of the message. The countries represented at the Summit will be concerned to ensure that the rapid changes brought about by new technology do not further widen the sizeable gap that already exists between North and South.

Canada's position

In its discussion of communications the Francophone Summit will focus on computer technology, data banks and communication networks.

The countries attending the Summit, especially Canada, will be aware of the effects of the predominance of English in these sectors. This is particularly true with respect to computer technology and the development of software in French, an area in which the federal and Québec governments are actively co-operating.