

Francophone summit put high among Bourassa's priorities

QUEBEC (Special) — One of Robert Bourassa's first moves after being sworn in as Quebec premier on Thursday will be to despatch one of his new Liberal cabinet ministers to Paris, his office has revealed.

The new Quebec minister of international relations — possibly Laval university constitutional expert Gil Remillard — is being sent to attend a preparatory meeting for the upcoming summit of French-speaking nations.

Bourassa himself intends to be at the summit, alongside Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, under an agreement Ottawa finalized with the outgoing Parti Quebecois government last month.

The summit of some 15 totally and partially French-speaking na-

tions is expected to be held in Versailles, just outside Paris, in late January or early February.

Although the Quebec presence — and that of New Brunswick — was negotiated by a PQ government, Bourassa's entourage is pointing out that it was his previous administration, in 1971, which laid the groundwork.

The rules say the Quebec premier may remain seated at the conference table throughout the summit but must behave only as an "interested observer" when the world political situation is being discussed.

After consultation and agreement with Mulroney, Bourassa will be able, nevertheless, to give Quebec's views on the "world economic situation."