

the participation of Quebec and New Brunswick in a Summit of heads of state and governments.

Thus, one year after being elected Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Mulroney had succeeded in resolving the imbroglio that for 15 years had prevented the organization of a Summit of Francophone nations. In doing so, he gave the Canadian French-speaking community an opportunity to play an expanded role in connection with the issues that concern it most.

In February 1986, at the first Francophone Summit, which was held in Paris, Mr. Mulroney, representing Canada, showed that we were an important partner for all the countries that are home to the 200 million Francophones around the world.

And at this first Summit, in addition to giving the international community indisputable evidence of the uniqueness of our cultural and linguistic identity, Canada also exercised its undeniable right to participate as a full-fledged member in two great movements, the Commonwealth and the community of French-speaking nations, which by themselves encompass more than half the countries of the world. This dual membership resulting from the bilingual nature of our country will be underscored this year when the