

## THE FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT: A REALITY IN THE MAKING (continued)

and scientific, information and technical development. The Québec Summit will really be the litmus test for the future of cooperation among francophone countries.

### Canada and Francophonie: what is in it for Canada

Canada's participation in Francophonie is a fundamental and permanent element of our country's foreign policy. The Summit now enables us to project our national identity, both at home and abroad, according to its full duality — English-speaking through the Commonwealth; French-speaking through the Summit. We are one of the few countries to belong to both institutions.

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

First, in Canada, for the 7 million French-speaking members of our 25 million population in Québec (6 million), New Brunswick (Acadia), Ontario and Manitoba, participation in Francophonie adds an element of stability and harmony to our country.

Each member of Francophonie contributes in its own way to its development. Canada has been fostering research in linguistics to meet the specific requirements stemming from its bilingual nature: we have developed sophisticated linguistic tools — data banks, French software, automated translation, language training, etc. — coupled with high technology communications systems which our continental dimensions demand. These experiences we share with, or export to, other francophone countries or institutions.

Secondly, Canada's francophone poli-



*First Conference of Heads of State and Heads of Government of countries using French as a common language.*

cies aim at fostering the flourishing of French in the world as an extension, in the international arena, of our domestic reality.

More specifically, Canada seeks to promote a free and open dialogue between very different, yet equal, partners, to establish direct exchanges, beyond geographical, ideological, ethnic, religious, cultural and economic frontiers or barriers. This we did in the Commonwealth. Now we do it also in Francophonie.

The federal government of Canada, the provincial governments of Québec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba all play an active role within Francophonie. The same applies to non-governmental francophone institutions.

But for Canada, the positive impact of its belonging to Francophonie goes beyond the francophone population and benefits the totality of our population. It is not just a matter of cultural

enrichment. All Canadians are likely to benefit from our country's expanded participation in the social, technological and economic development in the francophone world.

We are benefitting from expanded bilateral relations with the Summit participants, particularly France with whom we have moved, on this issue, from a painful diplomatic impasse to full-fledged cooperation. This is yet another council in which we participate with one of our key European allies.

A new international forum has emerged which may assist in energizing the international system. This is Canada's contribution to the enhancement of multilateralism in international relations. This has always been one of our key foreign policy objectives ■

\* This is an abridged version of a paper prepared by the author for a series of conferences in Western Canada.