

## PM receives Francophone dignitaries

**HÀ NỘI** — Prime Minister Phan Văn Khải received prime ministers from Tunisia, Lebanon, Burundi, Mauritius and Vanuatu in Hà Nội on Saturday.

Prime Minister Khải also met with governors from Québec and New Brunswick and the special envoy of the United Nations's General Secretary on the same day.

All were here to attend the seventh Francophone Summit which opened in Hà Nội on Friday.

Lebanese Prime Minister R. Hariri; Burundi's Prime Minister P. Ndimira, Mauritius' Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and Vanuatu's Prime Minister S. Vohor Rialut, at a reception hosted by Prime Minister Khải, all expressed their deep sympathy to victims of storm *Linda* in southern Việt Nam.

Prime Minister Phan Văn Khải on behalf of the Government and people of Việt Nam thanked the governments and peoples of those countries for their support for the Vietnamese people's past struggle for national independence.

Prime Minister Khải said he believed that bilateral ties between Việt Nam and the above nations would be consolidated and developed.

PM Khai briefed his guests of Việt Nam's diversified and multi-lateral foreign policy. He also compared notes with his counterparts measures to boost bilateral relations, especially in economic and commercial fields on the basis of mutual interest of Việt Nam and those countries.

When welcoming Quebec's Governor L. Bouchard and New Brunswick' Governor R. Frenette, the

Vietnamese prime minister thanked his guests for attending the summit and wished for further development of relations.

The Québec governor told the Vietnamese prime minister that Québec wanted to extend co-operation with Việt Nam in economics, education and training.

The New Brunswick governor said his province wished to co-operate with Việt Nam in agriculture and new information technology.

Prime Minister Khải thanked the Special Envoy to the United Nations General Secretary, Perez de Cuellar, for his attendance, and for the attention paid to the French-speaking community by UN General Secretary Kofi Annan.

Khải highly appreciated the UN organisations' co-operation and assistance to Việt Nam and pledged Việt Nam would do its utmost to help promote UN activities and more efficiently collaborate with UN members and organisations.

Perez de Cuella highly appreciated Việt Nam's efforts in the organising the summit. The Special Envoy said he would like Việt Nam to host future regional conferences of the United Nations.

The Special Envoy welcomed Việt Nam's policies which place priorities for education and training, and economic development linked with the development of culture and society, education and health care.

These policies aimed to improve people's living standards in accordance with UN targets and those of the French-speaking community. — VNS

***UN special envoy to the Francophone summit praises Việt Nam for linking economic development to social issues***