

As you can see, participation in the Francophone Summit can lead to international application of Canadian skills, which can only be beneficial to our economy.

We must nevertheless guard against viewing our participation in the international Francophone community as a commercial venture, a subtle means of cornering foreign markets. Let us not forget that most of the countries participating in the Francophone Summit are developing countries. As minister responsible for the International Development Agency, I shall see to it that first and foremost, the immense and urgent needs of the people of the Third World are given the attention they deserve.

The Francophone Summit is also a new forum for international consultation. Canada is able and willing to expand its sphere of political activity. It is in a unique position for working towards enhanced multilateral consultation and the reduction of the antagonisms that too often stand in the way of a common quest for solutions to major problems. We saw this at the Paris Summit when, at our instigation, the participants adopted a joint declaration against apartheid, a fundamental element of our policy on Africa.