

The wide diversity of fields in which these organizations are involved, coupled with the multitude of programs and activities initiated by them, adds a significant dimension which enables La Francophonie to move well beyond the government sector and imparts to it a still more dynamic character. For this reason, the Canadian government supports several of these associations that are either Canadian in origin or have considerable Canadian participation. The support takes the form of annual subsidies or contributions made for congresses, symposiums or seminars in which Canadian professionals are participating. At a time when cooperation among peoples and cultures is constantly increasing, international non-governmental organizations are assuming more importance, and such contributions are intended to provide tangible encouragement to the various groups of Canadians who are actively involved in international affairs.

The 1986 Summit . . .

La Francophonie's first Summit took place in Paris in February, 1986, with 39 members, including Quebec and New Brunswick present. The second is being held in Quebec City in September, 1987, with the same participants. Before going to the 1986 Summit, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said: "La Francophonie will be a doer of deeds, or it will be nothing."

The Paris Summit divided the organization's future work into five main networks:

- culture and communications**
- energy**
- agriculture**
- scientific and technical information**
- language industries.**

Canada was asked to assume responsibility for the first because its experience could be put to good use. Quebec is responsible for the energy network, an area where it too has recognized expertise.

The meeting also paid attention to the current international scene when the participants, at Canada's instigation, adopted a joint declaration against *apartheid*.