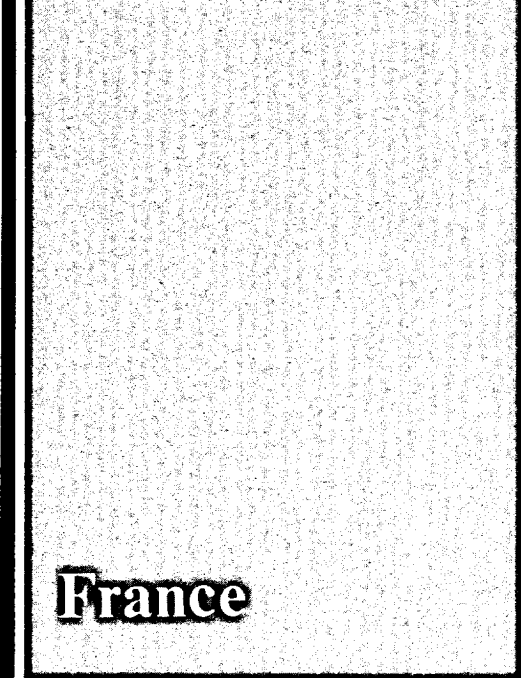




France

Population:	55.1 million (February 1985)
Area:	549,000 km ²
Capital:	Paris
Head of State:	President François Mitterrand
Head of Government:	Prime Minister Laurent Fabius
Minister of Foreign Affairs:	Roland Dumas

Canada/France Relations: Relations between the two countries are extensive and varied, and encompass all sectors of modern society, as illustrated by the successive meetings of the three joint commissions on economics, science and culture in 1986. Politically, the new approach taken by the Canadian government, as expressed by Prime Minister Mulroney in November 1984 during a visit by Prime Minister Fabius, has paved the way for a new climate in relations between Canada and France. The three-way quarrels between Ottawa, Paris and Québec are a thing of the past. In this context, the Francophone Summit becomes a symbol. France is our ninth largest trading partner overall and fourth among our partners in Western Europe. In 1984, Canadian exports to France reached \$700 million (CAN), and imports rose to \$1.2 billion because of the favourable rate of exchange for the franc. Prime Minister Mulroney's visit to France immediately after the Summit will provide the opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with President Mitterrand on important international political and economic issues, and to review bilateral questions with Prime Minister Fabius.

His Excellency François Mitterrand, President: Born October 26, 1916. Lawyer. Secretary General for prisoners of war (de Gaulle government, August-September 1944). Elected to the National Assembly in 1946 and re-elected for consecutive terms until 1981, except from 1958-62 when he sat in the Senate. Appointed a Minister eleven times under the Fourth Republic. Ran in the presidential elections in 1965 and 1974. First Secretary of the Socialist Party in 1971. Elected President of the Republic in June 1981.