

## N.B. gets spot at francophone nations summit

OTTAWA (CP) — New Brunswick will have the same official status as Quebec at a summit of francophone countries to be held in France early next year, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney says.

Yesterday's decision had been expected since Nov. 8, when Ottawa and Quebec agreed on a formula that would allow Quebec to participate in the summit. That move ended wrangling that had for years scuttled previous attempts to organize such a conference.

New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province and, with Quebec, has had the status of a participating government for years at meetings of the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, an organization of French-speaking countries.

The agreements call for a two-part summit — one on world political and economic issues and the other on co-operation and development.

Mulroney has likened the conference to "a kind of francophone Commonwealth." It is expected to be held in January or February.