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I do not need to remind you that our collective advancement cannot be dissociated from the economic development of the Third World, industrial co-operation between countries and the conquest of international markets. La Francophonie is a window on the world. It opens up for French Canadians, in Québec and in other provinces, an unlimited field of activity, which can, for those who have acquired a knowledge of English, be added to the entire Anglophone world.

Our participation in a Francophone Summit also has the advantage of bringing balance into our activities abroad. The Commonwealth can be matched, symmetrically, by an organization of La Francophonie. By establishing a measure for the participation of the two Canadian components in their respective linguistic communities, we fulfil and complete, in a sense, the international personality of Canada.

The extension of our activities in the Francophone world will certainly heighten the importance of the role played by Canadian diplomacy.

Above and beyond the bilateral relations which our diplomats maintain with each individual country, they will also be able to make good use of two lines of communication and two paths of action in the two most universal linguistic communities. We should also welcome the strengthening of our relations with Europe and Africa which will certainly ensue.

It is in this way, patiently, and in a spirit of tolerance and fairness, that Canada is taking its place in the concert of nations. There are many who will envy our diplomatic network, woven together from the special strands which link us to the United States, the Commonwealth countries and the countries of La Francophonie.

Canada brings to La Francophonie its pragmatism, its good will and its openness to the future. We will go to the Summit in an atmosphere of harmony and co-operation with our colleagues from Québec and New Brunswick, and with our partners in the Francophone community. We shall spare no effort to make this historic meeting a success. For us it will be a matter of pride and deep satisfaction to see La Francophonie step forward into the full light of day.

I have, at this moment, that feeling that comes upon the one who witnesses a birth: a sense of something fragile, which nevertheless brings with it the promise that is born of hope.