

# Quebec settlement 36023 leads to summit date for French leaders

PARIS (CP) — A conference of the world's French-speaking nations' leaders, postponed by a Canadian dispute, is now to be held in February, French President Francois Mitterrand announced yesterday.

The summit — to be held in Paris — has been repeatedly delayed over the question of the status of Quebec, which insisted on attending as a full delegate.

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government refused this condition. France delayed the summit until the dispute was resolved this fall in an agreement between Ottawa and former Quebec premier Pierre Marc Johnson.

"All the necessary accords have been reached," Mitterrand told an audience of intellectuals at ceremonies marking the 350th anniversary of the Academie Francaise.

The premiers of both Quebec and New Brunswick, or their representatives, will be seated beside Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Their delegations will be identified as Canada-Quebec and Canada-New Brunswick. The Canadian flag will stand by those of the provinces.

Mulroney said the status of a participating government was offered to New Brunswick because of its "officially bilingual nature."

Quebec's new Premier Robert Bourassa said in Quebec Thursday

he welcomes New Brunswick's participation at the summit, but hinted there may be further talks on the role of the two provinces at the meeting.

His statement contrasted sharply with that of Johnson, who said Ottawa's decision to give New Brunswick the same status as Quebec at the summit was a "hostile gesture."

Soon after his new Liberal cabinet was sworn in, Bourassa said he told New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield, "Obviously, I have no objection to New Brunswick being represented at the summit."

"That being said, there is a Canadian political reality, with the relative strengths in the different provinces or regions, and that reality will have to apply at the summit."

"It's not just a summit in a foreign country," Mulroney said yesterday. "It's an instrument in a foreign country that can have a positive and favorable impact on our national development where the respect of the two cultures, that is to say the two languages, constitutes a cornerstone of our national character."

Hatfield said he will attend the summit to make sure the interests of New Brunswick's 255,000 francophones are represented.