

The organization of an international meeting of this magnitude is a challenge that we have set for ourselves. Indeed, our two levels of government will have to cooperate as never before. The task will be difficult and the problems no doubt many.

Be that as it may, we must never lose sight of the national and international importance of the Québec Summit to be held next September.

We shall demonstrate, we from the federal government, our firm and sustained resolve to improve the international political climate through active cooperation between Francophone countries. This is a pressing necessity in our view because we are constantly seeking to promote world peace and to offset the cruel economic disparities that separate the countries of the North from those of the South.

For Canada, the Québec Summit also provides a unique opportunity for demonstrating its Francophone personality. Allow me to point out that Canada is the only country to participate in the three great summits: those of the French-speaking countries, the Commonwealth, and the industrialized countries. All three of these great summits, as you are aware, will be held in Canada in 1987 and 1988.

Our membership in the Commonwealth and in the group of industrialized countries is already manifest, as is the important role played by these two groups of countries on the international scene.

At the first Francophone Summit held in Paris, Canada showed that it could propose concrete and appropriate projects leading to fruitful cooperation between Francophones from all over the world.

The 41 countries that were present in Paris also made a solemn political commitment to practise effective, tangible and dynamic cooperation, focussing on common needs and interests.