

Mr. Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Heads of State and Government, Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are assembled today for the fifth Francophone Summit. Our surroundings are nothing short of wonderful.

The Right Honourable Kim Campbell, Prime Minister of Canada, regrets being unable to participate in this event in person, having been detained in Canada by our impending general election. Mr. Prime Minister, she has asked me to express Canada's sincere thanks to you, to your government and to your people for the warm reception you have extended to us, and her sincere wishes for the success of the Summit.

You may rest assured that Canada intends to show itself worthy of your hospitality and to work actively toward the success of the Mauritius Summit. We trust that la Francophonie, a truly multilateral entity toward which Canada, along with the participating governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, has shown generous and consistent dedication, will benefit from our presence here.

Our summits afford the opportunity both for happy reunions and for paying tribute to those who have paved the way. It is a great privilege to express thanks to our outgoing president for his invaluable contribution, particularly during the past two years. He made it possible to give substance to the Resolutions of Chaillot, thereby profoundly shaping la Francophonie as a dynamic community on the international scene. As the author and architect of the Francophone Summits, and as an active participant, twice in the capacity of host, in all our meetings since 1986 in Paris, President Mitterrand has personified the essential role played by France in building our community. We are deeply grateful to him.

Mr. Prime Minister, we left one another in Chaillot on a note of optimism. With the end of east-west antagonism, we saw the possibility of focussing resolutely on the need to promote democracy, human rights and development. In the Chaillot Declaration, these elements were brought together when we affirmed that there could be no development without freedom, and no true freedom without development.

In order to give substance to this declaration, we gave concrete support, within our means, to the process of democratization being initiated by a number of our states. This led to close co-operation, which enabled us, as a community, to speak with one voice at the United Nations Human Rights Conference in Vienna.

While we should be pleased with these actions, let us not fail to reaffirm that any country that refuses change and balks at following the most elementary principles of due process, will be met with disfavour until the unacceptable situation is remedied.