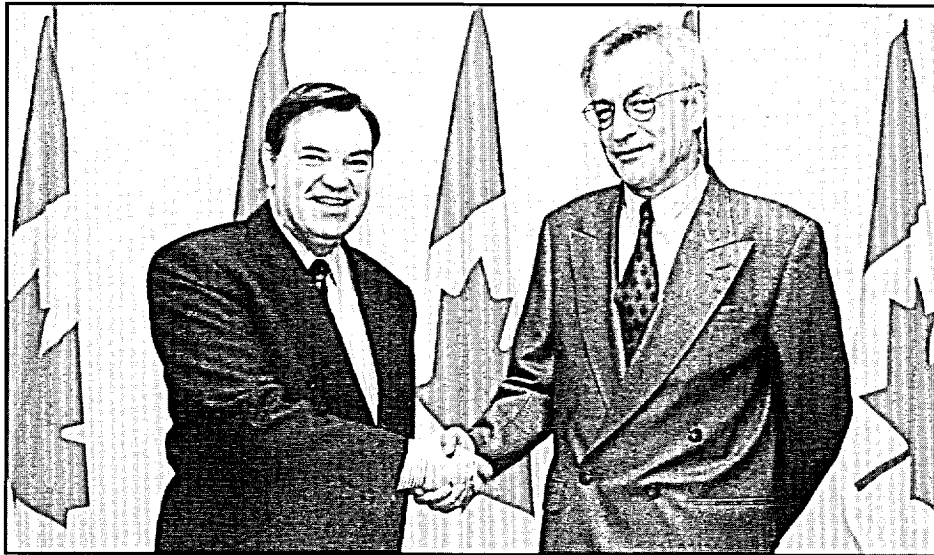




*The Honourable
André Ouellet,
Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Canada
and Mr. Jean-Louis
Roy, Secretary
general of the ACCT*

tatively and qualitatively. At the qualitative level, La Francophonie has changed from a traditionally cultural undertaking to a forum for co-operation in highly technical fields. Nine activity sectors are considered priorities:

- agriculture
- energy
- environment
- culture and communications
- scientific and technological information
- university research and co-operation
- legal and judicial co-operation
- education and training
- economic development.

At the first Summit, held in Paris in 1986, the heads of state established the International Follow-up Committee (CIS) to ensure that the decisions reached at these meetings were implemented. This approach has played a

major role in La Francophonie's new vitality. Nevertheless, some aspects of the formula presented drawbacks, for an undertaking cannot survive for long with no structure and no support apart from mere political will. Furthermore, most of the Summit projects were highly technical, requiring the involvement of specialists who were not members of the political bodies. As a result, there was a gradual shift of the CIS's powers and prerogatives to the ACCT Secretariat. This natural process is now being encouraged politically, since the Agency has undergone the structural reforms and program changes called for by the Summits. Canada was involved in designing and implementing this reform process, conducted through the Commission on the Future of Institutions, a body chaired by Jean-Louis Roy, who was actively supported in his mandate by the Government of Canada, chair of the CIS at the time. This reform process aptly illustrates the rapid changes experienced by the ACCT as a result of the Summits.