

interventionist by investing the Secretary-General with new powers while at the same time preserving the decision-making pre-eminence of the states.

The same logic applies to the "co-operation" aspect of the Summits, where the Secretary-General, while being the chief architect of Francophone co-operation, will have to answer for his decisions to the political bodies set up by the Summits, the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie (CMF) and, finally, the Permanent Council of La Francophonie (CPF), which includes the personal representatives of heads of state.

While the new structure has the merit of greater hierarchical clarity and spells out everyone's mandates more clearly, the viability of this Charter will be confirmed only with use, inasmuch as fine balances will have to be struck between the powers of the Secretary-General and the tasks that will be delegated to the Agence de La Francophonie (ACCT) and to the new Administrator General who will be placed at its head. The tasks assigned to other implementation agencies (AUPELF, TV-5, etc.) as opposed to those that must remain within the domain and prerogatives of the Agence, in its twofold capacity as the only intergovernmental organization of La Francophonie and as principal implementation agency of the Summits, will constitute another point of balance. The real capacity of the new Secretary-General to fully perform his role as animator, co-ordinator and arbiter will depend on these balances.

Despite the uncertainties inherent in the introduction of any new structure, Canada is fully satisfied with the draft Charter submitted to the CMF at Marrakesh in December 1996 and is prepared to formally endorse it at Hanoi. The lengthy discussions on this institutional issue must give way to a multilateral Francophonie active in co-operation and politically committed.

In this regard too, the dynamic and creative application of the provisions of the Charter will depend to a large extent on the commitment, intelligence and loftiness of vision of the new Secretary-General that our heads of state will choose in Hanoi. This election will without doubt be one of the high points of the seventh Summit.

Another high point for Canada will be confirmation of the candidacy of the city of Moncton, New Brunswick, as the site of the eighth Summit in 1999. Twelve years after the holding of the Quebec City Summit, we believe that this role as host should once again return to the Americas, but this time to Acadian territory where Moncton will attest to the vitality of the Francophone communities outside Quebec.

THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND ITS CHALLENGES

Canada is pursuing three types of objectives for the future: these are concerned with co-operation, but they are also political and institutional in nature.

A) Objectives Related to Co-operation

1. To consolidate projects currently under way and ensure that their effects will be lasting and significant;
2. to strive for critical mass, thereby eliminating the possibility of too many, widely dispersed microprojects;
3. to promote the practice of "collective dialogue" fostered by this type of multilateral co-operation.