CROSS CANADA CURRENTS

Summits Stamps

On September 2, Canada Post issued a stamp commemorating the Summit of Heads of State and Heads of Government of Countries Using French as a Common Language. Canada hosted the second Francophone summit in Quebec City, September 2 to 4, 1987.

French-speaking peoples from all five continents are represented in this international forum, established to promote cultural and technical co-operation among the nearly 200 million people of French-speaking nations around the world. There are 7 million Francophone Canadians, living mostly in Quebec and New Brunswick.

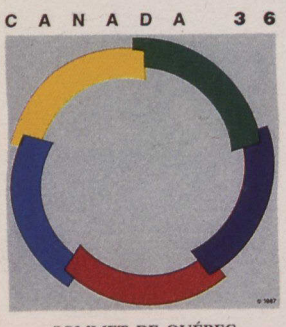
The commemorative stamp developed for the summit was designed by Quebec artist Claude Gaudreau and features the symbol newly created for the Quebec summit. It depicts the spirit of mutual co-operation in the international Francophone community by using a ring of coloured elements taken from the flags of participating nations. The colours blend together while still retaining their distinct nature.

Canada also paid tribute to the ninth Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting by issuing a commemorative stamp for the summit that took place in Vancouver from October 13 to 17, 1987.

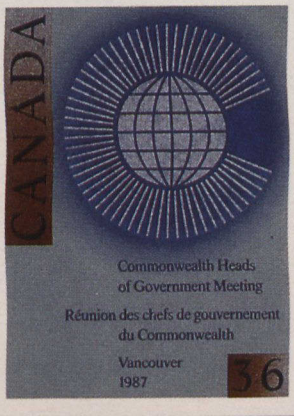
Having evolved out of the British Empire, the Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 49 independent sovereign states that consult and co-operate in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

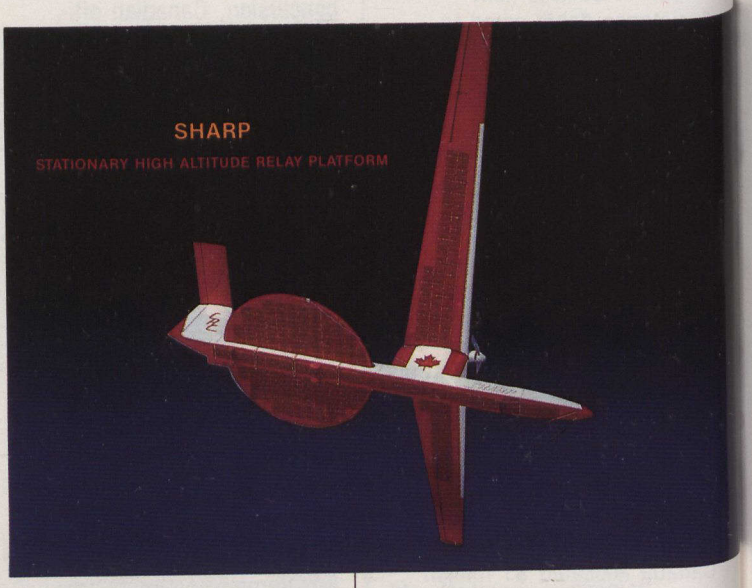
The Commonwealth symbol is the dominant design element of this stamp. To give the symbol prominence, Vancouver designer Gus Tsetsekas used silver ink on a metallic blue background, with the typographical elements harmonizing with the overall design.

Canada Post stamps commemorate summits held in Canada in fall 1987.



SOMMET DE QUÉBEC
1987
QUÉBEC SUMMIT





SHARP indeed: the world's first microwave-powered aircraft.

Scientists Looking SHARP with Microwave Airplane

A pilotless, balsa-wood airplane made aviation history on September 17, 1987, in the world's first successful test flight of a microwave-powered craft.

Carrying no fuel, the plane flew higher than a three-storey building for 20 minutes at the Canadian government's Communications Research Centre outside Ottawa. The craft was powered by microwaves beamed from a satellite dish on the ground below.

The model plane is the first step towards the construction of a Stationary High-Altitude Relay Platform (SHARP), which would circle about 20 km above a ground-based microwave source to provide better capabilities in communications, surveillance, and atmospheric monitoring.

"It was a tremendous sensation to realize we'd done it," says project manager Ron Barrington. "This means the technology is in place that could make it possible to fly aircraft for weeks and months at a time."

Mr. Barrington says a full-scale model of the SHARP system would fly high enough to contribute to regional radio broadcasting services, and low enough to improve surveillance of Canada's coastal waters and northern regions. For communications, the height of the platform would yield a broadcast range of about 600 km — up to 15 times the range of ground-based antennae. For surveillance, the unit would provide continuous, more precise coverage than a satellite located 35 400 km above the earth.

SHARP could also make a major contribution to the quality of environmental monitoring worldwide. "It's