

year, they agreed that joint celebrations would be an appropriate way of marking the importance attached by Canada and France to the voyage of Jacques Cartier.

Among the various activities that will highlight the year 1984 are the voyage of the Tall Ships from St-Malo to Bermuda, then from Bermuda to Halifax. These superb ships will sail up the Saint-Lawrence to Québec City, by way of Gaspé. In August, the great Québec-Saint-Malo race will bring together the world's most renowned class A ships and their crews. There will also be an interprovincial sailboat race from Toronto to Prince Edward Island, along with the national and international championships for sailing dinghies and windsurfers on the Saint-Lawrence.

In Canada there will be colourful celebrations of all kinds at the local level: entertainment and other activities in Halifax, Charlottetown, Kingston and all along the Saint-Lawrence River and the Gulf.

In France, as well as the assembling of your own Congress for 1984, the Association française des Études canadiennes will dedicate its annual symposium to Jacques Cartier, and several activities of a cultural nature are already planned: these include exhibitions on historical, artistic and scientific themes, entertainment and concerts - one of them by the Montréal Symphony Orchestra in Paris in April 1984. A special postage stamp will even be issued for this 450th anniversary. It will have the distinctive characteristic of bearing the same illustration in France and in Canada.

Keeping in mind that this anniversary is also a celebration, we will send you teams of young musicians to play on public squares, streets and beaches, while you will send teams of athletes to participate in summer games.

The coming year will be a time to celebrate together a great moment in the history of our two countries.

Your associations play an essential part in maintaining and developing the privileged relations that exist between us. I have often had this brought to my attention personally. I would not want to leave without expressing my thanks and those of the Canadian government, and above all without assuring you of our heartfelt desire to see the successful completion of the tasks that you have taken on and the fulfilment of your objectives.