

que Paris est à nouveau le lieu du Sommet en 1991. Le Sommet suivant a lieu à l'île Maurice, dans l'océan Pacifique, puis ensuite à Cotonou, au Bénin, en 1995. C'est au cours du dernier Sommet avant celui de Moncton, à Hanoï, en 1997, que le poste de secrétaire général de l'Organisation internationale de la <francophonie> a été créé, et que Boutros Boutros-Ghali a été choisi pour occuper ce nouveau poste. Moncton sera donc le deuxième Sommet canadien après celui de Québec et la <francophonie> s'est d'ores et déjà donné rendez-vous en l'an 2001 à Beyrouth, au Liban. Rappelons que l'Organisation compte 52 États et gouvernements réunissant la grande majorité de la population francophone de la planète.

[GLOBE AND MAIL]

PM says he's pushed for changes to la Francophonie's rights rules Leaders must focus on the issue, Chretien insists at Moncton summit (extract)

Byline: ANNE MCILROY

Moncton Prime Minister Jean Chretien said yesterday that he has pushed politicians from the French-speaking world to change the membership rules of la Francophonie so countries where human rights are brutally violated can be expelled from the organization. But he said he couldn't get agreement from the presidents and prime ministers who have gathered in Moncton for a three-day summit. So for now, accused war criminals and dictators can remain members of the club of 52 nations, which meets every two years. Outside the opening ceremonies, protesters screamed that Mr. Chretien had become an accomplice of several African dictators as their host in Canada. They denounced Laurent Kabila, president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other unelected leaders who marched down the red carpet. Inside, as leaders and heads of states looked on, Mr. Chretien gave a short opening speech that was clearly intended to address criticism that he has turned a blind eye to members' human-rights abuses. French President Jacques Chirac has also toughened his stand on human rights. He told reporters on Thursday that he favours keeping human-rights abusers out of la Francophonie, although he was careful not to specify whether he was talking about restricting new members or expelling existing ones. He also spoke about human rights in his opening speech, suggesting that members create a new monitoring office to speed up progress on improving rights.

[The Ottawa Citizen]

PM talks tough on human rights: As summit chairman, Chretien adds, he can't name names (extract)

Byline: Jack Aubry

Key Francophonie leaders, including Prime Minister Jean Chretien, talked tough about human-rights violators in their ranks during the opening ceremonies at the summit but later, behind closed doors, shied away from taking action. Mr. Chretien, who is chairing the meeting, said there was no question of imposing sanctions against any nations attending the conference. But he said it was "progress" that the young organization is talking about human rights. Mr. Chretien said he set the tone with his speech at the opening ceremonies and others picked up on it. In their speeches, French President Jacques Chirac and Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the group's secretary general, also referred to those countries that have to improve human-rights records.

[National Post]

Rights on table but consensus elusive (extract)

Byline: Elena Cherney

MONCTON, N.B. - The 52-members of the Francophonie discussed human rights during closed-door sessions at its summit conference yesterday, but did not reach a consensus on how to sanction violators, Jean Chretien, Prime Minister, said after the meetings. Human-rights issues dominated activities outside the official sessions as well. The shouts of protesters competed with the official band as heads of state made their way into the opening ceremonies. The Moncton summit is the first at which politics have been discussed, Mr. Chretien said, adding that if he had made the same remarks at the Hanoi summit two years ago, "I'd have been out of order. We are just starting in the Francophonie to talk about politics. It