

I - OPENING OF THE MEETING

In his opening speech, the French Chairman recalled the developments that had taken place since the Sixth Session of the Joint Scientific Commission, held in Vancouver in May 1986. During this period, the President of the French Republic, accompanied, among others, by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, travelled to Canada. They expressed the desire that scientific and technological cooperation between France and Canada be pursued under the best conditions. Furthermore, the Joint Economic Commission meeting that was held in Ottawa (January 15, 1987) dealt with subjects of mutual interest and the intersessional meeting of the co-chairmen of the Joint Scientific Commission (Paris, May 1987) took stock of ongoing activities. These occasions made it possible to highlight the importance of scientific and technological research, the complementary roles they play in terms of economic development, as they emerge from the relations between the two countries.

France was also honoured to receive the Governor General of Canada as well as various missions led by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, among others, demonstrating reciprocal interest.

Two countries which are as well advanced in terms of science as France and Canada can only expect truly effective co-operation to occur on topics of real mutual interest that could result in joint research projects or the development of technological processes.

The French side thus felt that all co-operative resources should be geared to this objective.

The increasing diversification of Canada's scientific potential, particularly within provincial organizations, should present additional opportunities for such co-operation in this regard. In order to be able to better discern such opportunities, France has complemented its network of scientific attachés with a new position in Vancouver, in order to identify new co-operative projects. In particular, the agreement reached on April 18 and May 17, 1988 between the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles and the Canadian Committee of Deans of the Faculties of Engineering and Applied Sciences is considered to be very promising.

Furthermore, over the past two years, France has provided a substantial number of post-doctoral grants which have served to supplement the number of mois-chercheurs [Researcher-Months] applied to the sectors of mutual interest. While the French side is pleased with its positive results in the field of biotechnology, it is less certain of the results achieved in the areas of space and oceanology. Other topics