

the audio-visual area will be signed in the coming days. Two have to do with joint cinema productions, and the other with joint television program productions. In regard to television, let us not forget that Canada and France are the only two countries in the world in which French is spoken with the capacity to produce the quantity of hours of French-language programming required by the new technology.

I would like to draw your attention to an initiative that might seem modest, but to which I attach great value. I am referring to the decision to form a committee of businessmen, made at the time of Prime Minister Trudeau's visit. Like the Canada-France model, the committee would consist of a Canadian group and a French one, and its aims would be to promote a fuller awareness on both sides of our economies and our trade practices, to help to bring about commercial exchanges and industrial cooperation, to encourage the formation of joint enterprises and to advise the Canadian and French governments on matters that might affect bilateral economic relations between us. The Canadian group is expected to visit France in June, and I think we can rightly place high hopes in this committee of businessmen and what it can accomplish in the way of achieving fuller understanding and cooperation between the economic agents of our two countries.

Let me take this opportunity to touch on a subject of common interest that we cannot disregard: la Francophonie. We are faced mutually with many world problems, to name only the difficulties being experienced by the developing countries, for which we are trying to procure as much aid as possible, or the precarious military situation in the world. The future of la Francophonie is something that Canada and France are directly involved in. The French language is the common heritage of millions of men and women living on every continent under conditions that are often radically different. By way of the Francophone community, Canada would like to see established a free dialogue, direct exchanges between the non-aligned and members of various alliances, and between developing and industrialized countries. In spite of the great distance yet to be covered, the Francophone community already provides a unique link that is eminently suited to bring about the rapprochement we all desire to see and the cooperation required for harmony between nations. Cooperation between Francophone countries must go beyond culture and technology into the political realm. Otherwise, there can be no genuine and complete Francophonie internationale.

Next year you will assemble in Saint-Malo, where in 1534 Jacques Cartier left on his first voyage for the country that was to be called Canada. We plan to celebrate in an impressive way the 450th anniversary of this historical event of national importance to both Canada and France. Thus our countries have decided to commemorate this anniversary together. When Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Mauroy exchanged visits last