

# A Tale of Two Summits



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney confers with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf at the Francophone summit in Quebec City.

In fall 1987, Canada hosted two key international summit meetings. From September 2 to 4, the second Conference of Heads of State and Heads of Government of Countries Using French as a Common Language was held in Quebec City. Five weeks later, Commonwealth Heads

of Government (CHOGM) met in Vancouver on Canada's west coast from October 13 to 17.

Both summits provided Canada with unique diplomatic forums to promote international co-operation and good will. Canada is one of the few countries in the world that combines membership in the Commonwealth and la Francophonie. This special relationship was highlighted and indeed

strengthened when Canada hosted both summits on Canadian soil.

## Quebec Summit

The Francophone summit was held in Quebec City. Forty heads of state and government attended the meeting at which Prime Minister Brian Mulroney led the Canadian delegation. Two provincial premiers — Robert Bourassa of Quebec and Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick — also participated.

One of Canada's principal aims in supporting la Francophonie was to provide another forum for airing its foreign policies and for making known the bilingual character of the country.

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In his opening speech, Mr. Mulroney welcomed summit participants explaining that this second summit was of great importance to all Canadians but especially to "Francophones in Quebec, New Brunswick and all the other provinces." He expressed Canada's pride in hosting this second all-important meeting, "We see it not only as a glowing recognition of Canada's mission in the Francophone community and the enhanced role this gives our country in the world, but also as an affirmation of a new solidarity among countries that share the use of the French language."

The summit participants — a diverse group running the gamut from First World nations, such as France and Canada, to developing nations such as Senegal and the Ivory Coast — yielded an array of resolutions on international political and economic issues, which included southern Africa and *apartheid*, the Iran-Iraq conflict and the world economic situation.