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Le Sommet francophone

Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986

The Francophone Summit

Paris, February 17-19,
1986

Les questions à débattre:
la perspective canadienne

The Issues:
The Canadian Perspective



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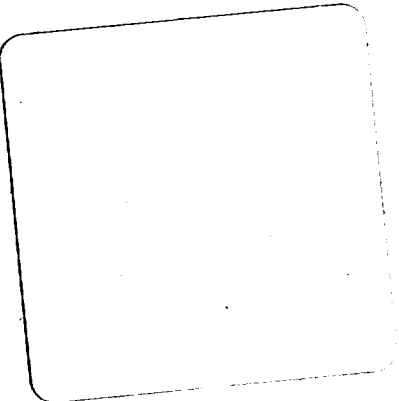
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Le
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francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
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The
Francophone
Summit
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WORLD ECONOMIC SETTING

The Issue and Its Setting

Economic growth among the industrial countries is expected to moderate this year and next, running at just over 3 per cent. Growth among developing countries is forecast to be only slightly better (in the 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent range). One of the major accomplishments of the past few years has been the decline in inflation among the industrial countries. This trend is particularly noteworthy, as it has been accompanied by sustained economic growth. However, inflation rates in developing countries have not yet declined, and may have accelerated slightly in 1985.

Developments in the global economy have been encouraging, particularly the reduction of inflation in developed countries and the sustained growth in both industrial and developing countries. However, persistently large budget deficits and the associated increase in public sector indebtedness are putting pressure on financial markets, and risk reducing the flexibility of fiscal policy over the coming years. Despite last year's reductions in nominal interest rates, real rates remain very high by historical standards, limiting potential growth prospects. Unemployment in many countries remains unacceptably high. There is continued concern about the variability of exchange rates. Finally, rigidities in many economies remain a problem, limiting capacity to adapt to new economic and technological developments.

The financial position of developing countries has improved somewhat. If world economic growth continues as projected, and developing countries are able to continue their adjustment strategies and export expansion, further easing of the international debt situation should be possible. However, recent months have seen a growing

consensus that developing countries must not only continue restructuring their economies, but must also resume the process of economic development to ease social and political pressures which have grown since the onset of the debt problem. Such growth will require additional financial resources, and the possible sources and terms of such funding are currently being examined in a variety of fora. Continued progress will also require that protectionist pressures be contained in industrial countries and another surge in interest rates avoided.

The situation of individual countries varies considerably; many of the poorest countries face bleak prospects, especially in Africa, and special attention will be devoted to their problems in coming months.

This first Francophone Summit will attempt to forge a broad consensus at the Heads of State and government level on some of these issues. Topics of importance to the relations between developed and developing countries will be emphasized. Naturally enough, given the Summit's membership, the special problems of Africa are expected to receive a good deal of attention, particularly the dramatic situation regarding food and agriculture which preoccupied the world last year. In addition, questions of international debt and finance and international trade will be examined in both African and a more general context. While it is not expected that the Francophone Summit should have an operational, decision-making role with regard to these questions, it is hoped that a political consensus in the Summit will facilitate concrete progress in the specialized institutions devoted to their examination.

Where Canada Stands

In many ways Canada is encouraged by developments in the global economy. The pursuit of appropriate policy directions by all countries will be necessary however, to ensure that sustainable, non-inflationary job-creating growth is attained over the coming years. Canada believes that there is no alternative to resolute implementation of adjustment strategies in coping with developing countries' financial problems. Nevertheless, the social and political ramifications of these programs must be recognized. The Canadian government is actively engaged in the search for ways to promote development-oriented adjustment plans in

developing countries. Canada also believes that all countries will benefit from a new round of multilateral trade negotiations (MTN's), and will be urging members of la Francophonie to participate actively in the preparations for the new MTN round, as well as in the round itself which is expected to be launched in September.

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES

The Issue and Its Setting

In the current difficult world economic situation, the reality of interdependence has become increasingly evident to the countries of both the industrialized "North" and the developing "South". The extent and nature of the links between trade, finance, debt and national economic policies, as well as their effects on prosperity and development are also becoming more apparent.

The Francophone Summit is an important part of the process by which these North-South issues can be given careful and thoughtful consideration. The Summit brings together leaders of developed and developing countries from around the world and provides them with the opportunity to speak frankly and informally about their plans, problems and concerns.

Francophone leaders may be expected to focus on the continuing problems of development. The debt crisis and the roles played by donor/recipient countries, the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the World Bank and the commercial bank sector in the fostering of growth-oriented recovery are likely to be major items of discussion. World trade, protectionism and commodity markets and prices, as well as the prospects of the new MTN (Multilateral Trade Negotiations) are likely to be addressed. In addition, given the large number of African countries participating, the particular and pressing problems of that continent will no doubt be examined.

Where Canada Stands

Traditionally, Canada has been directly interested and involved in the North-South relationship. This is a reflection of our humanitarian concerns and our commitment to international development co-operation and assistance.

It also demonstrates the importance we attach to strengthening the multilateral system.

Canada is fully conscious of the extreme economic difficulties confronting developing countries. We recognize the importance of maintaining the flow of international development financing.

While Canada continues to support the "case by case" approach to the world debt, we view the proposals made last year by USA Treasury Secretary Baker and the renewed emphasis placed on encouraging economic growth as part of the response to the debt problem as most positive developments. We encourage increased co-operation and co-ordination of policies and activities among donor and recipient countries, the IMF and the World Bank and the commercial banking sector.

Canada views the new MTN as a major opportunity to strengthen and improve the world trading system. We believe that all countries should participate constructively and we strongly encourage developing countries to identify and to actively pursue their interests in this process.

Canada will be an active participant in the U.N. Special Session on Africa in New York in May.

Le
Sommet
francophone

Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit

Paris, February 17-19,
1986

THE CRISIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Issue and Its Setting

The African famine (with the exception of the situation in the Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Botswana) is not as pronounced as in 1984. Regular rains have resumed and several countries reaped large cereal surpluses. Individuals, communities, international organizations and governments have provided massive emergency assistance. The United Nations system has played an important role in the co-ordination of the international relief effort. It is clear, however, that these efforts will have to be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Concern is now focussing more directly on the medium and long term recovery and rehabilitation of African economies. A Special Session of the UN on the critical economic situation in Africa will be held in New York at the end of May in order to identify a common approach for donor and recipient countries. At the July 1985 Summit of the Organization of African Unity, African leaders moved to increase domestic investment in agriculture and called for increased financial flows to Africa. The World Bank has spearheaded efforts to rehabilitate African economies through the establishment of a special \$1 billion voluntary fund for Africa aimed at improving production, in particular agricultural production.

At the Bonn Economic Summit, the Major Western Industrialized countries renewed their commitment to providing emergency relief, as well as assistance for long-term development. A Summit Group of Experts was established and has proposed follow-up measures in the agricultural sector. A number of specialized international bodies including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), have initiated special agricultural assistance programs for the continent.

At their meeting in Nassau, Commonwealth leaders endorsed the recommendations of the Commonwealth Action Group on the Economic Crisis in Africa. These focussed on specific actions to be taken to rehabilitate African agriculture. At the Francophone Summit, it is expected that Africa's problems and the UN Special Session on Africa in May will be major items of discussion.

Where Canada Stands

Canada believes the magnitude of the challenge facing African countries calls for a renewed and strengthened international partnership. We are encouraged that African leaders have recognized the critical importance of appropriate domestic policies for economic growth. We support an enhanced role for the World Bank in promoting adjustment and have contributead to the World Bank Special Facility on Sub-Saharan Africa, which is linked to policy reform. At the Bonn summit we renewed our commitment to strengthening world economic growth and to continuing support to African relief and development.

Canada and Canadians have responded to the African crisis by giving generously to emergency relief efforts and by adapting our large development programs in Africa. Between 40 and 50 percent of Canada's overall aid goes to Africa, and the priority sector is agriculture. David MacDonald, Canada's Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, has organized a series of Forum Africa meetings across Canada attended by representatives of the public, of non-governmental organizations, labour and government to examine new policy approaches for African recovery. It is estimated that Canadian contributions to Africa through all channels will total more than \$850 million in the 1985/86 fiscal year.

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

INTERNATIONAL DEBT

The Issue and its Setting

Substantial progress has been made since 1982 in managing debt servicing problems in developing countries. The case-by-case approach to debt problems has proved sufficiently flexible to deal with a variety of situations in debtor countries. The co-operation of debtors and creditors, both official and commercial, who are in turn working closely with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has been a critical factor in the progress achieved to date.

However, this progress has been uneven. Many countries have had difficulties in implementing adjustment programs. Taking into account the slowdown in economic growth in the USA, limits to new financing, lower commodity prices and growing protectionist pressures in some industrialized countries, the external environment is less favourable for debtor countries than it was in 1984.

Latin America, with a larger percentage of outstanding LDC (Less Developed Country) debt, remains the focus of concern from the perspective of safeguarding the international system of payments. Asian countries have generally weathered the debt crisis better than LDCs of other regions.

A number of African countries have substantial external debt in terms of their small and fragile economies. The difficulties of these smaller debtors do not pose a threat to the international financial system, but the impact on their own situation is very severe. Most Sub-Saharan African countries have small resource bases and are dependent on one or two export commodities. Many have had problems with famine. African countries have thus called for specific measures to deal with African debt, including a special international conference.

The focus of concern in managing debt-related problems has begun to shift from correcting short-term imbalances in external finances to the medium-term development aspects of the adjustment process. At the October 1985 IMF/IBRD Annual Meeting in Seoul, the United States proposed a number of measures (The Baker Initiative) that would steer the debt management process in this direction, including increased World Bank lending, greater IMF/IBRD cooperation and an increase in net lending by commercial banks. These ideas are under active discussion in various institutions.

Where Canada Stands

Canada is encouraged by the improvements registered in the international debt situation, but we recognize that debtor countries must make continuing adjustment efforts and will require financial support from official and private sources. Canada believes the case-by-case approach remains valid, because of its flexibility and sensitivity to conditions in individual countries. There is a need to build upon what has been achieved thus far in response to a less favourable economic environment.

Canada has maintained for some time that industrialized countries need to look at additional ways to assist debtor countries in coping with their debt servicing problems. The Canadian Government therefore welcomed the USA initiative in Seoul, and Canadian banks have also expressed support for the USA proposals. Canada believes the major industrialized countries have a responsibility to pursue sustained growth in the world economy, to lower real interest rates and to resist protectionist pressures.

While much attention has been given to the larger debtors, the needs of the smaller debtor countries, particularly in Africa, should not be overlooked. Since Sub-Saharan Africa is mostly dependent on official resource flows, Canada believes the question of aid and export credits is of key importance. We support a greater role for the World Bank and improved co-operation between the IMF and the Bank. We are a participant in the World Bank Special Facility for Africa and support an increase in International Development Association (IDA) lending. Canada will continue to be a major contributor to relief efforts and development programs in Africa. We believe that the Paris Club has

demonstrated it can deal flexibly with the differing needs of LDCs in the rescheduling of debt to official creditors. Canada also believes that existing international institutions continue to provide the best framework for dealing with the debt problems and should be strengthened as necessary.

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

WORLD BANK/INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) ISSUES

The Issue and its Setting

Ministers of Finance of industrialized and developing countries shared their concerns about efforts to resolve debt-related problems at the annual IMF/World Bank meetings in Seoul last October. American Treasury Secretary Baker proposed that the debt-management process should focus not only on correcting short-term imbalances in external finances but should place greater emphasis on the medium-term development aspects of the adjustment process. The USA proposed inter alia that structural adjustment efforts by debtor countries should be supplemented by increased World Bank lending, that commercial banks should increase net lending to 15 designated debtors by \$20 billion over the next three years, and that smaller debtors should benefit from coordinated Fund/Bank programs financed in part by IMF Trust Fund repayments.

There is a need to improve the international economic environment. This could be accomplished by fostering the convergent economic and financial policies of the major industrialized powers. This issue will be addressed at the spring meeting of the IMF/IBRD Interim Committee along with the G-10 and G-24 Reports on reform of the international monetary system and matters relating to the current international economic situation.

Negotiations for the eighth replenishment of the World Bank's concessional lending arm, the International Development Agency (IDA VIII) have begun with indications of optimism from most donors. It is hoped that a replenishment of \$12 billion might be realised.

Where Canada Stands

Within the context of its general responsibility for ensuring the preservation and proper functioning of the world monetary system, the IMF has a mandate to provide short term assistance to countries suffering under balance of payments disequilibria. Canada welcomed the Baker Initiative in Seoul, as it responds to our view that additional ways to assist debtor countries are required. At the same time, encouragement must be given them to undertake adjustments to manage their economies more effectively. We have been in consultation with our creditor partners to follow-up on American ideas with a view to making substantive progress at the IMF/IBRD Meetings in April and at the Tokyo Summit.

The IMF must continue to play a key role in assisting countries with balance of payments problems. The IMF created a Trust Fund in 1976 with the proceeds of sales of some of its gold holdings, in order to benefit the poorest countries. Disbursements from the Trust Fund are now being repaid and Canada considers that these funds would be best employed in assisting structural adjustment in debtor countries in a manner which involves both the World Bank and the IMF.

Canada believes that the world economic outlook would be further improved by lower real interest rates and strenuous resistance to protectionism. Towards that end, budgetary deficits in a number of industrialized states should be reduced, and more expansionary policies in some other developed economies could have beneficial consequences in terms of greater trade flows.

The World Bank takes a longer-term view than the IMF as it is concerned with the implementation of proper development policies in less developed countries (LDCs). In this context, Canada believes that the World Bank will have to play a more active and dynamic role in assisting the structural adjustment process. Canada favours consideration of ways to strengthen the World Bank as well as to improve its cooperation with the IMF. Consequently, we support providing the Bank with a General Capital Increase. Canada also seeks a substantial replenishment of IDA in the current negotiations, to ensure that these limited resources are most effectively used.

Le
Sommet
francophone

Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit

Paris, February 17-19,
1986

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The Issue and its Setting

Effective management of East-West relations is fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security. Arms control and disarmament (ACD) issues have acquired a central position on the East-West agenda in recent years. The Soviet delegation's walking out on negotiations with the USA on intermediate and strategic nuclear forces in December 1983 effectively prevented any negotiating progress on these issues during the subsequent year. In January 1985 agreement was reached on terms for resumed bilateral negotiations. These negotiations got underway March 12, 1985 and are continuing, with both sides having tabled detailed proposals.

In general there has been little progress on those ACD issues dealt with in the multilateral fora, i.e., at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, at the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (CCSBMDE) in Stockholm and at the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) Talks in Vienna. Nevertheless, in selected areas, a certain amount of progress continues to be made. Last year's initiation of discussion at the CD on issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in space was an encouraging development. Moreover, these multilateral fora continue to fulfill the important function of enabling middle powers and smaller countries, both aligned and non-aligned, to register their views on matters affecting their security.

The decision to resume regular high-level meetings between the USA and the USSR represents an important milestone in the evolution of relations between East and West and should permit progress to be made on arms control and disarmament issues.

Where Canada Stands

Canada is a committed member of NATO and actively participates in formulating and implementing agreed Alliance

policies and strategies. In conformity with these policies, Canada seeks to reduce mistrust by promoting increased dialogue and broader cooperation between East and West. Canada understands and recognizes the importance of the efforts of other countries, including non-aligned countries, to similarly pursue cooperative relations with members of both major military alliances.

Canada supports the need to halt and reverse the nuclear arms buildup and is encouraged that this is one of the agreed objectives of the USA/USSR negotiations in Geneva. Canada believes that to be fully effective, arms control and disarmament measures must involve serious negotiations leading to binding agreements which are verifiable to the satisfaction of all the concerned parties. Canada is active in developing verification procedures and technology which can be applied to arms control agreements.

Canada recognizes that there is a growing international anxiety about the danger of an arms race in space and is encouraged that the prevention of such an arms race is an agreed objective of the current USA/USSR negotiations.

Canada considers that the discussions which began last year at the CD on issues relevant to preventing an arms race in space could usefully be continued. Canada will maintain the regime created by the ABM treaty and the existing SALT agreements on limiting strategic forces. Our stance on SDI research is determined by the need to conform strictly with the provisions of the ABM Treaty. We will continue urging the parties to these treaties to do nothing to undermine their integrity, and to work toward reinforcing their status and authority.

Canada was pleased with the outcome of last year's Third Non-Proliferation Treaty-Review Conference. The final document adopted by consensus reflects an enhanced appreciation of the need to preserve and strengthen the NPT as one of the most effective international security measures in existence.

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

SOUTH AFRICA

Context

South Africa's policy of apartheid and the issue of Namibian independence are major items on the international political agenda, and are of special interest to La Francophonie, which is composed largely of African states.

Like the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Nassau, the Francophone Summit will give participating world leaders a useful and timely opportunity to review the situation in Southern Africa. These issues will remain in the forefront of international concerns in the months ahead, because of recent developments in South Africa and the timetable set for future international meetings. These include the UN/OAU world conference on sanctions against South Africa and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia.

Canada's position

Canada is radically opposed to apartheid and feels it is essential to impress upon South Africa the necessity of amending its unjust laws founded on racial segregation. The Canadian government's objective is rapid, peaceful change through dialogue, rather than through destructive violence.

The measures adopted by the government are vigorous and innovative. Its general approach, however, is based on a non-partisan tradition that dates back to 1961. In that year, Prime Minister Diefenbaker played a leading role in the process of depriving South Africa of its membership in the Commonwealth.

Canada has adopted a firm, yet moderate and balanced policy. It is among the leaders of the large industrialized countries engaged in the international campaign against apartheid. Canada is, however, more concerned to adopt an effective position than to take a stand based on mere rhetoric.

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Francophone
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Paris, February 17-19,
1986

SOUTH AFRICA

MEASURES ADOPTED BY CANADA IN 1985 TO DEMONSTRATE OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID

1. Strengthening the voluntary "Code of Conduct" concerning the employment practices of Canadian companies operating in South Africa:
 - appointment of an independent and impartial administrator
 - standard reporting format adopted
 - code made applicable to all Canadian companies including those with minority interests
2. Tightening the administration of the United Nations arms embargo to end exports of sensitive equipment such as computers
3. Application of the voluntary UN embargo on imports of South African arms
4. Abrogation of the Canada-South Africa Double Taxation Agreements
5. Termination of the use of the Programme for Export Market Development (PEMD) for the South African market
6. Termination of insurance to Canadian exporters to South Africa provided by the Export Development Corporation
7. Adoption of public guidelines for the boycott of amateur sporting contacts
8. Announcement that all toll-processing of Namibian uranium will be ended
9. Support for the United Nations recommendation aimed at discouraging the sale of Kruggerrand gold coins
10. Decision to monitor all official contacts in sensitive sectors

11. Condemned the use of repression, such as the recent imposition of a state of emergency, and called upon the Government of South Africa to enter into an equal and sincere partnership with all South Africans
12. Appointment of an officer at the Canadian Embassy to facilitate cooperation in the labour area
13. Allocation of \$5 million for an expanded programme of scholarships for the black community to be administered through private channels
14. Voluntary ban introduced on new loans to the Government of South Africa and its agencies
15. Voluntary ban introduced on the sale of crude oil and refined products to South Africa
16. Embargo on air transport (cargo and passenger flights) between Canada and South Africa
17. Creation of a national register of anti-apartheid measures to record voluntary actions taken by other levels of government as well as private institutions, organizations and firms
18. Allocation of \$1 million for humanitarian assistance to the families of political prisoners and other victims of the apartheid system

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

COMMUNICATIONS

Context

The Francophone Summit will be addressing the subject of communications, focussing mainly on new technology. This technology provides a means of strengthening linguistic and cultural bonds among Francophone countries and a modern tool of development.

On the initiative of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, a conference of Ministers of Communications was held in Cairo in February 1985. Building on the accomplishments of this meeting, the Summit will undoubtedly show a particular concern for the enhancement of the Francophone dimension of communications. Discussions will be aimed at relating the technical aspects as closely as possible to both the content of the messages and the purpose of the message. The countries represented at the Summit will be concerned to ensure that the rapid changes brought about by new technology do not further widen the sizeable gap that already exists between North and South.

Canada's position

In its discussion of communications the Francophone Summit will focus on computer technology, data banks and communication networks.

The countries attending the Summit, especially Canada, will be aware of the effects of the predominance of English in these sectors. This is particularly true with respect to computer technology and the development of software in French, an area in which the federal and Québec governments are actively co-operating.

The production of French-language data bases and data banks represents approximately eleven per cent of the world total but only one per cent of the market. It is therefore important that information on activities encompassing computer science and linguistics should be disseminated in French. The Canadian government has been working for a number of years in fields such as automatic translation, terminology banks, computer-assisted translation and computer-assisted learning. Developments in these sectors can be a great boon to the developing nations, provided these countries are given easy access to this technology and that it is tailored to their economic, social and technological development requirements.

Canada feels that it is important to improve communication among all Francophone countries and to encourage exchanges of information and knowledge. Further development of satellite communications, which Canada supports fully, would be an excellent way to pursue and develop knowledge in various fields - education, medicine and culture. Canada would immediately support any initiative by the Summit countries aimed at enhancing the Francophone presence in the audio-visual field.

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Context

French is the mother tongue of more than 100 million of the world's inhabitants, spread over five continents. This figure is expected to reach 166 million by the end of the century. French is also the official language of countries whose populations total 175 million, or 3.9% of the world's people. It is anticipated that this number will rise to 260 million, or 4.3% of the total, by the year 2000.

French is, therefore, among the world's five or six most widely spoken languages, and it can still be considered the second most important international language.

It must however be added that French, like other major tongues, has to some extent declined as a language of science and technology, because of the predominance of English. Because language is one of the most fundamental expressions of a culture and civilization, it is important to ensure that Francophones will still be able to name new concepts with words and terms which conform to the spirit of their language. Furthermore, since language is the essential vehicle for communicating and expanding knowledge, incentives should be found which will encourage the production of a higher proportion of scientific papers written in French and (which is even more important) authored by Francophones.

From a general standpoint, if French is to retain a leading position among major world languages, steps must be taken not only to encourage its specific employment as a scientific and technical language, but also to increase its use in the great international forums such as the United Nations and to encourage people to acquire it as a second language.

Canada's position

The Francophone Summit is a long-awaited opportunity to give new impetus to international co-operation in matters concerning the French language, and to give the Francophone countries the feeling that they are as a group better able use the French language to experience and express the world as it is in the closing years of this century.

Canada is fortunate to have French, which is spoken by more than a quarter of its population, as one of its two official languages. As a member of the Anglophone world, it is well placed to acquire and share new information rapidly, particularly in the fields of science and technology. However, the possibility of a linguistic invasion poses a real threat if the French language is unable to defend itself against such inroads.

This is why Canada takes steps to ensure that all citizens can study in their mother-tongue, including French, and seeks to encourage second-language learning as a means of promoting the country's linguistic duality. Canada has, moreover, long and solid experience in the language-related industries, particularly translation and terminology. Lastly, aware of the need to circulate information and ideas in French, our country is at the forefront of computerized communication technology.

Canada is prepared to share with La Francophonie, either multilaterally or bilaterally, its knowledge, experience and resources to ensure that French will continue to be a language of civilization and culture in today's world.