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CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF
ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

Letter dated 23 September 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, which hosted the second Francophone Summit of Heads of State and Government at Quebec from 2 to 4 September 1987, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a background paper on the outcome of that conference.

I should be grateful if you would have this paper circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 21.

I shall transmit the final report of the second Summit to you for your guidance as soon as it becomes available.

(Signed) Stephen LEWIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Second Francophone Summit of Heads of State and Government

The second Francophone Summit took place at Quebec on 2, 3 and 4 September 1987. Presided over by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Brian Mulroney, the Summit brought together 40 countries representing every continent, including 28 heads of State or Government. Three communities participated as special guests: Louisiana, New Hampshire and the Valle d'Aosta.

This new forum of the French-speaking countries of the world came into being at Niamey, the Niger, in 1970 when the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation in Africa (ACCT) was created. It seeks not only to promote the concept of a world francophone community, but also to strengthen the political and economic dialogue between countries sharing a common language and to revitalize co-operation through specific initiatives.

The Quebec Summit had two major themes, one economic and political and the other dealing with co-operation and development. Economic and political discussions focused primarily on southern Africa, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, debt, commodity prices and international trade. The area of co-operation and development involved five priority sectors, or "networks": agriculture, energy, scientific information and technological development, language industries, and communications and culture. These networks, which were set up at the first Summit in 1986, will be gradually merged with the various divisions of ACCT.

Follow-up mechanisms also formed an important component of the co-operation segment. Countries participating in the Summit agreed on the need for a Follow-up and Networks Committee. They also decided to establish a Joint Advisory Committee responsible for implementing Summit decisions and studying how the five networks could be gradually merged with the ACCT divisions. This Committee will consist of the Follow-up Committee, the network heads and the Secretary-General of ACCT, assisted by his Directors-General and the Financial Controller. The Agency will thus have a greater role to play in international co-operation activities resulting from the Summit. As concerns financing, multilateral contributions are to be emphasized, with bilateral financing retained for certain activities.

The second Summit led to the adoption of a large number of resolutions both in the political and economic sphere and in the area of international co-operation. In the former area, resolutions fell into two categories: (1) political - the Middle East, southern Africa and the Iran-Iraq conflict; and (2) economic - economic assistance to Chad and Lebanon, agriculture and environmental protection, efforts to combat erosion in Haiti, and the world economic situation. The latter topic was the subject of an omnibus resolution which addressed the vital concerns of the developing countries attending the Summit, namely debt, commodities and international trade.

In the area of co-operation and development, substantial programmes were identified in the following sectors: agriculture, energy, communications and cultures, scientific information and technological development, and language industries.

In action not related to the networks, Summit participants endorsed the idea of holding francophone community games, as proposed by the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-Speaking Countries. First games are scheduled to take place in Morocco in 1989.

In response to a Canadian initiative, the Summit also adopted a Declaration of Solidarity. This Declaration sums up the commitment of participating countries and Governments; above all, it reflects the political will which unites them. With this Declaration, these Summits have sought to take their place among the leading international forums.

The Quebec Summit would appear to have achieved its objectives on a number of counts. This new mode of bringing together countries which share a common language demonstrates a political commitment to pursuing the North-South dialogue with a view to improving and revitalizing existing co-operation while respecting the unique differences of the individual countries concerned.

Senegal will be the host of the third Francophone Summit, which is to be held at Dakar sometime around March 1989. It should be noted that on the basis of a proposal by the Niger, the acronym of the Quebec Summit has become the official symbol of the Francophone Summits of Heads of State and Government.
