



General information concerning the Paris Meeting
(27th November - 2nd December)

1 - Invitations :

The Foundation is taking care of the travel expenses, the lodging and the meals of most of the participants. A few participants, invited to take part in the conference at their own expense, are expected to make their own arrangements for travelling to Paris. Once here, they will benefit from the same facilities as the other guests. Upon their arrival they will however be asked to pay 250 F per conference day, to cover the expenses of lodging, food and transport.

2 - Travel arrangements :

People proceeding from South Africa will be travelling in two groups :

Departure from Johannesburg : on UTA, the evening of November 24th
(50 seats booked), arriving in Paris at 8h55
on the 25th.

Departure from Johannesburg : on UTA, the evening of November 26 th
(22 seats booked), arriving in Paris at 6h15
on the 27 th.

Return flight from Paris : UTA, 2nd December at 20h30
(72 seats booked), arriving in Johannesburg
on December 3rd.

Will those participants who will be travelling at their own expense, or on different flights than those mentioned above, please inform the secretariat as soon as possible so that we may arrange for them to be met at the airport in Paris.

Please make sure that your luggage is booked with those of the rest of your group at your point of departure, in order to facilitate the reception in Paris. Luggage should be clearly tagged with the owner's name. The organizers will be taking care of the luggage at the Paris end. Your ticket, together with those of your group, will be ready a few days prior to your departure, to be issued by the UTA offices.

We wish to impress it upon participants to be as discreet as possible concerning flights and dates, in order to assure the necessary security for all concerned.

3 - Lodging :

Participants will be staying and working in a complex of buildings in the Paris suburbs. You will understand if, for reasons of tranquility, we do not yet indicate the exact location.

Congressists will be put up individually in rooms with bathroom and toilet facilities incorporated.

Meals will be taken together. It will be possible upon request, to arrange for meals to be taken with outside visitors in the conference centre. Those wishing to do so should let the secretariat know in advance.

Several conference halls are being made available to the congressists, making it possible to provide for smaller working sessions or personal meetings. We have at our disposal a hall for 250 persons, 3 each for 50 persons, 5 each for 20 persons.

4 - General organisation of the conference :

The meeting itself will be from Monday, November 27th, until Saturday, December 2nd.

The working language is English, and when needed English/French and French/English translations will be provided. The Fondation France-Libertés is responsible, on your behalf and we hope with your goodwill, for organizing the proceedings.

The sessions, grouping the South African participants, will take place within a "closed circuit". A limited number of observers, representing the French Ministries which participated in making the meeting possible, may wish to be present. The confidential nature of the discussions and debates will be respected.

Private visits to Paris, or receiving private visitors at the conference site, will be restricted only by the need to assure everybody's safety. These visits may be arranged, if circumstances allow, in collaboration with the organizers.

5 - Communication with the outside world :

You will have access to telephones in the conference centre. Furthermore there will be 2 telexes, 2 telecopy machines (telefaxes), and an AFP newsprinter. Phone calls will be paid for by the participants. Telecom cards, needed for using the telephones, can be obtained from the secretariat.

Bilingual secretaries will be present to assist you when needed.

6 - Medical assistance :

A 24 hour medical and pharmaceutical service will be available to all participants. It will be appreciated if people requiring some special medical attention can inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

7 - Extra conference programme :

A number of events have been scheduled around the conference. We are organizing a series of group visits (e. g. to the "Arche de la Défense", the "Louvre pyramid", the castles...) for those of you who arrive on the Saturday or Sunday before the meeting starts.

During the week of your stay some official dinners, offered by the Ministries concerned, are foreseen. There will also be the possibility to meet with African and French musicians and artists during the programmed cultural evenings.

8 - Contacts with the media :

Because of the number of congressists involved, and with a view to assuring your comfort and calm, we have tried to foresee structured contacts with representatives of the media.

There will be a first press conference on Monday, 27th November at 18h30, during which Madam Danielle MITTERRAND and four or five of the participants, delegated by the conference, will introduce and comment the meeting.

On Wednesday, 29 th November, the Press will be present during a public session to be held at the National Assembly. This session, chaired by Mr. Laurent FABIUS, will group all the participants and 150 prominent guests invited by the National Assembly.

On Saturday, 2nd December, at 16h00, there will be a concluding press conference.

It will be possible, if the participants agree, to organize daily press briefings where the speakers of the day may wish to answer questions. These will take place in the conference complex, at 18h30.

9 - The secretariat :

"France-Libertés" is responsible for the organisational aspects of the proceedings. A staff of about a dozen bilingual persons will be there to assist you.

The conference secretary is Professor Alain SOURNIA.

Please do not hesitate to address all queries or suggestions to the secretariat, (adresse, Telex, Fax, Teleph.)

10 - Weather and clothes :

In this period, the weather in Paris could be nice but the temperature not very high (0°c at night and 8°c during the day) you need to schedule warm clothes.

11 - Security :

You will appreciate that a certain number of measures need to be taken to assure your safety. We hope that these will in no way hamper your activities. Our only wish is to help in creating the conditions necessary for your well-being, conducive to the success of your meeting. We are sure that we may count upon your comprehension and cooperation. We wish you a safe journey here and back, and fruitful discussions.

Professor Alain SOURNIA
Chargé de Mission of France-Libertés
Conference Secretary