

Allow me to turn now for a moment to the "changing of the guard" at Unesco Headquarters. Last year I met with the new Director General, Mr. M'Bow of Senegal, who replaced in 1974 the founding Director General, Mr. René Maheu. It is understandable that Mr. M'Bow is reshaping the Secretariat to meet the Organization's needs as he sees them, and that he has made a number of senior appointments, with some others to come. Canada is looking forward to working with the new team.

As you know, Canada is not represented on the Executive Board, and this places an added burden on Ambassador Gagnon and the staff of our Permanent Delegation in terms of keeping fully informed on Unesco directions through contacts with Secretariat officials and Executive Board members.

Looking to the future, we are now beginning our preparations for the 19th General Conference which is scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 25 to November 30 this year. I need not belabour the financial restraints under which we must operate, and which dictate a smaller, though not less efficient, Canadian Delegation than is the case when the General Conferences are held at Headquarters in Paris. I am confident you will agree with this decision.

In co-operation with other government agencies concerned as well as with the national commission, my Department will soon be immersed in the planning and budget documents in which Unesco sets forth its short- and long-term programme plans and financial needs and resources. I have no doubt that the Canadian views on these documents, which will be presented at the General Conference, will be valued by member states and the Secretariat, as they have been at past conferences.

I can assure you that against the background of our concern over Unesco's financial problems, the Canadian Delegation will scrutinize the budget carefully to ensure that proposed expenditures are related to programme priorities and are solidly documented.

I am, as I am sure you are, proud of the fact that Canada is invariably among the first member states to meet its Unesco assessments each year (in Canada's case, \$2,453,535 for 1976). It is equally a matter of pride that with your active and imaginative co-operation we back up our financial contribution with our whole-hearted participation in Unesco activities.

The excellent booklet entitled "Looking at Unesco" points out that the Unesco story, if it could be expressed in a graph, would not show a tidy curve rising toward the goals of peace and justice, of liberty and human dignity which the Organization's founders set for it. Yet, although peaks and valleys would be seen in the curve, the tendency would be upward.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, Canada believes in the aims of Unesco and the Government intends to make every effort to ensure that the organization remains true to its original purpose. With your help, Canada can continue to make an important contribution and retain its reputation as an active and constructive member.