

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today the visit to Ottawa on Friday, April 1, 1977 of Mr. Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, Secretary General of the "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique".

Mr. Dan Dicko who is originally from the Republic of Niger was elected Secretary General of the "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique" during the Conference of Liege-Brussels in 1973. The Agence is the most important organization of the international community of French-speaking countries. This is not the first visit of Mr. Dan Dicko to Ottawa as he visited the capital in August 1974 on the occasion of the "Festival international de la Jeunesse" held in Quebec City.

Mr. Dan Dicko, along with Mr. Shredath Ramphal, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, will participate in a symposium on "Commonwealth and Francophonie -- Myth or Reality" which will be held at Laval University between March 31 and April 2, 1977 under the auspices of the Quebec Centre of International Relations. Both Mr. Ramphal and Mr. Dan Dicko will give the opening speeches.

During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Dan Dicko will attend a luncheon in his honour hosted by the Prime Minister. He will meet with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, and the Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer. Mr. Dan Dicko will also meet with Mr. Michel Dupuy, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, and a number of officials of the Canadian Government.

Discussions will centre on the role of the "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique" in the evolution of the international community of French-speaking countries, with emphasis on the activities of the Agence in relation to international co-operation and development.