
La Francophonie

World Food Conference in Rome also got together before and during the conference, and Commonwealth Health Ministers and Senior Officials held their annual meeting in Geneva prior to the World Health Assembly. Such informal meetings of Commonwealth delegates are found valuable by member countries as a means of furthering understanding of each other's viewpoint on issues under examination at the larger international conferences.

In February, Grenada was welcomed into the Commonwealth as the thirty-third full and independent member.

On November 27, 1974, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacEachen, told the Royal Commonwealth Society in Toronto that, for Canada, Commonwealth activity has a direct, and distinct, impact on three levels:

Nationally, it satisfies the aims and aspirations of Canadians; it meets a very real need, whether conscious or unconscious, to find satisfaction for an altruistic wish to do something about the problems of the world. Within the Commonwealth itself, it reinforces the association; it helps to strengthen Commonwealth identity and character; it assists continuity of Commonwealth activities. Internationally, it reinforces the "thrust" of foreign policy generally, and helps us to do a job that must be done with Commonwealth colleagues.

At these three levels, Canada will continue to maintain and strengthen the forward posture it has consistently adopted towards the association.

As a member of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (l'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique), the Conference of Ministers of Education and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking Countries, Canada again in 1974 contributed its support and active co-operation to international Francophone institutions and their activities.

Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation

The Agency's new five-member Secretariat, elected at the 1973 Liège-Brussels General Conference, assumed its duties in April 1974. The Secretary General, Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, former Minister of Education of Niger, has with him four assistant secretaries general, one of whom is a Canadian, Claude Roquet.

From August 13 to 24, Canada hosted in Quebec City the first International Francophone Youth Festival sponsored by the Agency. This "Superfrancofête" brought together 1,800 young artists and athletes representing all member countries of the Agency. Warmly welcomed by the people of Quebec, the festival provided an opportunity for young people from Africa, Asia, Europe and America to experience in an atmosphere of dialogue and mutual understanding a unique cultural and athletic event—an event that bore witness to the diversity and wealth of the individual cultures represented, through the common medium of the French language. The Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Quebec, and the Secretary General of the Agency all attended the opening ceremony. Canadian participation in the festival was made possible by support from Quebec, a participating government of the Agency, as well as from Ontario, Manitoba and New Brunswick.

With the assistance of the appropriate departments and agencies, special attention has been paid in the Agency's programs to